



OPERATION LOVE MINISTRIES

Becoming a "Christmas Miracle" Sponsor

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your interest in sponsoring a family in need Operation Love Ministries this Christmas Season! Over 250 families sign up for assistance each year, and only 40-50 are chosen for sponsorship (the remaining qualified applicants are guaranteed toys and a Christmas meal through a no-charge shopping experience on-site at Operation Love). 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 November 18th at the latest. This gives OLM staff and volunteers time to communicate the sponsored family's information to sponsors, as well as providing several weeks for sponsors to shop before the December deadline for donations.

Sponsorship Commitments

Typically, sponsors commit to a \$350 donation or commit provide the following:

- 1) Food for a holiday meal for the family (see our enclosed suggested Christmas meal list), or a gift card to Payless grocery, Meijer, or Harvest Market (we suggest around \$35 for a family of 4).
- 2) Gifts for each child under 18 (based on preferences listed on the application)
- 3) (As you are able) Any "urgent needs" or extra items that the client may have listed on their application (such as hygiene or cleaning products, diapers, clothing or even a Christmas tree)

Should you or your group choose to shop directly for these items, OLM does not give a guideline for the amount to spend, as we believe this should be led by the discretion of our sponsors and varies from case to case. If you would like additional guidance or suggestions, please contact us.



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Sponsored Family Information

If you have any specific requests for 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. After you have committed to a case for sponsorship, we will scan and e-mail 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 may deliver to you if we are able.

Delivering Christmas Wishes

Sponsors may choose how involved they would like to be with their sponsored family. They can choose to deliver the items as follows:

- 1) Sponsors may contact the family directly by December 10th and arrange a delivery or off-site pickup anytime between Dec. 10th and 19th,
- 2) Sponsors may bring the completed baskets to Operation Love by December 10th so that OLM can arrange pickup from the client, or
- 3) Sponsors may choose a day and time to meet at Operation Love to give the items to the sponsored family.

Thank you again for your interest in sponsoring a family! We are excited to partner with you to help families experience a Christmas full of wonder this year!

Sincerely,

Andrea Baker
Executive Director
765.644.2121 x 1
abaker@operationloveministries.org



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Suggested Items for Christmas Baskets:

Christmas Basket Food Items:

Meat (half hams, whole chickens/turkeys) or \$10-15 Gift Card
Canned Corn
Canned Carrots or Green Beans
Boxed Stuffing
Instant Potatoes/Gravy (can, jar, or envelope)
Butter & Dinner Rolls
Canned Fruit or Canned Cranberries
Sugar or Brown Sugar
Canned Yams & Marshmallows

Christmas Basket Basic Need Items:

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

Christmas Sponsorship Schedule:

- Nov. 18th:** Deadline to commit to sponsor a Christmas Wishes family. Email Andrea Baker at abaker@operationloveministries.org or call 765-644-2121 x 1
- Nov. 21st:** All committed sponsors will receive information about their sponsored family by this date.
- Dec 9th -Dec 12th:** All donations that are not being given directly to a family must be dropped off at Operation Love Ministries, or a time must be coordinated to meet with a sponsored family at Operation Love between Dec. 9th-12th or Dec 16th-19th. (OLM is closed the last week of Dec.)
- Dec 23rd:** 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.