



United Way
of Buffalo & Erie County

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMS/HOLIDAY WISH LISTS 2022

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.**

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 300 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. We're collecting the following items listed below. **Please note that all items must be new.**

Standard pillows

Twin size comforters

Twin size bed bug covers

Stuffed animals

Twin size bed sheet sets

Twin size blankets

Contact

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

3. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BUFFALO

www.bgcbuffalo.org

Giving Tree

Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo will make a paper giving tree for your company with the names of children and their holiday wish on a paper ornament. The holiday wish is valued at \$25 or less. Your employees pick an ornament off the tree, go shopping for the gift, wrap them and we will pick them up. The tree can consist of any number of ornaments. You are also given an Excel spreadsheet with all the gift information.

Adopt-a-Family

You can adopt a Club Members family and purchase needed gifts. Once you tell us the number of family members you would like to adopt, you will receive a completed profile that lists the name, age, gender and a wish list from each family member (need, read, want and wear). You then go shopping, wrap the presents and bring them to work on the designated day. We will make arrangements with you to pick up the gifts and deliver them to the family.

Contact

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

4. BUFFALO CITY MISSION

www.buffalocitymission.org

The Buffalo City Mission loves to make the holiday season merry and bright for all the men, women and children that they serve! So many have not had a real holiday celebration in a long time—but with your help, they can! You can help to provide the practical items and new gifts for them to open on Christmas morning! Each item donated is a reminder that someone in our great City of Good Neighbors truly cares for them.

The Buffalo City Mission looks forward to partnering with you, and bringing the joy of the holidays to each resident that they serve.

Meeting Practical Needs

- The Buffalo City Mission has created Amazon Wish Lists located on their website for the community to purchase brand new practical and holiday items to give to the Residents that come to the Mission seeking help and assistance.
- They are also creating personalized Amazon lists for businesses and organizations that would like to do a virtual collection drive for the Mission.

All items purchased from these Amazon Wish Lists are then shipped directly to the Mission.

Contact

Julia Dressler • jdressler@buffalocitymission.org • (716) 854-8181 x419

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. COMPEER

compeerbuffalo.org

Community members, businesses and organizations are key to the success of our holiday season of giving at Compeer. Annually we distribute gifts at our holiday celebrations in early December. We anticipate distributing 300 gifts this year. While we've assigned over 100 tags, we still have about 200 more. Help brighten the day of our Compeer friends by filling a tote this holiday season.

Take a tag and fill a tote. Let us know how many gift tags you'd like. We will provide you with a tag complete with details about the age of the client and a few recommended items to purchase. We will also provide you with the tote bag to fill with your gifts. Please leave all gifts unwrapped. The total value of gifts per tote bag is \$30–\$40. Please include the gift tag either in or attached to the bag when returning your completed gift. All gifts are due no later than December 5, 2022.

Contact

Lisa Johnson • lisa@compeerbuffalo.org • (716) 883-3331 x312

9. 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 9–12/women's boots size 6–11	Waterproof gloves	New book to read
Blanket/sleeping bag	Winter hat	Travel mug/thermos to keep beverages warm

Contact

Chandra Black • cblack@friendsofnightpeople.com • (716) 884-5375 x201

10. 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. Because of your support, we fulfill between 800–1,000 wish lists every year! Each gift leaves a lasting impact for our youth, from preschool through high school, to teens and young adults and their families. If you or your organization would like to leave a lasting mark on a child's holiday, consider adopting an angel through the purchase of a gift card from Walmart, Target, Amazon or a local grocery store like Tops, Wegmans or Aldi.

Contact

Raelene Jolliff • rjolliff@gateway-longview.org • O: (716) 783-3100 x3218

11. 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. (An added bottle of laundry detergent or bars of soap would be great, too!)

Contact

Sister Johnice • m.johnice@responsetolove.org • (716) 894-7030

12. 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

13. THE SALVATION ARMY

easternusa.salvationarmy.org/empire/buffalo/

During the holiday season each year, we serve over 1,200 local families in need by providing food, toys and clothing. Since 2020, the Buffalo community has been tested. The coronavirus pandemic has altered our way of life and, for many, has created long-term problems like loss of income. But The Salvation Army in Buffalo has continued to serve those in need; from our food pantries to our Christmas Assistance programs, we have never stopped helping those who need it most—remaining open during the pandemic and serving!

We are asking local businesses and organizations to help us this holiday season by hosting a toy collection for children infant–12 years of age or by sponsoring a family.

Host a traditional new toy collection at your place of business! We can provide collection bins and/or angel tags to aid in your collection efforts. Still working remotely? Gifts can be purchased through our Walmart Registry and delivered right to our 960 Main Street location. The time frame of your collection is up to you. We are suggesting November 1–December 9.

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 three partners.)

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

1396 Hertel Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 939-3000

The Toy Loft

719 Main Street
East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-3277

Contact

Bryanna Prince • bryanna.prince@usa.salvationarmy.org • (716) 888-6220

14. 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

Hannah • (716) 823-4707 x17