



OPERATION LOVE MINISTRIES

Dear OLM Friends,

It is officially fall and time for OLM's 2017 Christmas Wishes planning! We are excited to partner with you to help us serve over 250 households again this year. Your support can make 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) Adopt 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 6th from 4pm-7pm (or until completion) to put together Christmas food baskets and to count and divide toys into age categories. Volunteers will also be needed to serve as "shopping assistants" on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th from 9:00am – 12:00 pm or 1:00pm – 4:00pm to help families pick out their toys and receive their Christmas baskets.

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, adoption sponsorship, or to reserve your volunteer slot. Together, we can continue to provide help for today and hope for tomorrow!

Sincerely,

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Christmas Basket Donation Drive

We would appreciate your group collecting a concentration of the following items for Christmas baskets when hosting a winter food drive. . **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!

This collection above and beyond OLM's food pantry serving over 100 families each week. Please let us know if your church or organization is unable to participate this year. 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/Canned Cranberries
Sugar/Brown Sugar
Canned Yams/Marshmallows

Christmas Basket Basic Need Items:

Dish Soap
Body Soap
Toilet Tissue
Socks
Winter Hats
Scarves & Gloves

Please call 765-644-2121 and speak with Andrea to reserve your desired collection items.

Donation Schedule:

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

Nov. 27th: all financial commitments needed to finalize donation inventory/purchasing

Dec 4th: all donations that are not being given directly to a family must be dropped off at Operation Love Ministries.

Assembly and Distribution Schedule:

Dec. 6th 4:00pm – 7:00pm: baskets packed, toy inventory & shopping rooms set up

Dec 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th (9-11:30 and 1-3:30): toy inventory & setup throughout the week

Dec 8th and 9th 9:00am – 12:00pm or 1:00pm – 4:00pm: Basket and toy shopping experience