



United Way
of Buffalo & Erie County

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMS/HOLIDAY WISH LISTS 2020

THE WNY HOLIDAY PARTNERSHIP

The Western New York



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 9,000 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:

**Erie County Fairgrounds
Festival of Lights**

Excuria Salon & Spa
5725 Main St., Williamsville

**Hunt Real Estate's
Western New York offices**

Jim Murphy Buick/GMC
3000 Walden Ave., Depew

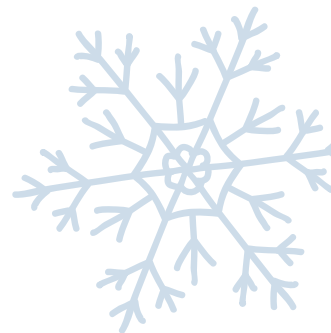
Shea's Performing Arts Center

The Buffalo News lobby
curbside drop-off only
call (716) 849-5522 to schedule a time

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots locations
see the list at www.buffalo-ny.toysfortots.org

Valu Home Centers

Wegmans



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

Families who need help for the holidays can dial 2-1-1. 2-1-1 has all the information regarding the application process, including eligibility guidelines, and where to go for assistance. 2-1-1 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 are asking to put their Christmas 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 Christmas 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 Christmas. 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)

ContactAdam Bartoszek • abartoszek@tscwny.org • (716) 418-8500 x150

3. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BUFFALO

www.bgcbuffalo.org**Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will be virtual this year. Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo have found an online and socially distant platform as an alternative to the paper tree. YouGiveGoods is similar to shopping on Amazon. Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo set their Wish List of items and donors are driven to a branded page to shop. YouGiveGoods hosts the online toy drive, sorts, and ships the items directly to Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, in bulk, at the end of a preset time frame. This eliminates the need for delivering paper trees to companies and having staff shop for items. You can still support Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo using your computer at work or smartphone! Companies will be able to have their own individual page with their company name, logo, point of contact, and goal listed.

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

4. BUFFALO CITY MISSION

www.buffalocitymission.org

The Buffalo City Mission loves to bring Christmas to all of their residents. So many have not had a real Christmas celebration in a long time! See below to see how men, women, and children can be provided with practical and new gifts on Christmas morning! The Buffalo City Mission looks forward to partnering with you and bringing the joy of Christmas 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 Christmas 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.

ContactDelaney Connolly • dconnolly@buffalocitymission.org • (716) 854-8181 x420

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 moms.

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

6. CATHOLIC CHARITIES

www.ccwny.org

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

ContactElly Fialkowski • elly.fialkowski@ccwny.org • (716) 218-1450 x2005

7. FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE

www.friendsofnightpeople.com

Friends of Night People is looking for families and companies interested in helping poor/homeless adults this holiday season. A perfect gift may include a single gift or combination of the following:

Men's boots size 9–11/women's boots size 6–9

Blanket/sleeping bag

Waterproof gloves

Winter hat

New book to read

Travel mug/thermos to keep beverages warm

ContactJoy Fleckenstien • jfleckenstein@friendsofnightpeople.com • (716) 884-5375 x201

8. 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.

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

9. 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 a brand new towel and washcloth. These families will be grateful for being remembered with a practical, useful, and brand new gift. (An added bar of soap would be great, too!)

Contact

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

10. THE SALVATION ARMY

buffalo.salvationarmy.org/BuffaloNY/Sponsored_Family

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 Christmas 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

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 TreeHouse Toy Store

793 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
(716) 822-1322

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

11. 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

Lori Overdorf • loverdorf@thevalleycenter.com • (716) 823-4707 x4