



2016

HOLIDAY
GUIDE

to giving & volunteering

'Tis the season of gratitude and giving.

Across our community, people with full hearts and tummies are thinking about ways to give back this season. The Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering is here to help.

Throughout the year, our community's helping organizations have shown the true spirit of giving by offering the needed services that make our community a caring place to live, while asking for very little in return.

Embrace the season; the holidays are a perfect time to give back.



5 Things You Need to Know

BEFORE You Volunteer this Holiday Season

Often times the holidays are a time of year when people are reminded and inspired to give back to others. Volunteering is an awesome way to do that, and we want to make sure you have a great time, so before you reach out to your local food bank, soup kitchen, thrift store or meal delivery program – read these tips.

1. When you reach out to a nonprofit to request to volunteer, please be patient.

Volunteer coordinators are likely being inundated with requests to volunteer, on top of trying to accomplish their day to day jobs. They want to respond as quickly as possible, but it may take more time than normal. Spread a little holiday joy and show up to your project with cookies or a thank you card!

2. Think outside the box.

Everybody wants to serve a meal on Thanksgiving Day, but there just isn't enough room for everyone to do the exact same volunteer project. Try volunteering on the day before, the day after or anytime during the holiday break. These are often the days when volunteers are truly needed the most! Or be unique and try something new. There's a lot of need, just not all of it involves a turkey or candy canes. Check out some of these holiday volunteering ideas and resources!

3. We think it's great you want to volunteer, and so do the nonprofits in our community.

These organizations rely on volunteer help to provide vital services to people in our community, but here's the catch: work is needed all year around, not just during the holiday season. Check out how you can help all year long.

4. Can't find a time for a volunteer project that works for everybody?

What about coordinating an "adopt a family" or "Community Wish List" project? You can rally your co-workers, friends, family and network to provide items that allow each family and each nonprofit in our community to celebrate this holiday season. See the Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering and the Community Wish List for where your help is needed.

5. Volunteering during the holidays has caught on.

Many 'day-of' holiday shifts are already filled – and have been for weeks. There are still many holiday themed options available though, so start NOW to find a volunteer project that you're interested in and secure a spot. Otherwise, by the time you try to volunteer, all of the spots could be taken. There are many options just waiting for you to sign up in the Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering.

No matter what you do or how you do it, we hope volunteering is included in your holiday plans this year.

INDEX OF HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Organization and program descriptions are listed alphabetically on the pages that follow

HOLIDAY DONATIONS:

Gift Giving, Sorting or Collecting

Adopt-A-Child & Adopt-A-Family

- City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach
- Life Designs, Inc.
- Middle Way House, Inc.
- Monroe County United Ministries
- Positive Link
- Salvation Army

Donation Drives

- **Bloomington Animal Care and Control**
pet food and supplies
- **Bloomington Transit**
stuff a bus with children's toys and clothes
- **Christmas for the Kids, Inc.**
new unwrapped toys
- **City of Bloomington Latino Programs and Outreach**
children's toys and clothes
- **Community Kitchen of Monroe County**
food and canned goods
- **Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County**
food donations for homebuilders
- **Indiana Army National Guard Family Readiness Group**
\$10 gift cards, \$25 grocery cards, baby blankets
- **Life Designs, Inc.**
gifts for men, women and children, wrapping supplies
- **Middle Way House, Inc.**
new unwrapped toys, gifts for mothers & children
- **Monroe County United Ministries**
winter food drive
- **Positive Link**
food, toiletries, personal items
- **South Central Community Action Program**
children's winter outerwear, toys
- **Stepping Stones**
teen's winter outerwear, household items
- **Wheeler Mission**
food

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

Service during the holiday months

November

Thanksgiving Meal Service or Delivery

- Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.

Special Events

- **City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation** – *Holiday Market*
- **Salvation Army** – *Bell Ringing*
- **Wheeler Mission** – *donation sorting & distribution*

December

Christmas Day Meal Service or Delivery

- Area 10 on Aging
- Community Kitchen of Monroe County

Special Events

- **Bloomington Housing Authority Residents Council** – *Toys for Tots distribution*
- **Bloomington Transit** – *Stuff A Bus*
- **Christmas for the Kids, In.** – *Live Auction*
- **Girls Incorporated of Monroe County** – *Holiday Hoopla*
- **Life Designs, Inc.** – *gift wrapping days*
- **Middle Way House, Inc.** – *Shop-a-Rama*
- **Salvation Army** – *Bell ringing & toy sorting*

Holiday Community Wish List

Alpha by Agency

www.bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/CommunityWishList

Holiday Needs Assistance

See <http://bit.ly/HolidayNeeds211>



Area 10 Agency on Aging

630 W. Edgewood Dr. Ellettsville, IN 47429

Mission: To serve as a leader in providing resources, solutions and connections for seniors, persons with disabilities and family caregivers living in Monroe and Owen counties.

November: Thanksgiving Day meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers will pick up meals between 11 and 1 on Thanksgiving Day and deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens. Volunteers can fill out a volunteer application online at the Area 10 website: Area10Agency.org

December: Christmas Eve meals prepared by Community Kitchen will be given to homebound seniors in Owen and Monroe counties. Volunteers will pick up the meals between 11 and 1 on Christmas Eve and deliver the meals to pre-registered senior citizens. Volunteers can fill out a volunteer application online at the Area 10 website: Area10Agency.org

Contact: Laura Kray for volunteer drivers ((812) 876-3383 ext. 553, lkray@area10agency.org) (www.area10agency.org)

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.

Holiday Supply Drive: Thanksgiving to New Year's Day!

Collection boxes will be located around town where community members can donate needed items to help shelter animals! Donations are also accepted at the Bloomington Animal Shelter during business hours: Mon./Wed./Thur./Sat., 12pm to 5 p.m.; Tues./Fri., 12pm to 7 p.m.; Sun., 1 to 4 p.m. They are located at 3410 S. Walnut Street.

Items needed most:

Cat and dog toys, treats, canned food, dry food (open bags are okay); large rawhides, squeeze cheese, soft treats, clumping cat litter and strong litter scoops, pine pellet cat or horse litter, crates, metal

exercise pens, blankets, comforters, towels, sheets, bleach, paper towels, Dawn dishwashing liquid, hand sanitizer, copier paper, envelopes, sharpies

December: Adopt. Love. Learn.

The Bloomington Animal Shelter will run multiple promotions throughout December. Check their Facebook page for up to date promotion information: www.facebook.com/COBAnimalShelter

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

Bloomington Housing Authority Residents Council

1007 N Summitt St., Bloomington, IN 47404

December: Volunteers are needed to assist with the distribution of Toys for Tots gifts on Dec. 21 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (this includes setup and cleanup).

Contact: Sherry Clay at raven51516@yahoo.com or (812) 727-6274.

Bloomington Transit

130 W. Grimes Lane Bloomington, IN 47403

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 Dec. 1st at WCLS 97.7. Those wishing to make a donation can either drop off their items at the bus between Dec. 1-11 (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) 961-0523, bunder@bloomingtontransit.com (www.bloomingtontransit.com)

Christmas for the Kids, Inc.

Various locations throughout Bloomington

Mission: Christmas for the Kids, Inc. collects new unwrapped toys and distributes them to needy children in Monroe and surrounding counties.

November & December: Beginning the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas, you can drop unwrapped toys off at locations around town — places such as The Herald-Times, Black Lumber, Cummins Bookkeeping (Ellettsville), Rural King, Curry Buick, Mattress Firm, Westbury Antique Mall, Jolly Rogers Flea Market (Ellettsville), and Liberty Family Dentist (Ellettsville) through Dec. 15. All gifts stay local!

December: Volunteers will help the live auction on December 4th, prepping the distribution location, sorting donations on bag and tag day, shopping for toys with donated funds, reminder calls to recipients, and as helpers on toy distribution day - Dec. 17th.

Contact: Bob Sutter, (812) 961-0552, rsutter208@aol.com

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: We are looking for donations for our Holiday Assistance Program, 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-size 16. All donations will be due December 1st.

Contact: Exsenet Esler, latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov, (812) 349-3860. (www.bloomington.in.gov/latino)

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation

401 N. Morton St. Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Our mission is to provide essential services, facilities and programs necessary for the positive development and well-being of the community through the provision of parks, greenways, trails and recreational facilities while working in cooperation with other service providers in the community in order to maximize all available resources.

Holiday Market: Saturday, November 26 at Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

We're looking for volunteer elves to decorate, serve refreshments, and assist with teardown. Shifts are 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and noon–4 p.m. Sign up at bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.

Trail Ambassador: February 2017–February 2018/One-year commitment Trail Ambassadors become public stewards of our trail system. Through weekly visits, volunteers generate awareness of local multi-purpose trail system, promote proper trail etiquette, share the benefits of a vibrant trail system, and encourage overall positive use of public space. Volunteers must submit an online application by December 30. An orientation takes place prior to one-year appointment beginning in February. Applications are available at bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.

Contact: Nikki McEachern at parksvol@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3739

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

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

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

December/January: 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 BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org and click on Community Wish List. Then organize a drive - large or small - within your school, family, work 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've made a difference in the community and it is 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, Mon.-Sat. between 4-6 p.m. They also have several programs that provide meals to at-risk children and seniors.

November & December: donations of turkeys, hams, canned vegetables, stuffing mixes, cream soups and canned fruit are needed and appreciated. Any donation can be dropped off at their 1515 S. Rogers location, Mon.-Fri. after 8 a.m. and by 5:30 p.m., Saturday after 11a.m. and by 5:30 p.m.
November: Volunteers will assist with the traditional meal preparation and distribution. Shifts are two hours long between 10:30 a.m. -6:45 p.m. Assistance would also be appreciated the day before and after Thanksgiving.

December: Volunteers assist with the traditional meal served on Christmas Eve 12/24/2016. Shifts are two hours long between 10:30 a.m. -6:30 p.m.

Contact: Debbie Hopson, (812) 332-0999,
debbie@monroecommunitykitchen.com
(www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

Girls Inc of Monroe County

1108 W. 8th Street Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Serving nearly 500 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: All are warmly invited to join Girls Inc. in ringing in the holiday season at Holiday Hoopla, from 9-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 3 throughout Fountain Square Mall. This is a joyous, family-oriented event which requires a great deal of volunteer assistance The Hoopla includes a pancake breakfast, a "kids only" shopping area where kids get to shop for gifts for their family and nothing sells for over \$5.00, entertainment, a raffle, and a gingerbread house event for the kids. Volunteer shifts are available from 7:30-10 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Contact: June Taylor, (812) 336-7313,
jtaylor@monroe.girls-inc.org (www.girlsinc-monroe.org)

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

213 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408

Mission: In Monroe County, 1 in 5 people are living in poverty. No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life. We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know we have the power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures. At Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, this is what unites us. Homeownership matters and we work with hardworking families in need to build decent, affordable homes. Through shelter, we empower. Our shared vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

We need YOUR help! This holiday season, we are looking for ReStore, construction, and crew leader volunteers. ReStore volunteers will help with donations intake, sorting, and pricing, as well as cashiering and showroom designing and sales. Construction volunteers will help to build the forever homes that our partner families will be purchasing. Crew leaders will work on the builds and help lead small groups of construction volunteers in a wide variety of construction tasks. Prior construction

experience is highly recommended, but not required. Crew leader training is available! Food donations for volunteers are always welcome!

Contact: Cindy Chen, Engagement Coordinator, at ec@monroecountyhabitat.org or (812) 331-4069 ext. 202. For more information, visit our website, www.monroecountyhabitat.org.

Indiana Army National Guard Family Readiness Group

3380 S. Walnut St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Mission: Provides activities, increases the resiliency of soldiers/families, provides tools for adjusting to military deployments/separations, and enhances the well-being/morale of the unit.

December: Items requested: gift cards (\$10 value) for military children for holiday party, baby blankets (handmade quilts, fleece or purchased) to provide military families that have added a bundle of joy to their families, and Kroger, Marsh, Meijer, or Walmart gift cards (\$25 value) for struggling military families.

Contact: Rachel Connor Nelson, (812) 325-4896, rcn.frg@gmail.com

Life Designs, Inc.

PO Box 1732, 200 E. Winslow Dr. Bloomington, IN 47401

Mission: LIFE Designs partners with people of all ages and abilities to lead meaningful and active lives.

LIFEDesigns provides support to 42 people who do not have family or friends to spend the holiday with. LIFEDesigns is providing them with a Holiday Meal, and is organizing an Angel Tree to share the joy of Holiday Gifts. We are asking people from the community to "adopt" one or more individuals, and make one (or more) of their "Christmas Wishes" come true. To participate in this, email volunteer@lifedesignsinc.org or call LIFEDesigns at (812) 332-9615. Many of these people are in need of new clothing for the winter, and new clothing in general.

Contact: Stephanie Shelton, (800) 875-9615 x. 218, sshelton@lifedesignsinc.org (www.lifedesignsinc.org)

Middle Way House, Inc.

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.

December:

Adopt-A-Family: Make Christmas brighter for a family in the emergency crisis shelter. **Contact:** Liz Franklin, 336-0846 or 812-333-7404, franklinliz08@gmail.com (www.middlewayhouse.org)

SHOP-A-RAMA Toys: New toys are needed for 60 children to 'shop' for their families. Baby toys through high school aged toys are welcome. Gifts for the mothers of the children are also requested. Donations can be dropped off at their transitional housing facility, "The Rise", at 401 S. Washington by Dec. 21.

SHOP-A-RAMA Volunteers will wrap presents on the day of the event, Dec. 22, from 6-8 p.m.

Contact: Monte Simonton, 812-337-4510 (www.middlewayhouse.org)

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.

December and January: Want to serve families directly this holiday season? Volunteers are needed to staff our new and improved client-choice food pantry, especially during the months of December and January. Those who serve in our volunteer-run pantry will help sort incoming donations and assist clients directly, helping them navigate their choices and select the best food options for their families.

Volunteers may also choose to transport food drive donations from winter food drive 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 will also 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: Steve Thomas, (812) 339-3429 ext. 24, sthomas@MCUM.org

Adopt-A-Family: Donors can adopt a family enrolled in MCUM's accredited 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. Donors deliver wrapped gifts to MCUM. Sign-up forms are available on MCUM's website: www.mcum.org.

Holiday food basket donations are also welcome, with guidelines at <http://mcum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2016-Food-Basket.pdf>.

Contact: Katie Broadfoot, (812) 339-3429 ext. 18, kbroadfoot@mcum.org (www.mcum.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. Gifts of Grace donations vary in cost. Their clients, with their children and families, complete a "wish list" which is coded and given 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 clients (and their affected families) live on or under Indiana's poverty level. Many of their "wishes" are actual necessities.

In addition to a gift, this year they 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 they have many more

clients with children than in past years) and will receive an individual's "wish list" via email.

Contact: Amy Hays, (812) 353-3218 or IUHgiftsofgrace@gmail.com (<http://iuhealth.org/bloomington/about/community-health/hiv-aids-positive-link/>)

Salvation Army

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

Mission: To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

November & December: Bell Ringers

Traditional kettles and holiday bells will ring in a new season from Nov. 11- Dec. 24 at sites around Monroe County. Come join over 400 of your neighbors to spread the cheer of the season with The Salvation Army. Visit www.registertoring.com to sign up.

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 his or her 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. Beginning Nov. 7th, Angel tags can be picked up at The Salvation Army (111 N. Rogers St.) between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Gifts should be delivered to the Salvation Army by Dec. 12th.

December: Sort Toys for Children

Volunteers will sort, arrange, and distribute donated toys, games, stuffed animals and warm clothes and other gifts from Dec. 12-19th. Day and evening shifts are available and scheduling is very flexible. Items will be distributed to the families on Dec. 20th.

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 or contact Crystal Walls at (812) 336-4310 ext. 102 (www.bloomingtonsa.org)

South Central Community Action Program – Head Start

1500 W. 15th St, Bloomington, IN 47404

Mission: Provides opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence.

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

Contact: Anna Donley at: annad@insccap.org, or (812) 334-8350 ext. 330 (www.insccap.org)

Stepping Stones

Mission: To provide individualized support for youth aged 16-20 experiencing homelessness in safe, service-enriched, transitional housing where they develop life skills through supportive relationships for future independent living, with the goal of breaking the cycles of poverty and homelessness

November: For the month of November our residents are beginning to feel the cold move in! We are requesting Winter Coats, Warm Socks, Hats, Gloves and Scarves for our residents. Contact Melissa Paneto at Melissa.Paneto@centerstone.org for specific sizes.

December: We will have 3-4 new residents move in during the month of November to January. We are requesting welcome baskets for our residents when they arrive. Welcome baskets are comprised of: Twin XL Size Bed Sheets and Comforters, Pillows, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Razors, Tupperware, Grocery Bag Holders, Fans, Personal Trash Can, Trash Bags, Sponges, Shower Mat Inside The Shower, loofah, Baking Pans and Bowls.

Contact: Melissa Paneto, (812) 339-9771, Melissa.Paneto@centerstone.org for inquiries or drop off times.

Wheeler Mission Backstreet Shelter for Men and Agape House for Women

(Men) 215 S. Westplex Ave. Bloomington, IN 47404;
(Women) 400 Opportunity Lane, Bloomington, IN 55008

Mission: To provide Christ-centered programs and services for the homeless and those in need.

ThanksGIVEmas: A warm meal and a smile go a long way to the guests and residents of Wheeler Mission's Center for Men (CFM), which offers emergency shelter to men requiring immediate assistance and case-managed programs to assist men who have long term needs. The CFM's mission is to provide Christ-centered programs and services for the homeless and those in need. Wheeler Mission is calling on community members to spearhead food drives through their congregations, schools or civic groups during this Season of ThanksGIVEmas. Since they have more than doubled the number of people they serve at their three Bloomington homeless shelters, these much-needed items will be used to feed those who are staying at their shelters not just during the holidays, but year-round. One of the biggest volunteer needs at the CFM is to assist with serving meals to the guests and residents who call Wheeler Mission home. Volunteers prepare trays, hand out drinks, roll silverware, and help with clean-up for either lunch or dinner. Both one-time and recurring volunteers are welcome! Minimum age is 18; 8 if with an adult.

Contact: Please go to www.wheelervolunteer.org to register to volunteer. Questions? Contact David Jennings at (317) 635-3575 ext.321 or davidjennings@wmm.org. (www.wheelermission.org)