

“GIFTS OF LOVE”

COMMITTEE CONVENTION REPORT

2024

Since the inception of the program in September 1996, we have awarded over 970 grants to individuals, groups and agencies. Through the Gifts of Love Program, we have brought direct assistance to people with special needs in our dioceses and throughout the country. Without our assistance, these recipients would have failed to meet the extreme demands they face in their lives.

With the generous financial support of our Italian Catholic Federation members, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, we have received \$763,969.53 in donations and granted \$724,860.41 in awards since the beginning of the program. Since our last Convention Report - \$32,800.00 in grants were awarded to special needs individuals, programs and agencies.

The Gifts of Love Program disburses every cent received directly to the needs of persons with disabilities so they may live a more inclusive life. This program is another example of the Italian Catholic Federation members' dedication to serve those in need.

However, the program needs your help in spreading the word about this fantastic opportunity. We receive many applications from across the country from people who find us on our Website. We want to ask that you reach out to those in your local communities and parishes to share information about the Gifts of Love. So, when you see a need, please make sure to explain this unique and valuable program.

Albert Teglia had a vision when he began the formation of this committee. Al truly wanted this program to fill a need for people with special needs to foster greater inclusion which they are unable to find anywhere else. Your continued support and hard work in ensuring the program's success is a living memorial to Al and his love and compassion.

On behalf of the Gifts of Love Committee, I want to convey our appreciation of the support you have given.

Chairperson:

Teresa Helfand

Members:

Nina Malone and Andrew Pappani

Members At Large:

Alessandra Kidd and Giovanna Nardulli

Assistants:

Patricia Mages

Kenneth Marshall

Theresa Shaw