



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, around 40 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 October 16th at the latest. This gives OLM staff and volunteers time to communicate the sponsored family's information to sponsors (between October 23rd and November 7th), 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). Please see suggested list on last page.
- 2) Gifts for each verified child (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.

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. Please let us know these requests first thing. After you have committed to a case for sponsorship, we will scan, and email 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 can email it to you.

Sponsors may choose how involved they would like to be with their sponsored family. We recommend that you do contact your family with any questions you may have about what they have requested. The information we have given you is the only information that the families have given us.

Once you have received the information sheet for your family that you will be sponsoring please contact them or let us know that you are not comfortable with contacting them so we can confirm that they are sponsored. This is a time of year where our families will panic if they have not heard anything.

Delivering Christmas Wishes

Each sponsor can choose to deliver the items as follows:

- 1) Sponsors may contact the family directly as soon as possible to ask any questions about gift details and arrange a delivery or off-site pickup. The delivery or off-site pick up should be completed before Dec. 21st.
- 2) If not delivering directly to the family the sponsors may bring the completed baskets to Operation Love Monday - Thursday December 1st -4th

To make your sponsorship commitment, contact us at:

Andrea Baker, Executive Director
abaker@operationloveministries.org
765.400.0616

Sherise Barber/ Stephanie Robinson
sbarber@operationloveministries.org
srobinson@operationloveministries.org
765.644.2121



OPERATION LOVE MINISTRIES

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:

October 16th: Deadline to commit to sponsor a Christmas Wishes family. Please Email

Sherise Barber sbarber@operationloveministries.org

Stephanie Robinson srobinson@operationloveministries.org or Call
765.644.2121

October 23rd - November 7th: All committed sponsors will receive information about their sponsored family by this date.

Dec 1st -4th: All gifts and baskets that are not being given directly to a family must be dropped off at Operation Love Ministries.

Dec 8th,9th,10th: Dates that sponsor can meet with family at Operation Love.

Dec 21st: 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.