



**He lost his wife.  
His 5 small children lost their mom.  
Everything fell on him. **All at Christmas.****

---

No one can get through the toughest of times alone.  
Please give now to be there for an Idaho neighbor in need this holiday season.  
***If you give right away, your donation will be DOUBLED by matching funds.***

---

Don't you love Idaho at Christmas? Carols in the air. Lights on the tree. Baby Jesus in the manger. Family gathered round. What could be better?

Yet, not everyone has the best family situation.

That can be especially difficult at Christmas.

**Please donate today to be there for an Idaho neighbor in urgent need this Christmas.** Though they don't know your name, they'll never forget the good you'll do for them and the light of hope you'll help reveal in their darkest hour. And today, your gift will have twice the impact while matching funds last.

I'm thinking of Jason and his 5 kids under 7.

*I have 5 kids too, and can only imagine the difficulty.*

Last Christmas, Jason lost his wife — and their kids lost their mother. Suddenly, everything fell on him: *the grief, the bills, the childcare.*

Jason and Emily had gladly agreed to a division of labor. Emily took pride in managing the kids and the home. Jason took pride in providing for his family through his work as a prep cook. It was all good. It worked well for the whole family.

But now, well, Jason had a lot to learn without Emily there.

He felt like he was drowning.

*Please keep reading...*

(2)

Jason had never realized how little he knew about the smaller details of day-to-day child raising. What used to seem like mere little things — hardly worth sweating — suddenly felt very big to him. For example:

Jason didn't know how to put money on the school lunch accounts ...

He didn't know which diapers to buy for the baby ...

He didn't know any of his kids' shoe sizes ...

He didn't know ***“What next?!”***

What Jason did know beyond a shadow of a doubt was that he would do anything for his kids. And now, doing *anything* for them meant doing *everything* for them.

And he would — no matter what.

But first he needed help.

**That's why Jason turned to Catholic Charities of Idaho.**

Emergencies fit no schedule, ever. We must be ready in advance.

**Please donate now so we can be ready for parents like Jason in an emergency — even at Christmas.**

Emily had bought Advent calendars for the kids.

They'd started counting the days until Christmas.

But after the kids lost their mother ... the Advent calendars felt upsetting. The counting felt wrong, negative somehow. The chocolates remained forever inside their calendars. The kids stopped counting down the days until Christmas.

When Jason first phoned us, he talked to Wendy, our Director of Social Services. He sounded desperate as he asked, **“I know my kids need me right now. But ... what do I do?”**



Go to page 3 to read about how you and Catholic Charities of Idaho can help families like Jason's...

(3)

Wendy got right to work:

First she helped Jason learn how to use the school lunch accounts app and how to access the school calendar online.

Then they talked diapers. “We can provide you with diapers and wipes,” Wendy said. “We just need to know your baby’s weight. You can get that by weighing yourself and your baby and subtracting your weight.” Jason nodded. You could practically see the lightbulb light up over his head.

Shoe sizes came next. Then how to secure good childcare. Then some child behavior management basics. And last but not least, Wendy made sure Jason had presents for Christmas gifts for his kids — and a proper Christmas dinner too.

With Catholic Charities of Idaho, it’s never a matter of, “*Here’s a check, goodbye.*”

**CCI responds to family emergencies in all sorts of ways, including by acting as an essential “resource connection.”**

We helped Jason sign up for the free and reduced lunch program at school. We also eased the strain on the family budget by connecting Jason to the WIC program so he could take advantage of free formula, fresh fruit, milk, cereal, and so on.

This is so important, especially nowadays when childcare for 5 children can easily cost \$1,800 per month — only 50% of which is covered by state assistance. (You must find a way to weather the storm until you can stand on your own two feet again.)

Surviving as a single parent is not easy.

It takes a lot of support.



Keep reading to see how you can be part of a Christmas miracle (and your impact DOUBLED)...

(4)

**Please give now to make sure a parent like Jason has all the support they need this Christmas** — clothes, diapers, wipes, winter coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, blankets, hygiene kits . . . plus emotional support and guidance.

Any amount you can give would be wonderful. You'll be right there with us lending a steady hand during a time of instability. It could make all the difference this Christmas for a family in need.

*Can you picture it?*

There's a little girl holding the brand new doll she wanted as she sits beside the Christmas tree. It's a gift that means so much to Jason's oldest daughter. It literally gives her something to hold onto when she wakes up in the middle of the night, missing her mom.

None of this could happen without caring people like YOU.

Please give now, if you can. Thank you!



God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Trask'.

Eddie Trask

Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Idaho

P.S. **Please give by December 31st** to be there for your Idaho neighbors in need this holiday season. Your kindness will tell them they are not alone. Your generosity can also help provide critical services ranging from emergency crisis intervention to long-term stability for families, seniors, and individuals across Idaho.

*\* Remember, if you give right away, your donation will be DOUBLED by matching funds! (Please take a moment to donate now while you're thinking about it — and while matching funds last.)*

You can give quickly and securely online: [ccidaho.org/donate](https://ccidaho.org/donate)