



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 11th from 9-11:30 a.m. (or until completion) to put together Christmas food & hygiene baskets. Volunteers will also be needed to serve as “shopping assistants” Thurs Dec 12th, Friday Dec. 13th, and Sat Dec. 14th from 9:00am – 12:00 pm or 1:00pm – 4:00 pm to help families “shop” (for free!) (Sat afternoon cleanup 1-4 p.m.)

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
Stephanie Robinson, Human Services Coordinator
Sherise Barber, Special Programs Assistant

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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
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. 25th: update us on estimates of how much you have of each item you have collected.

Dec. 5th: all financial commitments & food donations needed to finalize inventory/purchasing

Dec 9th: drop off any gift donations not given directly to families to Operation Love Ministries

Volunteers Needed: Food/Hygiene Box Assembly and “Shopping Experience” Schedule:

Mon, Dec 2nd: transport gifts from OLM to East Side Church of God 9-11:30 a.m./1-3:30 p.m.

Mon, Tues, Wed Dec 3rd–5th, 7^h, 9th–11th sort/organize gifts & toys 9-11:30 a.m. 1-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 6th packing Christmas food boxes, 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat Dec 13th –16th check-ins, area managers & shopping assistants needed

Sat Dec 16th, final gift distribution, cleanup and move items back to Op Love 1pm-3:30 pm

Please contact Sherise Barber at sbarber@operationloveministries.org or Stephanie Robinson at srobinson@operationloveministries.org to reserve your date and time of service or desired collection items!