



# HOLIDAY GIVING & VOLUNTEERING GUIDE

— 2017 —

**A THRIVING COMMUNITY FOR ALL**  
[hwmuw.org](http://hwmuw.org)



# HOLIDAY GIVING & VOLUNTEERING

2017

## ACCESS OF WEST MICHIGAN

### Holiday Giving Network

#### Provide Thanksgiving Or Christmas Food To A Family In Kent County

We will match you with a family in your area that is in need of holiday dinner food items. You can purchase the food items and then deliver them directly to the family.

#### Donate Money Or Gifts

Give grocery store gift cards or monetary donations to help us ensure that every family is provided for this holiday season.

#### Host A Drive

Hold a holiday food drive with your congregation, office, small group, or family and donate the items to a local pantry (we can connect you with your local food pantry).

To sign up, visit:

<http://accessofwestmichigan.org/get-involved/events/holiday-giving-network>

## BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

### Sponsor a Family for Christmas

Many of the clients we serve don't have extra money for gift giving at the holidays. You might be thinking that not everyone celebrates Christmas. Well at Bethany Christian Services, we do! We love to give and we want you to be a part of our giving.

Every year we ask families to provide us with a list of needs/wants for every member of their family living in the same household. Then we match a donor group, family, business, community member and ask to purchase and wrap those items for the family. The gifts are then delivered around the week before Christmas either directly to the family or dropping them off at our office and we take care of the rest!

If you are interested in being a family sponsor, contact Michelle Roub, [mroub@bethany.org](mailto:mroub@bethany.org)

## BURTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Secret Santa Workshop: December 4-8, 2017

Shifts are available 8:45am-3pm each day. Up to 30 volunteers needed for each shift.

Volunteers are needed to help Burton Elementary students shop for gifts for the holidays. The shop is all set-up in our library; you will get paired one-on-one with a student who has a budget for gifts. Volunteers help guide students through the shop and wrap their gifts once they have been selected.

Visit this link to learn more & sign up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ba4a622aafe3-20171>



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST MICHIGAN

### Serve Lunch at God's Kitchen

Christmas Eve 1pm-5pm

Christmas Day 11am-3pm

Day after Christmas 11am-3pm

New Year's Eve 11am-3pm

Help us serve lunch to community members at God's Kitchen. God's Kitchen serves 200-300 meals daily and we need the help of dedicated volunteers to make it happen every day. Tasks include meal preparation, serving, and cleanup. Stylin' aprons, jazzy hair nets, and a warm fulfilling experience are provided.

### Christmas Drive

Catholic Charities West Michigan is hosting our annual Christmas Drive to serve clients throughout our agency. Please bring unwrapped gifts (wish-list below) to our office at 40 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 by Monday, December 11, 2017.

**SIGN UP FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES AT:**

<http://connect.hmwu.org/need/?tag=Holiday+Giving>



Heart of West Michigan  
United Way

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2017

Thank you for helping to make this Christmas bright for families in need!

## Wish List items (Children ages 0-18)

- Winter clothing: hats, mittens, coats
- Books
- Craft kits
- Board games
- Legos
- Action figures
- Barbie dolls
- Activity Centers
- Puzzles
- Crayons, paint, & other art supplies
- Building blocks
- Coloring books
- Musical & interactive toys

## D.A. BLODGETT- ST. JOHN'S

### Thanksgiving Wishes

Needs for Families: November

During the month of November, we would like to grant unique wishes for the families and children we serve. Wish examples include funds for medical needs or helping families with home repair.

To see a full list of wishes, visit [dabsj.org](http://dabsj.org) and search "Thanksgiving Wishes 2017." Or contact Katie Wybenga at [kwybenga@dabsj.org](mailto:kwybenga@dabsj.org)

<https://dabsj.org/be-involved/ways-to-give/holidaygiving>

### Giving Tuesday: November 28

Help us provide horse therapy for kids in need!

#GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. Join the movement by celebrating generosity and helping kids.

To make a financial donation visit [www.dabsj.org/givingtuesday](http://www.dabsj.org/givingtuesday)

## Christmas Wishes

Gifts for Kids: December

If you are interested in providing Christmas gifts for a child in need, please contact us. You will be given a list from a child of their specific wishes!

To donate a gift, contact:  
Shelly Friend (Leonard Campus)  
616.774.4613, [sfriend@dabsj.org](mailto:sfriend@dabsj.org)

Katie Wybenga (Knapp Campus)  
[kwybenga@dabsj.org](mailto:kwybenga@dabsj.org)

<https://dabsj.org/be-involved/ways-to-give/holidaygiving>



## DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

### Santa's Helpers

Help us to provide gifts to local children! All gifts will be given to children at our Signing Santa event. Stop by our offices between now & December 8 to:

1. Take a card from the tree or wall
2. Buy a gift for the child on the card
3. Return the gift with the card attached to D&HHS by December 8th.

\*Please ensure the gift is \$10.00 or less.

### Wrapping Party: December 12, 2017, 10:00am

Santa is looking for some fun elves to finish his wrapping!

Join us at our offices to wrap gifts that will be given to the children we serve at our Signing Santa event on December 16.

To get involved in any of these holiday activities, contact [KidSigns@deafhhs.org](mailto:KidSigns@deafhhs.org)

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2017

## DWELLING PLACE

### Donation of Small Shopping Baskets with Wheels

Villa Esperanza Apartments, a senior Dwelling Place property, would like to gift residents small shopping baskets with wheels (pull shopping carts) for Christmas. This gift will allow residents to purchase groceries at the store, and take the bus home from the store. The residents would greatly appreciate the gift.

## FAMILY PROMISE OF GRAND RAPIDS

### Christmas Elf

Are you organized? Do you enjoy sorting through things and finding treasures?! Are you looking for a way to put your organizational talents to good use? Then this is the volunteer opportunity for you! With the holiday season quickly approaching we are in need of some help with our in-kind donations.

We are looking for volunteers to come for a 1-3 hour period on M-F to help us sort through all of the amazing donations we receive from the community during this holiday season.

### New Homeowners Toolkits

We have some exciting news! Some of our families are moving home from shelter and becoming first time homeowners through our Partners in Housing program! Can you help us prepare them for this exciting new chapter in their lives by creating some basic tool kits to help them get started!?

Items:

- Hammer
- Small measuring tape
- Phillips Screw Driver
- 1 Adjustable Wrench
- Flat head Screw Driver
- Flash Light

### 6th Annual Christmas Store

We invite our families to shop at a store which allows parents to pick out their own gifts for their kids, be the hero in their children's lives, and have pride and dignity about the fact that they purchased gifts for their kids on their own. It is a fun-filled evening that allows families to celebrate together.

Volunteers can participate the night of the store and through the holiday season! We are accepting toys for all

age ranges, along with household items and gifts cards. If you are interested in donating or getting involved this holiday season contact Family Promise of Grand Rapids.

[www.familypromisegr.org/home](http://www.familypromisegr.org/home)



## GRAND RAPIDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

### New Year's Early Eve

Join us for this annual celebration of family fun and help us ring in the New Year. We are looking for volunteers to help with programs, food service, and just plain having fun and of course the balloon drop at 7:30. If you are available from 5:00-8:30 (we need help with setup and tear down) we would love to have you join us.

## GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY

The Grand Rapids Symphony has a variety of volunteer opportunities coming up for the Holidays that include projects and events like decorating at DeVos Performance Hall, the Santa Parade in downtown Grand Rapids, the Christmas tree lighting at Rosa Parks Circle, and a research project.

Visit our Sign-Up Genius to learn more:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa4ab2fa2fe3-holiday9](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa4ab2fa2fe3-holiday9)

## HEART OF WEST MICHIGAN UNITED WAY

### Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays

Adopt-A-Family is a sponsorship program matching families in need with caring sponsors from the community. Sponsors are asked to identify families on their Wish List and purchase gifts for them to enjoy the holiday. Families are identified in Head Start, Kent County and matches are

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2017

coordinated by Heart of West Michigan United Way.

To Adopt-A-Family, visit our website & sign-up:  
[www.hwmuw.org/adoptafamily](http://www.hwmuw.org/adoptafamily)

## Spread the Warmth

Help us Spread the Warmth this winter by running or donating to a collection drive!

Heart of West Michigan United Way will be coordinating drives across Kent County and collecting hats, gloves, coats, boots, and other cold weather gear from November 9 to December 1.

It's easy to get involved!

- Sign up at [www.hwmuw.org/spreadthewarmth](http://www.hwmuw.org/spreadthewarmth) to run a collection with your co-workers, teammates, members, or friends.
- Collect the needed winter gear by shopping at local stores or from our Amazon wish list.
- Drop off donations to Heart of West Michigan United Way (118 Commerce Ave SW, Grand Rapids) between November 9 and December 1.

Donations Needed: Coats, gloves, hats, wool socks, long underwear, boots, snow pants, and scarves.



## HOPE NETWORK FOUNDATION

### Adopt a Residential Home for Christmas

For 13 years, staff and friends of Hope Network have been making Christmas wishes come true for hundreds of

residents who live with physical and mental challenges and for whom the Christmas season can be particularly bleak and lonely.

We still have opportunities available to adopt a residential home for the holidays, this includes purchasing gifts for the residents. You may purchase gifts (\$20 pp) or make a cash donation. The gifts are delivered the week before Christmas either directly to the home or by dropping them off at our offices. Residents look forward to our visits and to singing carols, praying together, as well as sharing laughter and stories.

Each home has provided us with a wish list. Please contact Edith Rojas at [eduran@hopenetwork.org](mailto:eduran@hopenetwork.org) or 616.301.8000 by Friday, December 15th, for more details. We look forward to you joining us in spreading holiday cheer!

## MEADOWLAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Christmas Shop

Thursday, December 14 & Friday, December 15  
9:00am-4:00pm

Meadowlawn is in need of volunteers to assist with our Christmas Shop. Volunteers will assist students with purchasing (staying within their budget), and wrapping their gifts. Donations of wrapping paper, tape, bows, and gift tags are also being accepted. Contact Krystine Regts at 616-299-4041 or [krystinejhc@gmail.com](mailto:krystinejhc@gmail.com) for more information.

## MEALS ON WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

### Santa to a Senior Gift Delivery

Join us for our annual Santa to a Senior Program and play Santa! Each volunteer will deliver about 5-7 Christmas gifts to local seniors during a specific range of time.

### Holiday/Winter Gear Donation

Now accepting winter gear donations for our seniors! Hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, etc.

Items can be dropped off at our offices at 2900 Wilson Ave SW, Suite 500, Grandville.

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2017

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

### Holiday Wish List

Help the Ronald McDonald House continue to provide a "home-away-from-home" by fulfilling our Holiday Wish List. Our greatest needs are toys for all ages and nonperishable food items for our pantry.

Donations can be dropped off at 1323 Cedar Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 7 days a week from 9am-9pm.

### Cookie Baker

RMHWM Cookie Bakers provide the comforts of home through a special treat! Cookie Bakers bring their ingredients and prepare a baked good or snack in our large kitchen. Cookie Bakers can come as often as they would like pending calendar availability. Help us welcome families home with the smell of fresh baked goodies!

### Meal Maker

RMHWM Meal Makers provide one of the greatest comforts our House can offer - a home-cooked meal! From deciding the menu to preparing it in our spacious kitchen, the volunteers want to work as a team/group to create a soothing environment for our families during a stressful time. Volunteers in this program are asked to provide the ingredients and must prepare all food on-site. You can be scheduled to provide a meal as often as you would like as long as we have availability.

### Families Helping Families

Come join the House in giving back as a family! Our new Families Helping Families program is a great way for children and parents to work together to assist the House in maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for our residents. With this program, we are inviting families to volunteer over the weekend to help our support staff in light cleaning activities like sweeping, vacuuming, and dusting.

- Volunteer shifts will be on Saturdays or Sundays, lasting 2-3 hours.
- To ensure the success of this program, children must be at least 5 years old to volunteer.
- No pre-application and or background check is necessary to participate.
- All of the family must be healthy without any form of illness in the last 24 hours prior to scheduled volunteer shift.



## SALVATION ARMY

**Angel Tree:** December 14- 20, 2017

With many families facing economic hardships, times can be tight during the holidays. The goal of this toy drive is to reach 25,000 local children by collecting toys to brighten their holiday season.

Toy donations & volunteer support are needed. Learn more about how to get involved here:

<http://angeltree.sawmni.org/wmniangeltree/>

### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 8:15am to 12:30pm

Help provide a great holiday meal to young families at our Little Pine Island Camp!

Location: The Salvation Army Little Pine Island Camp & Retreat, 6889 Pine Island Drive NE, Comstock Park

Volunteer Tasks include: registration, plate service, table & drink service, coat room, craft activity aid, parking attendant, photographer assistant, and post-event clean up. Breakfast available for volunteers.

### Red Kettle Bell Ringing

Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring bells for two to four hour shifts at one of several locations in the Kent County area. The proceeds that are raised during this Kettle Campaign are used to fund local programs throughout the year.

Bell ringing volunteer opportunities are available according to location throughout the Christmas season.

Visit <http://sawmni.org/wmni/volunteer> to learn more & sign-up.

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2017

## SECOM RESOURCE CENTER

### Pack Thanksgiving meals

Come out to Secom Resource Center on Tuesday, November 14th from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM to help us pack Thanksgiving Meals for our Neighbors!



12 pm; different drop-off times can be arranged. Donations for the program are also welcomed.

To see the gift list and other information, visit [www.theotherway.org/christmasstore](http://www.theotherway.org/christmasstore).

## SENIOR NEIGHBORS

### Christmas Craft

Walker Firehouse Senior Center  
Friday, December 8, 2017, 9:30am-1pm

Volunteers are needed to help with our Christmas Craft. The craft is already bought and set up we are just looking for volunteers to help our seniors put the craft together that day. Also, volunteers would help prep food, serve our seniors and clean up after lunch is done.

### Volunteer at one of our Senior Centers

Grand Rapids, November 17 & December 29, 10am-2:30pm

Volunteers are needed to help with our Once-A-Month Birthday Celebration. Volunteers would possibly help with a craft or call Bingo. They would help with the celebration which includes mingling with the seniors while the entertainment plays or maybe playing pool or cards. Then they would help serve lunch and help clean up after lunch.

Grandville, November 17 & December 15, 11:30am-1:30pm

Volunteers would help serve lunch, coffee, play cards, and help clean up after lunch is served.

## THE OTHER WAY MINISTRIES

### Christmas Store

For 25 years, The Other Way Ministries has hosted the Christmas Store, a neighborhood-wide program committed to giving low-income parents the Gift of Dignity at Christmastime. By volunteering at their child's school or at The Other Way, parents earn credits that can be used to purchase new gifts for their child(ren). These gifts are donated by generous local businesses, churches, groups, and individuals.

The gift drop-off date is Monday, December 4 from 9 am -

## WEST ELEMENTARY

### Holiday Adoptions

November 20-December 19

We have many families at West Elementary with extra needs around the holiday time. We would like to send them off to the holiday break with some necessities and gifts for the kids. If your family, faith community, business, or organization is able to sponsor a family (or several!), please contact Erika VanDyke, KSSN community school coordinator at 616-530-7533 or [vandyke@wyomingps.org](mailto:vandyke@wyomingps.org).



## WEST MICHIGAN CENTER FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY (WMCAT)

### Create Holiday Gift Bags for Students

We are looking for a group to create holiday gift bags for each of our 36 adult students by December 15. This includes purchasing items (bags in past years have included non-perishable ingredients to make a meal, fleece blankets, grocery gift cards, etc.) and packaging the items in a special tote bag provided by WMCAT. Grab a group of friends, coworkers, or family and support our adult students on their journey.

WMCAT will provide tote bags as soon as your group commits. We would like the bags assembled and returned by December 15, so we can give them to students before holiday break. Thank you!

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