



Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering

Area 10 Agency on Aging

630 W. Edgewood Dr. Ellettsville, IN 47429

Mission: Area 10 Agency on Aging serves as a leader in providing resources and solutions and promoting opportunities that empower community members to live longer, stronger lives.

November: Thanksgiving Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens.

December: Christmas Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens.

Contact: Mary Boutain, 876-3383 ext. 505, mboutain@area10agency.org (www.area10agency.org)

Backstreet Missions, Inc.

215 S. Westplex Ave. Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Backstreet Missions is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the homeless and hurting.

November: Food collections are welcome between Nov. 5-9th for Thanksgiving food baskets. Food may be dropped off at the Agape House women's shelter (300 S. Opportunity Lane; on W. 3rd St. between Johnson and Kimble Streets). Volunteers are needed to distribute the baskets on Sat. Nov. 17. Volunteers are needed to serve food on Thanksgiving Day at the soup kitchen, Geno's Cafeteria, 215 S. Westplex. Food is welcome on a year-round basis to supply the food pantry/ assistance outreach and the soup kitchen.

December: Adopt-A-Child Christmas program. Please call to get clothing, shoe sizes and gift preferences for children. Volunteers are also needed to help wrap Christmas gifts for children.

Contact: Linda Kelley, 812-333-6360, linda@backstreet.org (www.backstreet.org)

Be a Santa to a Senior

676 S. College Ave. Bloomington, IN 47403

Mission: Be a Santa to a Senior positively impacts the community by providing holiday cheer and gift giving to seniors who are least likely to receive a gift during the holiday season, are lonely or financially challenged, and often reside in nursing home facilities.

December: December 7-9: We need people to stand around the Christmas tree at Marsh on East 3rd Street, Friday morning through Sunday evening. These "elves" will help explain and recruit for the "Santas for Seniors" program.

December 13: Come help us wrap presents at our Wrap Party on Thursday, December 13 from 12-3 p.m. at Bell Trace, 800 N. Bell Trace Circle.

Contact: Joe Yonkman, 812-961-2222 or joe.yonkman@homeinstead.com

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

City Hall • 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 • www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer

hrs: 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday • ph. 812.349.3433 • fax 812.349.3483 • volunteer@bloomington.in.gov



Bloomington Animal Care and Control

3410 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: To address and respond to all companion animals' needs through education and support in order to build a community where people value animals and treat them with kindness and respect.

November & December: Do you want to help the animals in need at the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter? Each year the Animal Shelter and the community come together to collect supplies for animals through the Holiday Pet Food and Supply Drive, which is from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Volunteers are needed to pick up donations of food and supplies from various business locations around Bloomington. If interested, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Gibson, for more information.

Contact: Jenny Gibson, 812-349-3872, gibsonj@bloomington.in.gov, (www.bloomington.in.gov/animalshelter)

Bloomington Transit

130 W. Grimes Lane Bloomington, IN 47403

November: The Stuff-A-Bus event will kick-off on November 23 at the Downtown Canopy of Lights.

December: Help Stuff the Bus with Toys! During the holiday season, Bloomington Transit will partner with WCLS 97.7 and the Salvation Army to help make the holidays a little brighter for children and families in need in Monroe County. The goal is to literally "stuff" a decorated Bloomington Transit bus completely full of donated unwrapped new toys, new children's coats, mittens and gloves to be distributed in the Bloomington area. The Stuff-A-Bus event will kick-off on November 23 at the Downtown Canopy of Lights. Persons wishing to make a donation can either drop off their items at the bus between Nov. 23 - Dec. 9 (see www.bloomingtontransit.com for locations and times) or at Bloomington Transit's main office. Volunteers are needed to staff the bus in two-hour increments to accept donations. Without this assistance, Stuff-A-Bus would not be possible.

Contact: Brenda Underwood, 812-332-5688, bunder@bloomingtontransit.com (www.bloomingtontransit.com)

Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington

311 S. Lincoln Street; P.O. Box 1716 Bloomington IN 47402

Mission: The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington is to enable all young people to become caring, productive, responsible citizens.

December: Winter Break Camp: Lincoln Street Boys and Girls Club. Come spend part of your "time off" with our kids! Volunteers will act as camp counselors and will be paired with a staff member and group of 10-12 campers. Volunteer counselors will assist staff with programs and activities throughout the day. Depending on the shift chosen, volunteers may also accompany children on the daily field trip! Camp Days: Dec. 26-28, 8:30-5:30, and Jan. 2-4, 8:30-5:30.

Contact: Audrey Hall, Camp and Athletic Director, ahall@bgcbloomington.org (www.bgcbloomington.org) OR Shawna Meyer-Niederman, 812-336-6501, smeyern@bgcbloomington.org

City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach

401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach program was created to serve our community's rapidly growing Latino immigrant population as the liaison for the department and community organizations, providing support to the Spanish speaking population and promoting diversity and cultures.

December: Donations of new items such as children's clothing, toys and books are greatly appreciated. All donations are matched with families in need during the holidays. Clothing sizes: Newborn -16

Contact: Melissa Britton, 812-349-3860, brittonm@bloomington.in.gov (www.bloomington.in.gov/latino)

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City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation

401 N. Morton St. Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department provides comprehensive programs that encompass educational, cultural, recreational, environmental, health, fitness, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

The Holiday Market

Saturday, November 24

Don't miss the 10th annual Holiday Market! Patrons shop for their favorite locally grown farm products and fine arts and crafts created by local artisans, all while listening to the music of the season. The TubaSantas will again fill the Market with holiday spirit, and St. Nick and his reindeer will visit too!

Duties: We're looking for volunteer elves to decorate, serve refreshments, and assist with teardown.

Program Time: Shift #1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m./Shift #2, Noon-4 p.m.

Training: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shift. Age of Volunteers: 16 years and up. Number of volunteers: 10-12.

Location: Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

Contact: Kim Ecenbarger, 812-349-3739, ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov (www.bloomington.in.gov/parks)

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

401 N. Morton St. Suite 260 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network exists to mobilize volunteers to address community issues and build on community assets. It is our aim to inspire, support and celebrate volunteerism in our community.

December: Community organizations need certain things to do their work, and to do it well. When you look at the Community Wish List, you will see that some of their needs are more obvious than others. The items requested range from the no-cost to the big-ticket, but they all need someone to gather them up! Why not be that someone? To organize a Holiday Wish List collection drive, first go to www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer to view the Wish List. Then organize a drive - large or small - within your school, family or faith community, or take the list along shopping and add a few extra items to your cart. Contact the organizations involved and arrange a good time to deliver. Mission accomplished - you have made a difference in the community and it's fun to play Santa!

Contact: Bet Savich, 812-349-3472, volunteer@bloomington.in.gov (www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)

Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.

1515 S. Rogers St. Bloomington, IN 47403

Mission: "To work, alone and in collaboration with others, to eliminate hunger in Monroe County and surrounding areas through direct service, education and advocacy." Community Kitchen provides a free meal each day, Monday-Saturday, 4:00-6:00pm. We also have several programs that provide meals to At-Risk Children and Seniors.

Donations of Turkeys, Hams, Canned Vegetables and Fruit are needed and appreciated. Any donation can be dropped off at our 1515 S. Rogers location, Monday-Friday between 8am and 6pm.

November: Volunteers are needed to assist with the traditional meal preparation and distribution. We have shifts throughout Thanksgiving Day from 10:30-6:45 (all shifts are two hours)

December: Volunteers are needed to assist with the traditional meal served on Christmas Day. We have shifts throughout the day from 10:30-6:45 (all shifts are two hours)

Contact: Janna Arthur, 812-332-0999, volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com or check out our website at www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

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Cry of the Children

Bloomington, IN 47403

Mission: Cry of the Children improves the quality of life for adolescents in Bloomington by providing programs and services that enhance and promote the development of effective life and decision-making skills.

November: Volunteers are needed to assist with their Sixth annual Thanksgiving Meal on November 10, from 2-4 at 111 North Rogers the Salvation Army. 9:00am -10:00am Room Set up 12-1 Food Set up Servers 1-4pm Clean up 4pm.

Contact: Mrs. Boddie, 812-332-0610, cryofthechildren@gmail.com

Fair Trade Bloomington

Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: Fair Trade Bloomington provides the opportunity to contribute to global poverty relief through education and promotion of products that adhere to fair trade principles.

December: Students are needed for the 8th annual Holiday Fair Trade Sale in the Frangipani Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on November 29-30th. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Contact: Mary Embry, 812-333-6871, mcembry@indiana.edu (www.fairtradebloomington.org)

Girls Incorporated of Monroe County

1108 W. 8th Street Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Serving nearly 550 girls in Monroe County, Girls Inc. provides exciting research-driven programming and sound mentoring in a supportive all-girl environment to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

December: Volunteers are needed to make the Holiday Hoopla happen! All are warmly invited to join Girls Inc. in ringing in the holiday season at Holiday Hoopla, from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 1 throughout Fountain Square Mall. This is a joyous, family-oriented event! The \$5.00 ticket price for participants includes a hot pancake breakfast in the Fountain Square Ballroom, a "kids only" shopping area where kids get to shop for gifts for their family and nothing sells for over \$5.00, entertainment provided by local musicians, a raffle for great prizes, and the always popular gingerbread house event for the kids. Tickets can be purchased at Girls Inc. and will also be available at the door.

Contact: Lee Ann Jourdan, 812-336-7313, mdowling@monroe.girls-inc.org or ljourdan@monroe.girls-inc.org (www.bloomington.in.us/~girlsinc)

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

213 E. Kirkwood Avenue Bloomington, IN 47408

Mission: Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County promotes home ownership by building houses in partnership with families in need of adequate housing. Their mission is to build simple, decent affordable homes with people in need.

November & December: Donations of FOOD are always welcome. Office volunteers are needed in November and December to help with their annual holiday mailing.

Contact: Sarah Rosenbaum, 812-331-4069, volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org (www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

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Indiana Army National Guard Family Readiness Group

3380 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Mission: An FRG is established to provide activities, increase the resiliency of soldiers/families, provide tools for adjusting to military deployments/separations, and enhance the well-being/morale of the unit.

December: Walmart, Target or Kroger gift cards (\$50 value) for military families struggling at Christmas. There are always families in need of assistance.

Contact: Jenny Tracy, (812) 339-5618, jtracy@bluemarble.net

Middle Way House, Inc.

PO Box 95, Bloomington, IN 47402

Mission: To end violence, both structural and interpersonal in the lives of women and children. Middle Way House provides safe emergency shelter for women and their dependent children who are fleeing domestic violence.

Volunteer training is Saturday, Dec. 8 and is necessary for anyone wanting to volunteer for the holidays.

December:

Adopt-A-Family: We have families of all sizes ready for adoption. Can you help make a family's Christmas brighter? NEW gifts for moms and kids can be dropped off at the Middle Way House, 338 S. Washington starting November 1st. Please call Middle Way House for further information. **Contact:** Liz Franklin, 812-333-7404 (www.middlewayhouse.org)

SHOP-A-RAMA Toys: NEW toys are needed for 60 children in our program to 'shop' for their family. Baby toys through high school aged toys are welcome. Donations can be dropped off at THE RISE, 401 S. Washington by Dec. 19. **SHOP-A-RAMA Volunteers** are needed to help wrap presents on the day of the event - Dec. 20, 6 - 8 p.m. **Contact** Monte at THE RISE for more information: 812-337-4510

Monroe County United Ministries

827 W. 14th Court Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Monroe County United Ministries provides quality affordable childcare for working families and basic needs assistance for those in crisis.

November & December: Winter Food Drive Volunteers are needed to transport food drive donations from collection sites to MCUM's pantry. Non-perishable food, cleaning supplies and hygiene products are welcome. Pickup can be arranged for large drives. Schedule is flexible but times are usually during business hours. Volunteers are also needed to sort food donations in the Emergency Food Pantry during and after the Winter Food Drive. Volunteer anytime Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and some Sat. mornings.

Contact: Cliff Edens, 812-339-3429 ext .13, help@mcum.org

November: Thanksgiving Luncheon: Help with kitchen preparation, serving and clean up for MCUM's Thanksgiving luncheon. This luncheon will help them raise funds for the kids enrolled in their low-cost, quality childcare center.

Kitchen Prep Shifts: Friday, November 16, anytime 8am-2pm Monday, November 19, anytime 8am-2pm Tuesday, November 20, 8am-10am (two volunteers needed) Serve & Cleanup Shift: Tuesday, November 20, 10am-2pm (four volunteers needed) To sign up, contact Janeth Gonzalez at jangonza@indiana.edu or call Rebecca Stanze at 339-3429 ext. 15.

December: Adopt-A-Family: Donors can adopt a family enrolled by the childcare program by purchasing 3-5 gifts for each parent and child in the family. A list of family members and gift suggestions will be sent to you. Holiday food basket donations are also welcome.

Contact: Meri Reinhold, 812-339-3429. (www.mcum.org)

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Life Designs. Inc

PO Box 1732 200 E. Winslow Dr. Bloomington, IN 47402

Mission: Life Designs, Inc. partners with people with disabilities and their communities to bring about self-directed and fulfilled lives.

November: Life Designs, Inc. is collecting gifts to distribute to their customers at their Holiday Party. They are looking for small gifts for male and female customers, both adult and youth. All donations need to be received by Nov. 30 at their Bloomington office on Winslow Road. Volunteers are also welcome at the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 1st, 11-4pm.

Contact: Cindy Fleetwood, 812-332-9615, cfleetwood@lifedesignsinc.org

Positive Link

333 East Miller Drive, Indiana University Health, Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: Positive Link provides social services for those living with HIV including social support, medication assistance and adherence tools, food and nutritional needs, housing and utility assistance, advocacy, and mental health and substance use counseling and referrals.

November & December: *Gifts of Grace* is a holiday gift drive that links community member gift donations to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Bloomington and the surrounding counties. This year we will be allowing individuals and/or families to receive a compassionate gift during the holiday season. Gifts of Grace donations vary in cost. Our clients and their children / families complete a "wish list" which we in turn code and give out to donors. Client's "wishes" can vary from gift cards for gas and/or food and nutrition needs to clothes, coats, shoes, housing items and entertainment gift cards. Eighty percent of our client's (and their affected families) live on or under Indiana's poverty level. Many of their "wishes" are actual necessities, and our hope is to be able to allow people to receive a gift that they might not ordinarily be able to afford.

In addition to a gift, this year we are hoping to also provide a food /daily living gift basket to each person and/or family (food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc.). This will require some food drives in order to accomplish. Donors may express an interest in "adopting" a client, a family or both (this year we have many more client's with children than in the past years, so our need is even greater) and in return I give them an individual's "wish list" (via email). We will have specific gift drop off times at our office throughout the end of November and December in order to help facilitate getting gifts to clients in a timely manner. This will be the 11th year that Gifts of Grace has helped Positive Link clients experience the kindness that the Bloomington Community has to offer during the Holiday season. If you are interested in helping us with our Gifts of Grace Holiday Assistance Program, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Contact: Amy Hays, 812-353-3218 or plgiftsofgrace@gmail.com

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Salvation Army

111 N. Rogers St. PO Box 2117 Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The mission of the Salvation Army is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

November:

Assistance is needed with the coat give-away and the Angel Tree application process. Multiple shifts are available from late October to early November.

Bell Ringers

Traditional kettles and holiday bells will ring in a new season beginning Nov. 15 at sites around Monroe County. Come join over 400 of your neighbors to spread the cheer of the season with The Salvation Army.

Dine at Nicks

On November 13 from 5-8 p.m., Nicks English Hut on Kirkwood Ave. in Bloomington is supporting The Salvation Army. The only thing you have to do is treat your family and friends to a great meal.

December:

Adopt an Angel Tree Child or Tree for Your Workplace, Church or Organization

There is still a great need for individuals, families, local businesses, and other organizations to sponsor Angel Tree tags. Each tag represents a needy child in Monroe County and lists their age, clothing sizes, and toy wish list. This program relies on the selfless giving and support of the community to bring joy and happiness to those less fortunate and beginning Nov. 3rd, Angel tags can be picked up at The Salvation Army (111 N. Rogers St.) between 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Gifts should be delivered to the Salvation Army by Dec. 12.

Sort Toys for Underserved Children

Imagine a warehouse filled with toys, games, stuffed animals and warm clothes. This year, volunteers are needed to help sort, arrange, and distribute those donated toys and other gifts from mid to late December. Day and evening shifts are available and scheduling is very flexible. *No minimum time commitment required. Items will be distributed to the families on December 19. At The Salvation Army, the dreams of hundreds of children and their families come to life!

Bell Ringers

Traditional kettles and holiday bells will ring in a new season through Dec. 23 at sites around Monroe County. Come join over 400 of your neighbors to spread the cheer of the season with The Salvation Army.

Contact:

Sign up for any volunteer shifts online by visiting www.bloomington.salvationarmyindiana.org and clicking on "Ring a Bell for The Salvation Army" button.

The Salvation Army's Volunteer Coordinator at Peter Iversen at peter_iversen@usc.salvationarmy.org or 812-336-4310 ext. 102

Shalom Community Center

620 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: The Shalom Community Center is a safe daytime shelter and resource center for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

November: Kitchen volunteers are needed on Thanksgiving morning from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kitchen volunteers are also needed on the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 23) from 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to prepare, serve or help with clean up.

Contact for Meal Program: Marc Emerson, [812-334-5734](tel:812-334-5734) ext. 23, volunteer@shalomcommunitycenter.org.

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November & December: Holiday Gift Program: Shalom Community Center offers this program for children of families living in poverty. They anticipate up to 500 children this year. Please register to be a donor and to be matched to one or more children. More details will be available once you register. The expectation is that donors will provide at least 2 gifts per child, but there is no dollar requirement.

Contact for Gift Program: Nick Bradford, [812-334-5734](tel:812-334-5734) ext. 26, spea@shalomcommunitycenter.org (www.shalomcommunitycenter.org)

South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

1500 W. 15th St. Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: The Community Action Program exists to provide opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence.

November & December: Volunteers are needed to organize collection drives for children's items, including boys and girls winter coats, sizes 0-5, child hats/gloves, children's winter boots, sizes 8 & up, craft supplies for children, and toys for children ages 0-5. Please deliver to 1500 W. 15th St.

Contact: Thom Hartnett, 812-339-3447 ext. 233, thom@sccap.monroe.in.us (www.insccap.org)

Toys for Tots

Various locations throughout Bloomington

Mission: Monroe County Toys for Tots Inc. collects new unwrapped toys beginning the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas each year and distributes those toys to needy children in Monroe and surrounding counties. All gifts stay local!

November & December: Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, you can drop unwrapped toys off at locations around town — places such as The Herald-Times, Black Lumber, Indiana Voice and Data and Cummins Bookkeeping (Ellettsville) through Dec. 14.

Another option is to send a check made out to: Monroe County Toys for Tots and mail it to:

Bob Sutter, 3219 Allendale Dr., Bloomington IN 47401.

Contact: Bob Sutter, 812-361-9484 or rsutter208@aol.com

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