



OPERATION LOVE MINISTRIES

What is a "Christmas Miracle" Sponsor?

This Christmas Season, you can share the love by sponsoring a family in need through Operation Love Ministries! With over 250 registered families each year, 40-50 families with extreme circumstances are chosen for sponsorship (the remaining qualified applicants are guaranteed toys and a Christmas meal). OLM staff and volunteers work to prioritize all cases and only suggest sponsorship for those with the highest and most pressing needs.

To participate as a Christmas Miracle Sponsor, pledges of commitment should be made by November 15th at the latest. This gives OLM staff and volunteers time to communicate the sponsored family's information to sponsors (by Nov 18th), as well as providing several weeks for sponsors to shop before the December deadline for donations.

How Do I Give?

Typically, sponsors commit to a \$100-500 donation OR commit provide at least the following:

- 1) Food (or gift card) for a holiday meal for the family (see our enclosed suggested Christmas basket list), or a gift card to Payless grocery, Meijer, or Harvest Market (\$20- \$35 depending on family size).
- 2) Gifts for each child under 18 (based on preferences listed on the application)- \$50 per child, on average
- 3) Any "urgent needs" or extra items that the client may have listed on their application (such as hygiene or cleaning products, diapers, clothing/coats or even a Christmas tree (Anywhere from \$30-\$200)

Sponsors can expect to spend at least: \$100 for a family of 2, \$175 for a family of 3, \$250 for a family of 4, or \$350-\$500 for a family and/or a high-needs family.



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Should you or your group choose to shop directly for these items, purchases are led by the discretion of our sponsors and vary from case to case. If you would like additional guidance or suggestions, please contact us.

Your Sponsored Family Match

If you have any specific requests for your budget, what size family you would like, ages, or specific types of cases, our Human Services Coordinator will make the best effort to match you to a family that meets your interests. After you have committed to a case for sponsorship, we will scan and e-mail or make a hard copy of the application information from your chosen family, including their sizes, "Christmas wishes," for each child, and their application narrative explaining why they requested assistance this year. You may pick up the hard copy of this application at the OLM offices, or we may deliver to you if we are able.

Delivering Christmas Wishes

Sponsors may choose how involved they would like to be with their sponsored family. They can choose to deliver the items as follows:

- 1) Sponsors may contact the family directly by December 3rd to ask any questions about gift details and arrange a delivery or off-site pickup anytime before Dec. 23rd,
- 2) Sponsors may bring the completed baskets to Operation Love the week of December 5th so that OLM can arrange pickup from the client, or
- 3) Sponsors may choose a day and time (Dec 12th-15th) to meet at Operation Love to give the items to the sponsored family.

To make your sponsorship commitment, contact us at:

Andrea Baker, Executive Director
abaker@operationloveministries.org
765.400.0616

Kim House
khouse@operationloveministries.org
765.644.2121



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Suggested Items for Christmas Food/Need Baskets:

Christmas Basket Food Items:

Meat (half hams, whole chickens/turkeys)
Canned Corn
Canned Green Beans
Boxed Stuffing
Instant Potatoes & Gravy
Butter & Dinner Rolls
Canned Fruit
Canned Yams & Marshmallows

Christmas Basket Basic Need Items:

Dish Soap
Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash/Soap
Toilet Tissue
Paper Towels
Socks
Winter Hats
Scarves & Gloves

Christmas Sponsorship Schedule:

Nov. 15th: Deadline to commit to sponsor a Christmas Wishes family. Email

Andrea Baker at abaker@operationloveministries.org or call 765-644-2121

Nov. 22nd: All committed sponsors will receive information about their sponsored family by this date.

Dec 5th: All donations that are not being given directly to a family must be dropped off at Operation Love Ministries, or a time must be coordinated to meet with a sponsored family at Operation Love between Dec. 5th-8th or Dec 12th-15th. (OLM is closed the last 2 weeks of Dec.)

Dec 23rd: All donations made directly to a sponsored family should be delivered. You will have the family's address and contact information should you choose to arrange delivery.