

January 28, 2009

Dear R2K and all the wonderful contributors to The Little Give:

It is with a full heart that my daughters and I send you "Big" thanks for the blessings given to us through your "Little Give."

Like many Americans, 2008 was an extremely difficult year for my family. Towards the end of the year we were hit with our car dying, and, having to suddenly move out of our condo due to foreclosure on the landlord. This added to the everyday struggles that were mounting for me as a single mother of two growing teenage girls. Our situation as a family had quickly snowballed out of our financial reach.

Although, I am blessed to have children with such light spirits, it has been difficult not to be able to give them all that I feel they justly deserve. Even amid the struggle of the move and having to live without transportation they have taken these sudden changes in stride without an ounce of complaint. They experienced the leanest Christmas ever this year. Only receiving a few gifts. But, they smiled and laughed through all of that.

Then, God sent us "All" of you as angels through R2Ks "Little Give." Elva, Jennifer and everyone at Resort 2 Kindness were masters at surprising me with a "Tonie Day!"

Words cannot express the overwhelming feeling of joy and gratefulness that filled my heart; not mention all the love that filled the room. To think that so many people cared that our needs were met and our burdens lifted. We did not just receive the things we had prayed for, like the car being fixed or more clothes for my growing girls, but we also received blessings we could not – and have not – been able to afford on our own, like floor-level seats to a Nuggets basketball game!!! The "Little Give" has impacted our lives in a "Big" way. My girls now know, first-hand, the kindness of others and how far an act of kindness can go.

They will have this experience with them always and will, prayerfully, use it to bless others as they grow up. We will always remember that feeling of knowing that people who had never met us cared enough about us to change our lives.

Thank you is not enough. Thank you for every contribution, every prayer, and every thought sent our way. Thank you for planning, campaigning and speaking on our behalf. Thank you for wrapping, shopping, and negotiating. Thank you for stepping outside of the box, thank you for looking at us and seeing real people. Thank you for picking us, loving us, and blessing us!!!!

Most of all, thank you for answering our prayers.

May God Bless You All,

Tonie, Amari, & Amoi