



H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach

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Agency of the United Way of Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties – Agency of the Mid-Ohio Food Bank

Holiday Hunger

We are approaching this Thanksgiving and Christmas season with great anticipation of celebration and joy but also with increasing awareness of the hunger that invades our community.

Hunger: It's evident and it's everywhere.

5,726 (15%) of Madison County residents (population 43,435) are living below the poverty level

19.5% of our children are living below the poverty level

8.1% of our Seniors are living below the poverty level.

By standing together we can make food accessible to everyone and make a difference in many lives during this upcoming Holiday Season.

Another "hunger" shows up during the holidays. All of us – rich and poor – have an inner need to be needed and the desire to be a gift to someone else.

- ♥ Can you be that gift to kids in poverty?
- ♥ Can you help us reach out to our community through your monetary donations, Thanksgiving foods, or new or gently-used items?
- ♥ Can you give a little volunteer time? Or organize your company or social group to help?
- ♥ Would your organization or church want to be a **Partner** with us on one of the missions enclosed in this newsletter?

The H.E.L.P. House has a need to continue trying to help build the roots of family traditions in households too precarious to think about creating what the rest of us take for granted. But we need your help to do this for all those who are financially fragile.

God answers our prayers through you. Thank you for all the ways that you support our outreach to those in need.

In Loving Kindness,

Dee

Delores Heilman, Director

Today's scripture
Matthew 25: verses 25-35

Quick Facts: Holiday Outreaches on Pages 2-3

Thanksgiving Outreach, 11/17

- Need monetary assistance for purchasing turkeys or hams
- Quantities of canned corn, green beans, instant potatoes, gravy packets, canned yams or sweet potatoes, dessert mixes or pie crusts and fillings.
- Need volunteers!

Christmas Party for Children, 12/9

- Need snacks and juice boxes
- Need hats & gloves
- Need volunteers

Christmas Shopping for Parents/Guardians, 12/15

- Need new / gently-used gifts and toys
- New / gently-used clothes
- New socks and underwear
- Need volunteers!
- Need Volunteers for **Elf Nights and Elf Days** to wash & repair toys; watch area newspapers for dates!
- If your group has a day or time that would work for you, we will do an **Elf Night or Elf Day just for you!**

Thanksgiving Outreach: Saturday, November 17, 9 – Noon (Volunteers 8 – Noon)

Our annual Thanksgiving Outreach at the H.E.L.P. House is different from what you might imagine.

Consistent with our “choice” food pantry, on our Thanksgiving Dinner Outreach day, our clients have pre-registered to shop for items to make their own complete Thanksgiving Dinner, and they are able to select the foods that they want to prepare.

In previous years, we have had a goal of a complete Thanksgiving dinner that the clients would select to prepare on Thanksgiving Day. Our own budget shortfalls mean that we are:

1. Refocusing on the Main Dish. We want to be sure that each family/individual will receive a significant frozen meat item (turkey, ham, etc.) on Saturday, November 17 to fix on Thanksgiving Day.
2. We will offer our clients other meal items (canned vegetables, instant potatoes, gravy packets, dessert mixes, etc.) from whatever amounts we have available from donations.

Our goal is enough food for **300+ families (1,000+ individuals)** so they can prepare their own special Thanksgiving Dinner. We are nowhere close to having the food or the money for this number of families in need.

**Can you be a Partner in creating a Thanksgiving “supermarket” at the H.E.L.P. House?
Thanks to Dwyer Chiropractic for their second year of recruiting food items from their new & returning patients. We appreciate their support!**

Donations Suggested Menu	Volunteers We need you!		
<p><i>Items we need by November 14th Noon</i></p> <p>Monetary donations are always appreciated – we will apply donations toward this year’s focus on the meat items:</p> <p>Turkey breasts, turkeys, hams</p> <p>Canned Corn or Canned Green Beans</p> <p>Instant potatoes Gravy packets (not canned or bottled)</p> <p>Stuffing Mix (boxed)</p> <p>Canned yams or sweet potatoes</p> <p>Dessert mixes or pie crusts & canned filling</p>	Wed. Nov. 14	Noon – 3 pm	Set-up of food stations Move tables Hang signs Clear out regular pantry
	Wed. Nov. 14	6 – 8 pm	Organize food stations
	Thurs. Nov. 15	6 – 8 pm	Organize food stations <i>(optional time, could be cancelled depending on work completed on Wednesday)</i>
	Sat. Nov. 17	8:00 – 1:00	<u>Thanksgiving Outreach:</u> Arrival at 8 am Training at 8:15 am Manage food stations Restock every hour Carry food to vehicles Clean up food stations (Noon – 1)
Contact for Donations and Volunteer Registration:	BJ Bryant, Community Outreach Coordinator bbryant@columbus.rr.com ; 740-500-8986, or Chandra Kelly, Volunteer Coordinator chandrakelly@columbus.rr.com or 740-852-4124		

***As you enjoy your Thanksgiving Dinner,
you will know that others are having the same experience of gratitude.***

His Little Lambs Christmas Party: 12/9, 2 - 4 pm

This party focuses on the birth of Jesus instead of stories about Santa. We will have activities and stories, plus food for the kids. **Newport United Methodist Church is one of our Children's Party Partners** providing goodie bags for the children. However, we still need help with snacks and food for approximately 100 children and chaperones: Juice boxes, veggies, cheese cubes, little sandwiches, or other kid-friendly items.

We still need:

Hats and gloves for kids, and volunteers to help with:

1. set-up on Saturday, 12/8, (11 am – 1 pm);
2. Sunday, 12/9 (noon – 2 pm) for preparation, and
3. Sunday, 12/9 (2-4 pm) for implementation and
4. Sunday, 12/9 (3-5 pm) for implementation and clean-up.

Contact BJ Bryant at bbryant@columbus.rr.com or 740-500-8986 or
Chandra Kelly at chandrakelly@columbus.rr.com or 740-852-4124

His Little Lambs Shopping Day for Parents/Guardians: 12/15, 9 am - 1 pm

This amazing outreach provides new and gently-used gifts for children – the parents/guardians are able to select the gifts on December 15. In that way, when the children open their gifts on Christmas morning, the presents are from the parents, not from a charity. We strive to have one new gift and perhaps 3-4 used gifts per registered child. We are planning for approximately 500 kids to be pre-registered by their parents/guardians.

Here's how you can directly be a part of a child's Merry Christmas:

Donations	Volunteers	
Items we need by December 12th Noon		
<p>The focus will be kids ages 0-13. Gifts may be given to kids 14 and over if available.</p> <p>New and gently-used:</p> <p>Gifts for kids of all ages (unwrapped) Toys and games (unwrapped)</p> <p>New or gently-used clothing New underwear New socks Teenage gifts (unwrapped)</p> <p>Wrapping paper Scotch tape and bows</p> <p>Batteries (all sizes, but especially AA)</p>	<p>You or your group can volunteer during <u>any portion</u> of the times below.</p> <p>Please register your volunteer times with: Chandra Kelly at chandrakelly@columbus.rr.com or 740-852-4124 or BJ Bryant at bbryant@columbus.rr.com or 740-500-8986.</p> <p>Important: Volunteer times <u>may be changed or cancelled</u> depending on the numbers of volunteers who are registered to attend on any specific day/time. Contact BJ or Chandra to confirm.</p>	
	<u>Elf Nights / Elf Days :</u> <u>(Santa's Workshops)</u>	
	<p>We clean & repair those gently-used toys and gifts that you have donated!</p>	<p>Watch newspapers for dates and times! If your group wants to have your own Elf Night (or Day) contact BJ or Chandra</p>
	Wed. Dec. 12	Noon-8 pm (or portions)
	Thurs. Dec. 13	3-8 pm (or portions)
	Sat. Dec. 15	8 am – 1 pm (or portions)
	Set-up tables/stations	
	Arrange toys/gifts	
	Christmas Shopping Day!	

Our Mission

throughout the year and throughout our 13 years:

Mission Statement

*The H.E.L.P. House exists to serve children, families and individuals in poverty by providing food, clothing, emergency assistance, shelter, and God's love.
We focus on recognizing their struggles within a loving environment along with dignity and respect.*

Our Mission through the Holidays

During the holiday season, the H.E.L.P. House has more specific objectives:

- ♥ Focus on the children – how will they experience holidays? Similar to more fortunate kids, or differently?
- ♥ Focus on food – our desire that families will be able to sit down at a Thanksgiving table with a turkey or ham and the trimmings to let them know that there are many things for which to be thankful in spite of their challenges.
- ♥ Focus on God's love – God's love through trying to make sure that a kid in poverty wakes up on Christmas Day to find that he or she was not forgotten by "Santa Claus."
- ♥ Focus on the gifts that are being given to them are from their parent or guardian, not from a charity, helping the parents maintain dignity with their children.

We invite you to become engaged in helping the children, families and individuals in our community who will not automatically experience happy holidays due to their financial challenges.



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