



OPERATION LOVE MINISTRIES

Dear OLM Friends,

When a parent or grandparent is struggling, the last thing on their mind may be Christmas. But each year, we get the opportunity to take the burden off of struggling families by helping them give their children everything from basic needs like coats and shoes to gifts for every child in the household. Your support makes Christmas a time of celebration and wonder for children, families, and singles who may have no one else to provide for them in this special season. There are a number of ways that you or your group can get involved at various levels of giving to help families in need this year:

- 1) Donate Christmas Basket Items:** You can help us provide a Christmas meal and additional household necessities for families in need including socks, winter wear items, toiletries, soap, and paper products (see our chart below for suggested collection items).
- 2) Donate Toys:** Collect new-in-box toys for children in need. Adults will have the opportunity to “shop” for their children when they pick up their Christmas Wishes baskets (suggestion list provided upon request). Highest needed items are for ages 12-17.
- 3) Sponsor a Family:** Groups and individuals may opt to provide an entire Christmas experience for a family in need based on their application. Your group can specify the ages, household size, or circumstance you would like to sponsor and provide a Christmas meal basket, presents, and (if possible) any urgent household needs. Your group will determine the level of involvement and items given to the sponsored family, and may choose to present the gifts to the family or arrange a pickup during our OLM office hours. Contact Andrea for details.
- 4) Volunteer for Basket and Toy Pickup:** Volunteers will be used on Wednesday, December 7th from 9-11:30 a.m. (or until completion) to put together Christmas food baskets. Volunteers will also be needed to serve as “shopping assistants” Thurs through Sat Dec. 8th-10th & Dec. 12th from 9:00am – 12:00 pm or 1:00pm – 4:00 pm to help families “shop.”

We hope that you will be able to be involved in one or more of our programs. We are happy to provide fliers to help get the message out to your group. Please contact us to communicate your plans for collections, family or monetary sponsorship, or to reserve your volunteer slot. Together, we can continue to provide help for today and hope for tomorrow!

Sincerely,

The Operation Love Christmas Wishes Team:
Andrea Baker, Executive Director
abaker@operationloveministries.org

Office: 765-644-2121

Chris Caselton, Human Services Coordinator
ccaselton@operationloveministries.org

Sherise Barber, Special Programs Assistant
sbarber@operationloveministries.org



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Christmas Basket Donation Drive

If you'd list to host a collection, please let us know which items you will be focusing on so that we can avoid having too much or too little of any particular item. Most baskets will require 1 – 3 of each item depending on family size. Designated financial donations are also welcome. With your help, OLM will provide Christmas baskets for over 250 families!

We are thankful for all of your work to reach families and individuals in need this holiday season and throughout the year!

Christmas Basket Food Items:

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

Christmas Basket Basic Need Items:

Dish & Laundry Soap
Full Sized Body Wash
Full Sized Shampoo/Conditioner
Toilet Tissue/Paper Towels
Cleaning Products
Razors, Shaving Cream
Feminine Hygiene Products
Deodorant
Socks, Coats, Gloves, Scarves

Donation Schedule:

Nov. 21st: update us on estimates of how much you have of each item you have collected.

Dec. 1st: all financial commitments needed to finalize donation inventory/purchasing

Dec 5th: all donations that are not being given directly to a family must be dropped off at Operation Love Ministries.

Volunteers Needed: Box Assembly and “Shopping Experience” Schedule:

Mon, Tues, Wed Dec 1st –8th sorting/organizing gifts & toys 9-11:30 a.m. 1-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 7th packing Christmas food boxes, 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Thurs, Fri, Sat Dec 8th –10th check-ins, area managers & shopping assistants needed

Mon Dec 12th, final gift distribution, 9am-11:30am and 1pm-3:30 pm

Please contact Andrea Baker at abaker@operationloveministries.org or 644-2121 to go through a volunteer tour and orientation and reserve your date and time of service or desired collection items!