



United Way
of Buffalo & Erie County

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMS/HOLIDAY WISH LISTS 2021

THE WNY HOLIDAY PARTNERSHIP



United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is a proud partner in The WNY Holiday Partnership—a collaborative of toy giveaway programs for the December holidays. Working together, The WNY Holiday Partnership members create one network where everyone can come together, **without duplicate efforts and services**, so that we can all maximize impact to help brighten the holidays for needy families.

By bringing together partners from different areas, we can make the holidays brighter for thousands of our WNY neighbors. Please consider giving this year or pass on this information to a family you know who is in need. Last year The WNY Holiday Partnership collected and distributed toys/gifts to more than 8,529 children.

The WNY Holiday Partnership is a collaboration of 26 local nonprofits, The Buffalo News, Explore & More, Wegmans, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

During the holidays, gifts of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at:

Canisius College

drop off at Kossler Athletic Center during scheduled basketball games

Erie County Fairgrounds Festival of Lights

drop off at gate entrance
Monday–Friday 5 p.m.–9 p.m. from December 1–31
closed December 24 and 25

Excuria Salon & Spa

drop off during regular business hours

HUNT Real Estate (all WNY locations)

please call location to coordinate a drop off time

Jim Murphy Buick/GMC

drop off during regular business hours

Newsworthy Store

1593 Niagara Falls Blvd
drop off during regular business hours

Orville's Home Appliances (all WNY locations)

drop off during regular business hours

Shea's Performing Arts Center box office

Monday–Friday 10:00 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Buffalo News: corner of Washington and Scott St

Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots

find locations and drop off times here:
www.buffalo-ny.toysfortots.org

Valu Home Centers (all locations)

drop off during regular business hours

Wegmans (all locations in Erie and Niagara counties)

drop off during regular business hours

If you prefer to give a direct cash donation to The WNY Holiday Partnership you can donate online at www.buffalonews.com/newsneediest or by mail: **The News Neediest Fund, PO Box 2667, Buffalo, NY 14240-9873.**

Also, for those that want to buy local, buy the Shop 716 eGift Card [here](#). Purchase the \$25 Shop 716 eGift Card and get a free eGift Card (\$25 value) to spend now (expires 12/30/21, while supplies last). Two local stores featured in the Adopt-a-Family Programs/Holiday Wish Lists 2021 are on the Shop 716 eGift Card list of participating shops.

Families who need help for the holidays can dial 2-1-1. 211 has all the information regarding the application process, including eligibility guidelines, and where to go for assistance. 211 can also provide help for food and other needs and is available to call year-round.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMS AND HOLIDAY NEEDS WISH LISTS FOR COMMUNITY AGENCIES

1. BAKER VICTORY SERVICES

www.bakervictoryservices.org

Angel Tree

Children under the age of 18 asked to put their holiday wishes on the back of a cut out angel, along with the child's name, age, and gender. These children come from families with special needs, and without the generosity of donors, these children will likely not receive any holiday gifts at all. The children will provide gift ideas that the donor can purchase. The caregiver will wrap the gifts for the child. Then the gifts are delivered to the family/child by the caseworker before December 25. Baker Victory Services will pick the gifts up so you don't have to travel this year. This program will provide gifts to over 600 children.

Sponsor-a-Family

Sponsor-a-Family is for an entire family. Only the neediest families are chosen for this program. You may choose the size of the family you wish to sponsor by contacting Barb Farrow. These are families that do not have the means to adequately provide themselves with the simplest of life's necessities.

Contact | Barbara Farrow • bfarrow@bakervictoryservices.org • O: (716) 828-9796 • C: (716) 983-2813

2. BEDS FOR BUFFALO PRESENTED BY THE SERVICE COLLABORATIVE OF WNY

www.tscwny.org/Beds-for-Buffalo

The Beds for Buffalo project will build 150 twin beds for children in need by engaging students, corporate teams, and community volunteers. The Service Collaborative of WNY will distribute completed beds through identified community partners that serve families surviving poverty.

Standard pillows

Twin size mattress sheet sets

Twin size comforters

Twin size blankets

Twin size bed bug covers

New stuffed animals

Kids slippers (ages 5–17)

Kids pajamas (ages 5–17)

Contact | Adam Bartoszek • abartoszek@tscwny.org • (716) 418-8500 x150

3. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BUFFALO

www.bgcbuffalo.org

Collection of Warmth

At your place of business, you can start a collection of **hats, gloves, scarves** and **socks**. Your company can help protect our clubhouse members from the harsh winters in Western New York—and hey—who doesn't love and need new socks! Start hosting a collection today for age 5–18 males, females, little ones, preteens and those almost ready to enter the workforce. All sizes and colors are appreciated. Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo will make arrangements with you to pick up the items.

Contact

Carol Hairston • chairston@bgcbuffalo.org • (716) 825-1016 x208

4. BUFFALO CITY MISSION

www.buffalocitymission.org

The Buffalo City Mission loves to bring the holidays to all of their residents. So many have not had a real holiday celebration in a long time! See below to see how men, women, and children can be provided with practical and new gifts for the holidays. The Buffalo City Mission looks forward to partnering with you and bringing the joy of the holidays to each resident that lets them know someone cares.

Meeting Practical Needs

- The Buffalo City Mission created Amazon Wish Lists located on their website for the community to be able to provide for the practical and special holiday needs of the Mission.
- They are also creating personalized Amazon lists for businesses and organizations that would like to do a virtual collection drive for the Mission.

Contact

Delaney Connolly • dconnolly@buffalocitymission.org • (716) 854-8181 x438

5. BUFFALO PRENATAL-PERINATAL NETWORK, INC.

www.bppn.org

Adopt a Family Program

BPPN's Adopt a Family program seeks to provide for 20–30 of their neediest families. The staff works with the families to develop wish lists for the kids and parents.

Contact

LuAnne Brown • llb@bppn.org • (716) 884-6711

6. CATHOLIC CHARITIES

www.ccwny.org

Make a difference in a family's life this holiday season! With your help, Catholic Charities can provide holiday gifts to seniors, children, and families who otherwise would have none.

Contact | Elly Fialkowski • elly.fialkowski@ccwny.org • (716) 218-1450 x2005

7. CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

<https://cfsbny.org>

Adopt a Family Program

You can help children and families this holiday season in our Foster Care and Adoption Program, Community-Based Counseling Programs, Residential Services and the Stanley G. Falk School. The Adopt-a-Family Program pairs donors with families by giving a wish list and a brief description of how the family benefits from our services. More details and registration is available at <https://cfsbny.org/support-our-work/adopt-a-family/>.

Contact | Theresa DeLuca • tdeluca@cfsbny.org • (716) 335-7235

8. FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE

www.friendsofnightpeople.com

Friends of Night People is looking for families and companies interested in helping struggling and homeless adults this holiday season. A perfect gift may include a single gift of the following: men's boots size 9–11/women's boots size 6–9, blanket/sleeping bag, waterproof gloves, winter hat or thermal socks.

A donor may also choose to sponsor an entire family and purchase toys/clothing based on their needs.

Contact | Anthony Hinshaw • ahinshaw@friendsofnightpeople.com • (716) 474-4390

9. GATEWAY LONGVIEW

www.gateway-longview.org/adoptanangel

Adopt an Angel

When you Adopt An Angel, you're giving the gift of hope to children, teenagers, young adults, and their families in need during the holiday season. This year, Gateway Longview is opening up this opportunity to the public! If you or your organization would like to leave a lasting mark on a child's Christmas, consider adopting an angel through the purchase of a gift card from Walmart, Target, Amazon or a local grocery store like Tops or Wegmans.

Contact | Kelley Molina • kmolina@gateway-longview.org • O: (716) 783-3100 x3219 • C: (716) 870-9536

10. RESPONSE TO LOVE CENTER

www.responsetolovecenter.com

A Special Gift Program for the Holidays

With an added gift to the Holiday meal, Response to Love Center would like to give families gift packs of cleaning supplies.

Donations of toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, Spic and Span®, sponges (one, two, three or four pack), Mr. Clean Magic Erasers, dish towels, dishwashing liquid, cleanser, dryer sheets, buckets, bleach, hand soap, laundry detergent, scour pads, toilet brushes, dust pans and brushes will be greatly appreciated.

Groups may choose to collect items from their company employees. For the holidays, our center would like to add these as special and additional items for individuals and families that may need them for their homes.

Contact | Sister Johnice • srjohnice@gmail.com • (716) 894-7030

11. RESURRECTION LIFE FOOD PANTRY

www.res-life.com/ministries/food-pantry

During the holiday season, Resurrection Life Food Pantry helps hundreds of local families, children, chronically homeless veterans and senior citizens in need, by providing food, toys, basic hygiene necessities and gifts.

Resurrection Life looks to our community to partner with us in bringing joy to WNY residents. There are multiple ways you can help:

- Follow the Amazon link to a Wish List of toys for children between the ages of 0 and 12. Shop and ship directly to Resurrection Life Food Pantry and we will make sure that all toys are distributed to children in need through the Toys for Tots Program. [Resurrection Life Toys for Tots Wish List](#)
- Volunteer! We can't do what we do without the hands and feet of our community. Please email us if you would like to help us out during the holiday season.

Contact

Kim Reynolds • foodpantry@res-life.com

12. THE SALVATION ARMY

easternusa.salvationarmy.org/empire/buffalo/volunteer/

During the holiday season The Salvation Army helps hundreds of local families in need by providing food, toys, and clothing. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought extra challenges and the need in our community is greater than ever. The Salvation Army is asking local businesses and organizations to help them this holiday season by hosting a toy collection for children and infants–12 years of age.

The Salvation Army is thinking outside the “gift box” and is excited to offer two Toy Collection options this year:

1. Host a virtual collection by emailing employees at home with local business links where they can purchase a toy from local partners; online, via phone, or in person. This new touchless option is great for organizations where people are working from home and want to participate and help a child in need—making it so easy to donate this season. (The Salvation Army will do weekly pickups from these three partners.)
2. Host a traditional collection at your place of business as you have in the past, and The Salvation Army will provide collection bins or angel tags and pick up the items at the end of the collection.

Either option helps the local children in need and supports the local toy stores in our community—it's a win-win!

Local Toy Stores in Our Community

Alice, Ever After Books

295 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 551-6943

Clayton's Toys

5225 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 633-1966

The Toy Loft

5225 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 652-3277

The time frame of your collection is up to you. The Salvation Army is suggesting November 2–December 11. This gives us time to practice the suggested safety methods for sorting and distributing the toys.

Angel Tree Program

The Angel Tree Program (ages infant–12) is designed to serve less fortunate families who are unable to provide toys for their family during the holiday season. These families face a variety of unfortunate circumstances ranging from limited incomes, prolonged or terminal illnesses, to the loss of personal belongings because of disaster. Individuals can select a paper ornament giving an example of a toy for a specific age and gender.

Contact | Bryanna Gwitt • bryanna.gwitt@use.salvationarmy.org • (716) 888-6220

13. VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

www.thevalleycenter.com

Adopt-a-Child Program

Each child fills out a wish form with their age, gender, and a short list of their wishes.

Contact | Peg Overdorf • poverdorf@thevalleycenter.com • (716) 823-4707