

PATH



PROVIDING ACCESS TO HELP

Holiday Programs 2011

* Please note that the agencies and organizations listed **first** are those that **offer holiday assistance** to families in need.

* The second part lists the agencies and organizations that **need volunteers and donations** (only!).

The Salvation Army – 829-9476

Coat Distribution – Clients may receive a referral slip from the Safe Harbor office (601 W. Washington) between 9 am – 12 noon, Monday – Thursday beginning October 11th. Client needs photo ID and SSN/card for everyone in the household that is receiving a coat. Clients will take the referral slip to the Community Center (611 W. Washington) to pick up the coat(s).

Note: SA does not offer Thanksgiving food baskets.

Families may apply for **Christmas** assistance during the following days & hours:

Nov 7-9, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Nov 10, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

What to bring:

- A current piece of mail for proof of address
- Photo Identification
- Proof of income for the last 30 days
- Social security cards for **each** person in the household

Please note: If you do not speak English, please bring an interpreter. A state-issued medical card is sufficient for address and income. A driver's license **does not** count as a form of address verification.

Long lines are unavoidable. Please plan accordingly. We ask you to please be patient and polite to help create a more pleasant experience for everyone.

Holiday food distribution is by appointment only on Dec 19 and toy distribution, also by appointment only, on Dec 21-22.

WJBC – Brotherhood Tree – 829-1221

Families who would like to receive gifts from the Brotherhood Tree must send a written request with the names of the members of their **own households only**, their age, and gender to: WJBC, 236 Greenwood Avenue, Bloomington IL 61704. Requests must also include a phone number of someone that can be contacted with questions and a street address (with directions if the home is difficult to find or a rural address. Note that the Brotherhood Tree cannot deliver to P.O. Boxes). Requests will be accepted through Dec 2. Gifts will be delivered on Sat, Dec 17. Someone from the household **must** be home on this day to accept the gifts. If for some reason no one will be home, a note directing volunteers to leave the gifts with a neighbor or in some discreet location must be posted (this is important because, in the past, gifts have been stolen from porches, etc.) For more information, call the number above or look online www.wjbc.com.

Home Sweet Home Ministries, Holiday Meal Hotline – 828-7356 x1241 (your call will be sent to a voice mail--you'll hear a beep--leave your message)

Volunteers deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities living within McLean County. The deadline for requesting a Thanksgiving meal is November 17th. HSHM will begin to take requests for Christmas Eve Day meals on Dec 1. To request a meal, call the number above with the name, address, phone number, and number of meals needed. The cut-off date for Christmas meals is December 15th. HSHM's in-house banquet, served inside the Billy Shelper Center (303 E. Oakland Avenue, Blm) will be held on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve Day at 12:30 pm. A smaller meal will be available between 6:00-7:00 pm. The in-house meals are open to *anyone*. For more information, visit their web site at www.hshministries.org.

Center for Hope Food Pantry Network and CHAP – 452-8240

The annual **Joy of Giving** event will be held **Saturday, December 10th**. Pre-registration is required, beginning Nov 16, by calling the Center for Hope at 452-8240. This event offers families the opportunity to share in one of the most wonderful parts of Christmas: Giving. Youth, ages 5-12, who are accompanied by a parent or guardian, can participate in various fun and challenging activities in order to "earn" spending tickets. Afterwards, they can "purchase" gifts for family and friends on their shopping list from the **Joy Store**. They even wrap their own gifts and make their own cards. Parents and guardians have fun, as well, while waiting on their little ones by creating a craft or two of their own.

Christmas for Kids Party - Registration by mail or e-mail only! (For families in need, unemployed, or underemployed)

Children (12 and younger) who are attending the party must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are required. The party will be held on **Saturday, Dec 17, at 10:00 am** in the Bloomington High School Cafeteria, 1202 E. Locust Street. To obtain tickets, please write to PO Box 3396, Bloomington IL 61702-3396 or e-mail matejka53@aol.com (no phone calls, please). Include the number of children attending, your address and phone number. The party is sponsored by Bloomington-Normal Trades & Labor Assembly, the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of McLean County.

Eastview Christian Church – “Imagine” Holiday Assistance: Distribution Day

New this year: Registration Days were October 3, 5 & 8.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2010 by appointment

Location: Eastview Christian Church, 1500 N. Airport Road, Normal, (Corner of Raab and Airport Road, next to NCHS)

Compassionate Friends - Candlelight Memorial Service

The Annual Candlelight Memorial Service will be held on **Sun, Dec 11, 7:00 pm**, at Holy Trinity Church, 711 N. Main Street, Bloomington. This Memorial is a way to help parents, living with the loss of a child, get through the holidays. Volunteers are needed to help with the Memorial Service. Contact Donna McMillan at 309-724-8414 or Linda Zick at 815-692-2829 to volunteer or for further information.

For DeWitt County Residents:

DeWitt County Angel Tree Program – 217-935-2455

Now accepting applications from families who are struggling to buy their children gifts for the holiday season. The program provides children with coats, clothing, shoes and toys if they qualify under state poverty guidelines. All information provided by applicants is confidential and each child is assigned a number for identification purposes.

Monthly Household

Maximum Income	2 people	3 people	4 people
Guidelines:	\$1,532	\$1,930	\$2,328
5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people
\$2,726	\$3,124	\$3,522	\$3,920

Applicants, who must be DeWitt Co residents, may sign up at DeWitt County Community Action, 1700 E. Main St., Clinton, M-F, between the hours of 9:00 am and noon and 12:30-3:00 pm. Each applicant must provide social security cards for everyone in the household and proof of income for the past 30 days for everyone in the household. Children must be attending school if they are of school age. Applications must be submitted by Oct 31. Angel Tree applicants will be able to pick up their gifts on December 9 at their designated time. For information on donating to the Angel Tree Program please call DeWitt County Community Action.

For Livingston County Residents:

Salvation Army of Livingston County – 815-844-5005

Livingston County SA is located at 112 N. Division in Pontiac. The sign-up for Thanksgiving vouchers will be held on October 18, 19 & 20, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. You must have a medical card of Link card to qualify. Vouchers will be handed out on November 16, 17 & 18. Christmas toy sign-up will be held November 8, 9 & 10 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. You must also have a medical card, Link card or other proof that the child is in the home to qualify. Toys and gifts will be given out to children ages newborn through high school. Christmas distribution dates and times will be assigned. Call for further information.

The following agencies and organizations are asking for volunteer help or donations only! PLEASE DO NOT refer clients who are requesting assistance to these agencies.

Salvation Army – 829-9476: There are many opportunities to help with a range of volunteer responsibilities available throughout the months of November & December – some of those are listed below. Should you want further details, contact Joyce Glasscock, 829-9476, ext. 203.

Bell Ringing: Volunteers are needed as Christmas Bell Ringers beginning Nov 18 through Dec 24. Volunteers are needed Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm. Individuals, clubs, church groups, sororities, fraternities, civic groups, etc. are welcome. Those interested can sign up to be a bell ringer over the Internet; go to www.ringbells.org and click on Bloomington. You will receive a confirmation via email. If you can't sign up on-line, call Steve Schroeder, 829-9476, ext. 204.

Food Drives: The Salvation Army relies on help from the public with food donations for their holiday assistance program. Any group wishing to host a food drive can contact Steve Schroeder, 829-9476, ext. 204 for pickup and drop-off times.

Coats for Kids & Families: Donate new or gently used coats, hats, mittens or gloves to the Salvation Army Now through Dec 10. Items can be dropped off at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Center for Health at Ft. Jesse, Starbucks at Veterans Pkwy/Washington and The Salvation Army (611 W. Washington). Items will be distributed to children and families who are in need of clothing.

WJBC – Brotherhood Tree – 829-1221: For donations, only new gifts are accepted and can be for children or adults. Each gift should be wrapped and marked with age and contents. Checks are also accepted, along with donations by Paypal (www.wjbc.com). Donations are accepted the day after Thanksgiving (Nov 24) through Wed, Dec 14. For more information or to volunteer, call 829-1221 and ask for Janae or look online at www.wjbc.com.

Home Sweet Home Ministries – 828-7356: HSHM is also looking for families, individuals, or groups to adopt a needy family and provide Christmas presents for them. Contact Sabrina Burkiewicz at 828-7356 x215 or sburkiewicz@hshministries.org.

Operation Christmas Child: During the week of Nov 14-21, Samaritan's Purse invites residents to turn old shoe boxes into gifts of hope for children around the globe. Here's what you do: Find an empty shoe box, decide whether your gift will be for a boy or girl, choose an age category (2-4), (5-9), or (10-14), fill the shoe box with a variety of gifts (for small gift ideas, visit their web site), print out the appropriate label provided on their website, place it on the TOP of the box, and enclose a \$7 check made out to Samaritan's Purse (OCC on the memo line) or make your donation online with the EZGIVE option provided on their website. This donation goes toward the cost of international shipping. Please place a rubber band around the shoe box before dropping it off. The Bloomington drop-off location is: Cross Pointe Church of God, 3101 Airport Rd, Bloomington 61704. Drop-off hours for that week are Monday & Friday 4 pm -8 pm, Tuesday & Thursday 5 pm – 7 pm, Wednesday 5 pm – 8 pm, Saturday, 1 pm – 5 pm, Sunday, 1 pm – 2 pm & Monday from 8 am – 10 am. If you cannot drop off during the times listed, or if you would like more information, please call 1-800-353-5949 or visit the website at www.samaritanaspurse.org.

Book Showers for Literacy – 888-9884: Hold a Book Shower at your organization, club, school, or church to collect new children's books that will become holiday gifts for underprivileged children. STAR Literacy Program is accepting new and used books, as well as cash donations. Cash donations will be used to purchase new books. Checks should be made out to STAR Literacy Program and write Attn: Book Showers on the envelope or the check. Donations of used children's books **in good condition** will be distributed to social service agencies that work with low-income families, the homeless, and children at risk. Book and cash donations are accepted Monday through Friday, from 9am to 4pm at the STAR Literacy Program located at 905 North Main Street, Suite 2, in Normal. Beginning Nov 1 through Dec 20, the Children's Rooms at both Bloomington and Normal Public Libraries and the Children's Discovery Museum will accept book donations only. For more information, call Sheila Diaz at 888-9884 ext. 247.

Children's Foundation – Adopt-A-Family – 827-0374: Business groups, families, or individuals can adopt-a-family for Christmas. Donations of gifts, household items, and money are appreciated. (This program serves **only** the families receiving services through The Children's Foundation.) Contact Katie Allen at the number above or at kallen@childrenshomeandaid.org for more information.

ISU Leadership and Service Office – Holiday Helper – 438-7346: ISU students, faculty, and staff can be a Holiday Helper for one of the needy children of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington/Normal, Catholic Charities, Unity Community Center, and/or Western Avenue Community Center. Contact the Leadership and Service Office, Nov 1-Dec 1, to receive the name, age, and size of a child to sponsor. Simply spend at least \$30, though no more than \$40 per child, and take the gifts, unwrapped, to the Leadership and Service Unit, Room 206, Bone Student Center, at the corner of University and College. For further information call the above number and ask for Alison Kessinger.

Toys for Tots – US Marine Corps Reserves – 826-5588: New toys are collected and distributed to needy McLean County children through community holiday assistance programs. Monetary donations are very much appreciated, as well. Donated toys can be dropped off Nov 2 through Dec 21 at the drop-off boxes in Toys R Us or Eastland Mall. The Steering Committee needs volunteers to serve on the committee for the seasonal toy drive. Contact Matt Drat, matt@mcleantoysfortots.org, or call the number above. **We were unable to verify drop-off dates, there are multiple drop-off locations throughout B/N.**

The Baby Fold's Christmas Wish List Program – 451-7202: The Baby Fold needs help from individuals, families, organizations, and church groups to fulfill the wish lists of the **children they serve (only)** – boys and girls from prenatal to 18 years of age. There are several ways to help: Fill the wish lists of one child or several children by purchasing items specifically for them; purchase a variety of items the Baby Fold can use to help a variety of children; purchase gift cards for older children as gifts; make a monetary gift to help with last minute purchases and buying the most necessary items; and/or volunteering time in December to help track, inventory, sort, shop for, and distribute the many gifts. Wish lists are available now. Gifts can be dropped off Dec 2 - Dec 13 excluding weekends, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. For drop-off locations, more information, or to help out contact Dawn Maxey at the number above or tmaxey@thebabyfold.org

The Pantagraph's Goodfellow Fund – 820-3218: The Goodfellow Fund works in cooperation with local social service agencies to assist families in need. Monetary donations from community residents are what fuel the fund. Please mail donations to: The Pantagraph Goodfellow Fund, PO Box 1800, Bloomington, IL 61702-1800. Donor names can be listed in The Pantagraph starting Thanksgiving Day. Should you need further information, contact Nancy Million at the number above.

Center for Hope Food Pantry Network/CHAP – 452-8240: The Center for Hope and CHAP are now accepting donations of unwrapped new toys, craft items, books, games, ceramics, blankets, gift wrap supplies, and greeting cards for their **Joy of Giving** event. Volunteers are needed to help the children while they shop, make their cards, and wrap their gifts. Please call 452-8240 to sign up.

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[Holiday Programs 2011](#) is compiled and distributed by PATH. If you have any questions or know of a program that should be listed, please contact Cathy Beck at cbeck@pathcrisis.org or 309-834-0507.

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