

Sharing, Inc.

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August 2017

Dear Sharing Friend,

CHRISTMAS

It must have been 1942 or '43. My father was overseas in the Army Air Corps. My mother and her sister, Cecelia G. Fleming, did their best on the home front, caring for three young children and dealing with all the shortages. Citizens were asked to do their part so that those fighting for our freedom could have what they needed.

It felt as if everything was rationed; sugar, coffee, meat, dairy products, along with canned, dried and frozen foods were all scarce. Gasoline was rationed. My brother Kevin and I would take turns pulling our wagon with cans of rendered fat to the A & P. We even saved the foil wrapper from sticks of gum! But there was a sense that we were all in this together; everyone could contribute something to the war effort.

Traditionally, when we went to bed Christmas Eve, there was no sign of Christmas. In the morning, there would be a decorated tree, baby Jesus would be in the manger, each child would have a stocking full of goodies and a present or two. (Perhaps with all the things that were not available, we might have feared there would be no presents.)

Kevin and I had decided to wait till everyone was asleep and then sneak downstairs. We tiptoed very slowly in the dark and felt around the tree. I remember the thrill of feeling a velvet muff!!! That remained my best Christmas memory for a long, long time.

What about your own Christmas memories? As a child did you ever have a Christmas without a single gift? Did you ever have a Christmas when you couldn't afford a single gift for your child?

CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN

There is such Joy in giving a child something sure to please; a doll that looks just like her, a basketball of his own, a book written by and about African Americans. I wish all of you could see our baby blankets, beautifully presented in Christmas boxes, (no white Santas). Cathy Pickett, and before her Lois Goughan, would choose matching or contrasting tissue paper, carefully, perfectly folding both. It thrills me to envision an economically poor mother opening such a box!

Our Sharing Family has brightened Christmas for thousands of children over these years. Our gifts have included books by and about African Americans, beautifully dressed Black dolls, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and handmade baby blankets. More than a few of the adult women who have distributed our gifts have shared with me their own memories, going back to when you couldn't buy a Black doll. They have been thrilled to be part of passing on your generosity.

May we live each day grounded by faith, working for justice and walking in Joy.

Shalom
Kay Doherty

2017 Walk Financial Statement

As of July 31, 2017

Income

Hingham Walk	47,641	
Rockville Walk	10,675	
Other Walks	10,287	
		\$68,603

Expenses

Awards	111	
Food & supplies	665	
Insurance	176	
Miscellaneous	140	
Police protection	1,630	
Printing	947	
School use	265	
	\$3,935	

Balance remaining **\$64,667**

Distributed as of 7-31-2017

Federation of Southern Co-ops	4,700	
Cornerstone Foundation (Rockville Walk)	3,565	
	\$8,265	

Balance available for distribution **\$56,402**

Pledged for 2018 Distribution

Federation of Southern Co-ops	Epes, AL/Atlanta, GA	12,000
Kemetic Institute,	Mound Bayou, MS	12,000
21st Century Youth Leadership	Selma, AL	12,000
Sharing's Scholarship Program		20,000