

Holiday Food and Toy Resources 2015

Deadlines and Program Capacities Vary

Information as of Thursday, November 5, 2015

Please share this information with individuals and families who may benefit from these resources. We ask that you enlist interpreters and bilingual staff to get the information to families who speak English as a second language. Thank you!

Once again this year, we extend a *huge* “Thank you!” to our Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute Social Service Assistants, Betty Goodman and Kathy McMahon! These volunteers spent many hours of time on the phone and doing research, contacting organizations to attempt to get the most current information available. Please note that information is as of November 5, 2015. For some organizations, specific information about resources or registration was not available, as of our publication date. A couple of the programs are already full and not taking new registrations. Families will need to follow up directly with the agencies/organizations to obtain specific information or to register. **Please note the deadlines and specific instructions!**

If you know of additional resources to be added to this list, please forward that information to us at Karen’s e-mail, karen.frees@allina.com. Also, if you would like to be added to this distribution list for future resource mailings, please e-mail Karen as well, with your e-mail address.

Happy Holidays!

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Please Note: A number of Food Shelves are having Holiday food or possibly gift programs for their participants. If you are registered with a particular Food Shelf or are otherwise getting food from a Food Shelf, please check with the food shelf staff directly.

Resources Open to Multiple Counties/Minnesota Residents

UNITED WAY 2-1-1: United Way receives information from organizations that are providing Holiday food, toys or gifts. Call 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211. They will search for programs within your zip code.

SALVATION ARMY TOY SHOP: For children up to age 14, *LIVING IN* Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright counties. Taking registrations at 651-746-3595, from November 9 through December 4, 2015, Monday through Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. (closed Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving.) **Must** register by phone and obtain an appointment. Documents required include Picture ID for adult and ID for each child in the household, such as Social Security card, Medical card, or school ID. **You cannot be registered for any other toy program, such as Toys for Tots.**

Registration may also be done on line at <http://www.SalvationArmyNorth.org/toyshop> for those with an email address. When you complete the form, your information will be given to an agency that can serve you. They will be responsible for instructing you on how to pick up toys. The Salvation Army may allow homeless families to register if they have verification of a zip code, such as a letter from the location where they are staying or a letter from a shelter. Check for that information at (651)746-3595.

TOYS FOR TOTS AND GIFTS FOR TEENS 2015. (Covers the following counties only: Anoka, Blue Earth, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Freeborn, Hennepin, Ramsey, Rice, Sherburne, Scott, Washington and Wright.) <http://www.toysfortots.org/donate/toys-city-county.aspx?txtState=MINNESOTA> Toys are distributed through participating charitable organizations. At this time, no information is available about the participating organizations. Call United Way (see above) – at 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211, to learn which programs have toys for children. A child may only be registered through one charitable organization. Multiple registrations by different family members, at different locations, are not allowed. Only toy requests by family members with custodial responsibility are normally approved. Other requests are considered on a case by case basis. The age limit is 16 years old.

THE FOOD GROUP: Baskets of Hope will be distributed through local food shelves. Check with the food shelf you are registered with or that serves your zip code area. www.thefoodgroupmn.org , 763-450-3860

FARE FOR ALL EXPRESS, 763-450-3880. <http://fareforall.org/> **Offers a special Holiday pack.** Call to order and to find a site for pick up. **Holiday Pack for \$30** – Available in November and December, holiday packs contain most of the fixings for a holiday meal, including a turkey in November and a ham in December. Other food/packs available as well.

Hennepin County Resources

Good in the 'Hood **Holiday Help**



Adopt-A-Family and Toys for Tots

Good in the 'Hood will once again partner with the U.S. Marine Corps and we will be hosting our annual Toys For Tots distribution for children ages 0-12. Since Toys For Tots is unable to guarantee gifts for the teens, our Holiday Help Sponsorship program will focus our efforts toward children ages 13-17.

Adopt-A-Family REGISTRATION and Toys for Tots REGISTRATION will be at the following Thanksgiving basket host sites on Saturday, November 21st from 11 a.m.-1:00 pm:

- Cedarcrest Church 1630 East 90th Street Bloomington, MN 55425.
- Little Earth United Tribes gymnasium 2501 Cedar Ave S Mpls, MN 55404.

With this in mind, we are looking for generous sponsors to join us by providing gender specific gifts for economically-challenged families with teens. Each recipient family will be given an opportunity to shop for their child(ren) during our Holiday Help gala event. This is a practical means for us to work together with our generous sponsors in order to meet the needs of our economically challenged families while allowing them to maintain a spirit of dignity.

Sponsors are invited to please contact us at info@goodinthehood.org to request a sponsor application and for more information.

To learn more about our 2015 Holiday Help campaign and how you can support, [simply click here!](#)

INTERCONGREGATION COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION (ICA) (952) 938-0729, www.icafoodshelf.org For residents of Deephaven, Excelsior, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Shorewood, Woodland and Greenwood. They will have a *one-day turkey give-away* on **Thursday, November 19, 2015**. There are two locations: * At Zion Lutheran Church, 241 – 5th Avenue, N., Hopkins, MN, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **and** * At Christ Community Church, 897 3rd Avenue, Excelsior, MN, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone in the service area may participate. No pre-registration or scheduling is needed. Must have current utility bill/piece of mail, showing proof of address. For Christmas/winter holidays, families are referred to Resource West. (Please see Resource West listing for details.)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH: 2400 Park Avenue, S., Minneapolis, MN. 612-871-8831. On the **Saturday before** Thanksgiving, (**November 21, 2015**) and Christmas (**December 19, 2015**) and **Easter**, there will be food baskets given out to food shelf participants. Must live in the Phillips Area-To the North: Highway 94; To the South: Lake Street; to the East: Hiawatha Ave.; and to the West: -35W. Must have ID and proof of residence (utility bill, current mail.)

NEAR (North Suburban Emergency Assistance Response) 4803 Welcome Ave. N., Crystal 763-533-2836, www.nearfoodshelf.org . Residents in northern Robbinsdale, New Hope and Crystal between 42nd Ave. N and 62nd Ave. N. For families participating in the food shelf, Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes of food are given. Toys, caps and mittens are given out on **Saturday, December 5, 2015**. Will accept families who are not registered at the Food Shelf, if they live within their area. **Call to register Monday - Friday 9 am – 3 pm.**

OPERATION HOLIDAY BASKET

A joint program between the Blaisdell YMCA and Roosevelt High School. The program has been giving families in South Minneapolis holiday dinners for 40 years. The program serves diverse groups of low-income families as well as people with disabilities, and families in hard times. More than 200 volunteers help with the program, largely students and staff in South Minneapolis schools. To donate or volunteer to the YMCA Operation Holiday Basket cause,

contact Caleb Cooper at caleb.cooper@ymcatwincities.org. If you are part of a family in need, you must make a formal request by contacting the Blaisdell YMCA, at (612) 200-3778.

PEOPLE REACHING OUT TO OTHER PEOPLE (PROP), 14700 Martin Drive
Eden Prairie, 55344, (952) 937-9120, www.propfood.org.

For residents of Eden Prairie and Chanhassen. Must be a client of PROP food shelf to access the food and gift programs. PROP clients may sign up for Holiday gifting program to receive gifts for children up to age 18. **Must register at the food shelf.** Registration is November 9 through 13, 2015 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm and November 12, 2015 from 4 – 6 pm.

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN YOUTH CENTER, 612-643-2000, www.pcy-mpls.org

Serves North Minneapolis children ages Kindergarten – 8th grade. Children may shop on **Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 10 am – 1 pm. Must purchase tickets in advance** - \$1 per child, at Plymouth Christian Youth Center's main building, 2210 Oliver Ave. N, Minneapolis. **\$1 can purchase 5 gifts.**

PRISM (Holiday Shoppe): 730 Florida Ave. S, Golden Valley. www.prismmpls.org For residents in Golden Valley; South of 42nd Avenue in Crystal; New Hope; Robbinsdale; and East of 494 in Plymouth. Parents may come and choose Holiday toys and gifts for each of their children, from birth through age 18-years-old, on Saturday, December 19, 2015. To sign up, you must be seen by a PRISM Caseworker. **To make an appointment, call (763) 432-4204.** Families must come to PRISM and sign up for a time slot in person. **Registration begins Monday, November 23, 2015 and goes through Tuesday, December 15, 2015.** Families must have proof of address and ID cards for each child.

RESOURCE WEST TOY CHEST: 1011 First Street, South, Hopkins. www.resourcewest.org. Christmas/Holiday toy/gift program. Located in the Wells Fargo Building and next to Hennepin County Hub. For residents of Deephaven, Excelsior, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Shorewood, Woodland & Greenwood and for families who have children who attend the Hopkins or Minnetonka School Districts and qualify for the Free or Reduced School Lunch Program. Parents must have physical custody of their children. The program serves children, ages birth through 18-years-old (and in high school.) Families receive one large item, one smaller item, and stocking stuffers for each child. Call (952) 933-3860 to make an appointment to come-in in person. **Registration is Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 4, 2015, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.** Parents need an ID, current utility bill/piece of mail (within last 30 days), and ID for their children (school ID, medical insurance card, Social Security card.)

SABATHANI COMMUNITY CENTER RESOURCE SERVICES, South Minneapolis, 310 E. 38th Street, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55409. GENERAL INQUIRIES: 612.821.2396. Resource Services provides one of the largest food shelves in the area. Food orders provide balanced nutrition for the entire family including a variety of meats, legumes, rice, pasta, cereal, canned goods and packaged foods, milk, fresh fruits and vegetables (in season), baby items, toiletries and even juice and dessert items. Families can also get free clothing and furniture, income tax filing, back to school supplies and holiday support. Through the program, 25,000 people a year gain food security and self-sufficiency. During the Holiday season, the community center offers holiday meal boxes to the people they serve. Depending on availability, the holiday box may include a turkey or cooking hen, rolls, canned corn, peas, stuffing, cranberry sauce,

instant mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, fresh beans and bread.

Sabathani Community Center, Room 221 – Intake for Family Resource Services and Information and Referral

Lower Level – Food shelf, Clothing Boutique

Hours of Operation

Food shelf, Monday – Thursday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Clothing Boutique, Monday – Thursday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:00 p.m.

Food shelf : Kevin Sanders at 612.821.2302

Family Resources: Kim Taylor at 612.821.2399

S.T.E.P. (for St. Louis Park residents only): 6812 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park (952) 925-4899.

Holiday Toy Program: Early registration is from November 16 to December 11, 2015. If served by the food shelf, one can register at the time of their food shelf appointment. Others can come without an appointment but may have to wait. Hours are Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 8 am – 4 pm; Tues., 12 noon – 8 pm; and Fri., 8 am – 12 noon. Photo ID and address verification through a current utility bill or lease is required for the adult registering and birth certificates, passport, medical card or school records/IDs for each child.

VEAP (VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED TO ASSIST PEOPLE), 9728 Irving Ave. S.

Bloomington, MN 55431, (952) 888-9616. www.veapvolunteers.org . For residents with limited income, seniors and people with disabilities living in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and parts of Minneapolis, south of 50th St. and west of Cedar Ave. Gift card for food and toys for children.

Registration is from November 5 – December 11, 2015. Call the VEAP office at (952) 888-9616, to register and obtain an appointment.

Dakota County Resources

DAKOTA COUNTY FOOD SHELVES (360 COMMUNITIES): Their *Armful of Love Christmas/Winter Holiday Gift Program* matches Dakota County families in need, with donors to provide families with gifts and toys. **As of November 4, 2015, the Armful of Love Program is full.** The phone number is (952) 985-4065, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The program plans to serve 1,000 families this year. Below is the link for additional information and also ways various groups and individuals can help sponsor a family or volunteer.

Armful of Love Program for Christmas Holiday: <https://www.360communities.org/self-sufficiency/armful-of-love/>

360 Communities Food Shelves

Thanksgiving Baskets Program: <https://www.360communities.org/self-sufficiency/food-shelves/>
Families who are registered participants at one of the 360 Communities Food Shelves would have received information about the Armful of Love Program and the Thanksgiving Basket program in early October 2015. **If there are families who are not already registered with 360 Communities Food Shelves and need food assistance, they may call the food shelf in their area to register for food support.**

360 Communities Food Shelves Contact Info:

- **Burnsville Family Resource Center Food Shelf** – Customers shop for their food.
501 East Highway 13, Suite 102
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
(952) 985-5300 Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Our Daily Bread Food Shelf**
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124
Contact 360 Communities at (651) 322-5113.
- **Farmington Food Shelf**
510 Walnut Street
Farmington, Minnesota 55024
Phone: (651) 463-5019 Fax: (651) 463-5017
- **Feed My Sheep Food Shelf** – Customers shop for their food.
Messiah Lutheran Church
16725 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, Minnesota 55044
Phone: (952) 431-5959 ext. 11 Fax: (952) 431-5980
- **Rosemount Family Resource Center**
14521 Cimarron Avenue, West
Rosemount, Minnesota 55068
Phone: (651) 322-5113 Fax: (651) 322-5023

DAKOTA COUNTY SALVATION ARMY NORTH (Participants must reside in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Lakeville, Randolph or Rosemount.) Programs are Dakota County Toy Shop and Salvation Army, for toys and food. Salvation Army serves children ages birth to 14-years-old. **Registration opens Monday, November 9, 2015 and runs through Friday, December 4, 2015, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** Call for phone interview, (651) 746-3595. Families may also register online at www.salvationarmynorth.org/toyshops. Proof of address/piece of mail is required, as well as a photo ID for the adult picking up the toys. Also, ID is required for each child in the household (such as a school ID, Social Security card, medical card, birth certificate.)

DAKOTA COUNTY, CHAP Outreach Ministries Store. A Toys for Tots site. **After November 17, 2015**, can pick up an application for Toys for Tots at the store, located at Chaps Store, 2020 E. Hwy 13, Burnsville, MN, (952) 890-8222. Completed applications will be submitted to Toys for Tots. The CHAP Store will once again be a distribution site, as well.

FARMINGTON, DAKOTA COUNTY

Toys for Town Program, (for residents of Farmington and for families with children attending ISD 192 Farmington School District.) **Please call (651) 280-6869 to enroll families, from now through Monday, December 14, 2015.**

HASTINGS FAMILY SERVICES PROJECT SHARE (*Participants MUST live in Hastings School District 200.*) This Program has a *Thanksgiving Baskets Program* and a *Christmas/Winter Holiday Project Share Program*. To register for the **Thanksgiving Basket Program**, registration **begins on Monday, November 16, 2015**. Call (651) 437-7134, to register. Distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets will be Monday, November 23 – Wednesday, November 25, 2015.

For the ***Project Share Program for Families with Minor Children, the Adopt A Family Program***, call (651) 437-7134 **now**, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., to ***schedule an appointment to come in during the registration period of November 2 through December 11, 2015***. Staff strongly encourages a family to come in for an appointment early, before the December 11th deadline, for the best possibility of receiving the items on their wish list. Staff cannot guarantee that a family will be adopted. Families who are not adopted will be invited back to select gifts from their on-site selection. Must have a piece of mail for every adult in the household, showing address (received in past two weeks); a photo ID for the adult signing the family up for Project Share; and ID for each child in household (such as a school ID, birth certificate, Social Security card, medical card, WIC card, court papers.) This year, all parents are welcome to register, regardless of custody issues. For families who miss the December 11th Adopt A Family registration deadline, they can call (651) 437-7134 to see if there are any available appointments for on-site selection from any gifts that may be left, between December 15 – 21, 2015.

For the ***Project Share Adults Only Households Program*** (Seniors and other adults without children are welcome to call (651) 437-7134 **now** to schedule an appointment on **Tuesday, December 8 or Wednesday, December 9, 2015**. Current mail and ID will be required. Gifts and food will be packed and distributed the same day as a single adult's/senior's appointment. Please make sure you have transportation available and room in a vehicle to accommodate food and gifts.

NEIGHBOR'S INC. Two programs available for families in the Northern Dakota County (Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Lillydale and Sunfish Lake). Those who wish assistance come in to apply, furnishing a proof of residence, a photo ID and if they are not in the system already, proof of parentage/guardianship for any children 18 (if still in high school) and under. **Registration needs to be made in person. Registration is from November 7, 2015 to December 9, 2015, between 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.** Call the Neighbor's Christmas Hotline serving Northern Dakota County, at (651) 272-1101.

The programs are Adopt a Family for the Holidays and Neighbor's Christmas for Kids. They also have a program for seniors, over 55-years of age, who may be alone during the holidays. All programs make sure the person or family gets food for a holiday meal. For anyone between the ages of 18 (or out of the household) and 54 years, they have a Food Only Holiday Meal, which provides them with a holiday meal. The numbers below will give information for the hours and days to apply.

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSION OUTPOST

13801 Fairview Drive, Burnsville, 55337 952-898-9311. Open to anyone.

Thanksgiving meals served on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015, from 11am – 1pm.

REACHING UP MINISTRIES WITH CHRIST CHURCH (Participants must reside in the District 196 (Apple Valley, Eagan and Rosemount areas)

Reaching Up Ministries is partnering with Christ Church to provide 300 families in need with thanksgiving baskets this year! Inside the basket will be a frozen turkey and all the fixings needed to make a fabulous Thanksgiving Dinner! To register a family in the School District 196, Apple Valley, Eagan and Rosemount areas for this Thanksgiving Holiday gift, please contact Reaching Up Ministries at 952-356-4879. Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed to registered families Sunday afternoon, November 22, 2015.

Carver and Scott County Resources

CARVER AND SCOTT COUNTIES (Residents of Carver and Scott Counties only.) **Need to register in person at the CAP Agency in Shakopee (in the Customer Service Area)**, at 712 Canterbury Road, S., Shakopee, MN. Program serves families with children, ages birth to 14-years-old. In-person registration for a family will **only** be accepted **as follows**: • Tuesday, December 1, 2015, from 3 to 4 p.m.; • Wednesday, December 2, 2015, from 3 to 4 p.m.; • Thursday, December 3, 2015, from 8 to 10 a.m.; and • Friday, December 4, 2015, from 8 to 10 a.m. Please be aware that there may be wait times and delays, as staff are serving many families. Please provide a piece of mail/utility bill for all adults in the household; a photo ID for the adult picking up holiday items; and a form of ID for each child in the household, (such as a school ID, birth certificate, passport, social security card, medical card.) No phone calls will be returned or accepted for registration. A recorded message of this information is available, in English, at (952) 402-9819.

WACONIA UNITED FOOD SHELF AND WACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

11 S. Elm St., Waconia, MN **Call 952-442-3878 to register for programs.**

Thanksgiving bags will be given out Thursday, November 12 – Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Traditional thanksgiving food plus coupon for turkey from Mackenthun's. Must be a registered client of the food shelf.

Two Christmas/Holiday Programs: Waconia Toy Drive & Secret Blessings. People can get more information about these programs when they register. Must be registered to participate in these programs. The Toy Program is open to families within the School District 110 area, including: Waconia, St. Bonifacious, New Germany, Cologne (portion) and Victoria (portion.) Families will need to provide ID for each household member and a utility bill/piece of mail verifying address.

Ramsey County Resources

UNION GOSPEL MISSION, 435 E. University Ave., St. Paul, 651-789-7564 (Thanksgiving Bag Information Line. **For information only.** No messages.) Thanksgiving bag will be provided. **Registration in-person only at the Union Gospel Mission Men's Campus**, at 435 E. University Avenue, St. Paul -6 blks. East of the State Capitol, on October 27, 28, 29 and November 3, 4, & 5, 2015, from 1 – 6:30 p.m. **Registration in-person only at the Union Gospel Ober Community Center**, at 376 Western Avenue, St. Paul, on October 22 and 23, 2015, from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Need to have a current photo ID and a current piece of mail.

Washington County Resources

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF – WOODBURY- 7380 Afton Road. For residents of Woodbury, Oakdale, Lonsdale and South Maplewood. Serves as a Holiday Bureau, gathering and distributing gifts for ages birth to 18-years-old. If people need help at Thanksgiving and Christmas, must register at the food shelf. **Registration for Thanksgiving food distribution is from now through Friday, November 6, 2015. Registration for Christmas gifts is from now through Thursday, December 10, 2015. Call 651-233-1296 for information and to register.**

COMMUNITY THREAD’S HOLIDAY HOPE PROGRAM, 651-439-7434. Formerly called the Holiday Bureau. (For residents who live in the Stillwater Area School District, in Washington County.) **Register in person** at the Community Thread’s Office, 2300 Orleans Street, W., Stillwater, MN. **Registration will be accepted on three days:** Saturday, November 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, November 10, from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Thursday, November 12, 2015, from 5 – 8 pm. Persons must be undergoing financial hardship and not be participating in any other holiday giving programs. Families with children 18 years and younger and with whom the children live with parent/guardian at least 50 % of the time, may register. Also, adults with disabilities and seniors (age 55 and over) may register as individuals. Need to provide an ID for each person in the household. For adults, this may include a driver’s license, State ID, or passport. IDs for children may also include birth certificates, school IDs or medical cards. In addition, proof of current address, such as a utility bill, paycheck stub, or bank account listing current address, which is dated within the last 60 days is required. For information, go to the web site: communitythreadmn.org or contact 651-439-7434.

If your application is accepted, you can expect the following, by participating in the program as a recipient.

- **Cross Referencing.** Your name will be cross-referenced with other area Holiday giving programs to avoid duplication.
- **Notification by postcard.** You will be notified by a postcard in the mail that you have been matched. Please be patient as we match you with a sponsor. If you have not been contacted by your sponsor by December 12, please call us at 651-439-7434.
- **Information shared with community sponsor.** Once you are matched with a community sponsor, they are instructed to contact you directly to arrange a time for gift delivery. We ask that you are patient as you await their call.
- **Minimum amount.** We strongly encourage that sponsors provide gifts with a total minimum value of \$30. That said, please recognize we cannot guarantee this.
- **Delivery Date.** We ask that sponsors deliver gifts, no later than December 17, 2015. However, it is up to you and your sponsor to determine a delivery date and time.
- **Thank You.** Please remember to thank your sponsors. A thank you note would be an appropriate gesture to show your gratitude. Without their support, this program would not be possible.