

Bicycles & Bibles: Beaumont, Texas foundation giving Christmas gifts to 1,000 needy youngsters

COVID-19 forced changes to the 21st Annual Bicycles and Bibles event but 1,000 less fortunate children in Southeast Texas will still have a blessed Christmas.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES, December 9, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Over 1,000 underserved children in the Beaumont, Texas area will each receive free meals, clothing, bicycles, and a children's Bible this Saturday, December 12, 2020, during the 21st annual Bicycles and Bibles Christmas program by the nonprofit Reaud Charitable Foundation.

"Since the holiday program began in 1999, the foundation has given away

In previous years, children and their families selected as part of the charitable event were treated to a large party but COVID-19 has forced changes to the manner in which gifts will be distributed this year.

over 25,000 bicycles and Bibles to children who otherwise would not have a Christmas at all," said the foundation's Executive Director Wayne A. Reaud, an attorney and philanthropist, who started the annual event as a way for he and his family to give back to the southeast Texas community where he was raised.

Each participating child has been pre-selected and will receive about \$2,000 worth of items this weekend. In addition to a new Mongoose Bicycle and a storybook Bible, each youngster will get a new winter coat, tennis shoes, wind suits, backpacks, clothing, footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, and candy canes. There also will be over 1,000 frozen turkeys and 1,000 boxes of food and fruit for each family.

"They'll receive everything they need for a traditional Christmas dinner," said Reaud.

This year's event has been changed from the previous years' community gatherings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This time there will be a drive-thru distribution line to follow physical

distancing guidelines. The children and their families will pass through covered checkpoints receiving their gifts.

The giveaway begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, December 12, at Ford Park Arena in Beaumont.

"I came up with the idea for the annual Christmas program when I repeatedly thought about the line from scripture in John 21 when Jesus told his disciple Peter, 'Feed my sheep.' Every year the event has grown and now the foundation additionally is providing bicycles and all the other gifts to the local Girls Home, Boys Home and Buckner Orphanage in Beaumont," explained Reaud.

"The United States is still the greatest nation on earth and when times get hard, we pull together and overcome the worst of circumstances through the best of mankind," he stated.

** Video and photos will be provided following the event

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