

CBS EVENING NEWS

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Photos Capture Children's Holiday Wishes

Homeless Kids Photograph Their Heartfelt Hopes For Benefit Of Salvation Army

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Dec. 12, 2006



A child reads from her wish list at a shelter workshop. (CBS)

(CBS) Award-winning photojournalist Linda Solomon makes her living capturing the stars. But she's now focusing on some children desperate for stars to wish upon, CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric reports.

At Salvation Army homeless shelters in Raleigh, N.C., and Orlando, Fla., Solomon gave about 30 children between ages 7 and 17 an assignment: To list their holiday wishes and capture them on film.

"I think so often it's so hard for any of us to express verbally what is so deep within," Solomon says. "But sometimes it's easier to express something that's so personal through an art form."



QUOTE

"I really thought I was a failure at life because of where I ended up. But through my daughter's eyes and her wish list, it made me get my strength back."

Velma Stewart "I wish for my family to be together," one girl wished. "I wish for a home," said another.

Twelve-year old Anneka Hooper asked for a college education. And for her mom? Eternal life.

"I took a picture of a cross and a Bible wide open to a verse and on the table it says, 'Holiness unto the Lord,'" she said, explaining how she was able to capture the sentiment in a photo.

Seventeen-year old Tiffanie Stewart's wishes were just as selfless. She wished for "no more tears from my mom's eyes."

"My momma's always crying, and I'll be like 'why's she always in pain?' I can't do nothing about it," Tiffanie says.

But how do you take a photo of "no more tears?" Across the street from their shelter, Tiffanie came across two more homeless people and captured the image she calls "no more pain."

"I saw people laying on the side of the street and I'm like, 'Well, I ain't the only one going through problems. They going through something 10 times worse than what I'm going through,'" Tiffanie says. "I felt better. And I couldn't think about myself no more because I got somewhere to sleep. They don't."

For Tiffanie's mom, Velma, the picture not only took the tears from her eyes — it opened them, too.

"For her to have that much understanding to life, and to have that much compassion towards other people, it made me feel really good," Velma says. "And I sort of forgot about my own struggles."

Adds Velma: "I really thought I was a failure at life because of where I ended up. But through my daughter's eyes and her wish list, it made me get my strength back."

Thanks to financial support from General Motors, all of the photographs are available as holiday cards, to benefit the Salvation Army. They are revealing images from children who possess so little and yet understand so much.

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PHOTO ESSAY

The Art Of Wishing Homeless children from Orlando, Fla. and Raleigh, N.C. turn their holiday dreams into art.

THE EARLY SHOW

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Help

Capturing A Wish Linda Solomon gave children at Salvation Army homeless shelters a holiday project — to take pictures of what they wished for most. Katie Couric reports on what they captured on film.

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If you go to www.MyHolidayWish.org you can purchase from the Salvation Army in Raleigh, NC or Orlando, FL. You can also go back to the CBS News homepage and click on Explore Holiday Wishes beside the story picture and then in the new window click on Click here for more information in the side bar. It was a great piece!

Posted by aod75 at 08:03 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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What a touching story this was. The kids did a wonderful job on what they should be teaching us what's important. I had tears falling down as I watched that. Thank You For Showing That It Was Very Powerful!

Posted by lilmamaz at 08:00 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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would love to send one of these beautiful pictures as a Christmas card. How could someone purchase one of these lasting thoughts so that the proceeds would benefit those who actually captured the essence of this holiday?

Posted by lilmamaz at 07:51 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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I would love to send one of these beautiful pictures as a Christmas card. How could someone purchase one of these lasting thoughts so that the proceeds would benefit those who actually captured the essence of this holiday?

Posted by melissaj4 at 07:40 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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I agree, it was a very touching story. I hope to become a photographer one day when I am older, and seeing that they just don't take pictures all the time made me want to become one even more. I was crying as I watched the children wish for peace and a warm home to come home. I wish all the kids in the world would consider other things besides toys and electronics for themselves. Katie, you delivered that piece the best of all!

Posted by Haley04062 at 07:32 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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What a touching story of some examples of children who are wise beyond their years. They should be teaching the rest of us what's important. I was weeping as I watched that. And kudos to Linda Solomon for sponsoring such an art project. What power art has.

Posted by voigtscs at 07:21 PM : Dec 12, 2006

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