



RamTell E-Newsletter January 2022

Summary Report on RamTell's Mission as of Year End 2021

RamTell was established by LaVerne T. and Guy Neil Ramsey on March 1, 1994. During the past 28 years (through December 31, 2021), total contributions total \$11,211,732.

During 2021, 54 organizations received gifts from RamTell totaling \$1,826,569.

Organizations receiving gifts in 2021 included churches, schools, social service agencies, mental health agencies, educational choice advocacy, pro-life advocacy, universities, civic organizations and other causes recognized as being compatible with RamTell's Vision and Mission.

RamTell's mission is to provide engaged, intentional and committed stewardship to organizations and needs rooted in Christian principles with a predominant focus on Catholic organizations, values and activities. The following reflection on stewardship speaks to the values RamTell seeks to support.

Reflection

The word "stewardship" can be misunderstood. The concept did not enter the official language of the Catholic Church until recently—with the publication of the U.S. bishops' 1992 pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, and the word itself has no exact equivalent in Spanish and many other languages.

However, in spite of the word's unfamiliarity, and its difficulty in translation, the concept of Christian stewardship conveys a depth and breadth of meaning not found in the synonyms frequently suggested for it. The definition proposed by the American bishops in their 1992 pastoral letter, closely aligns stewardship with discipleship, calling it "a disciple's response" to the Lord's invitation to nurture, develop and share all God's gifts. Stewardship absolutely includes almsgiving (generous sharing of material possessions). It is also closely aligned with evangelization (sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.)

Stewardship is about much more than just giving time, talent and treasure. It's meant to be a total sharing—not just giving 10 percent, but giving 100 percent, giving *all* through our careful nurturing and generous sharing of all that we have, and all that we are, as stewards of God's abundant gifts.

The word stewardship is meant to convey first of all the acknowledgement that God is the owner and giver of all things spiritual and

material and that we are to be trusted stewards of what belongs exclusively to God. This includes, of course, sharing our gifts with the poor, but its primary meaning is that we are called to be custodians of all God's creation who share generously with all our sisters and brothers.

True stewardship suggests that:

- a) We are caretakers, not owners,
- b) We have a God-given responsibility to nurture, develop and share all God's gifts (including our minds, our bodies, our emotions, our material possessions and the earth, our common home) and
- c) Our generous giving makes us more human, more truly made in the image and likeness of God.

Let's be grateful, accountable and generous stewards of all the gifts we have received from our good and gracious God. Let's give alms to those who are most in need, and let's return all God's gifts back to the Lord, with increase, and with deep gratitude and humility.

Profile

In each issue of this newsletter, we will provide a brief profile of organizations that RamTell has supported that are making a difference.

Bank Street Food Bank, a ministry of Shawnee Baptist Church, Portland, Kentucky

On Christmas Day, 2020, Stephen Satterfield was driving around the Portland neighborhood in Metro Louisville, Kentucky, looking for something. God had given him a plan to give back to the city and specifically leading him to make a difference in Portland. When he passed by Shawnee Baptist Church on Bank Street, he knew exactly where to get started. Little did he know that, since 2018, Pastor Steve Frost has been praying about starting a food pantry at the church but the right opportunity had yet to appear. Once they met, plans moved forward

very quickly to allow the Bank Street Food Bank to open on April 30, 2021.

RamTell, Inc. made an initial gift to seed the food bank's mission and with additional funds raised from the community, Bank Street Food Bank is now serving 50 families per week with delivery and Friday pick-up.

No identification or proof of income is required. A minimum of 30 food boxes are distributed on a first come, first served basis. To learn more, go to www.foodbank.org.

