



MITTEN TREE

Many organizations set up *Mitten Trees* to accept donations of new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, undergarments, etc., for children from infancy to high school age. Volunteers from Trinity United Church of Christ collected more than 10,000 items in 2013. They were distributed at the *Christmas Giving Center* and as needed to health departments, social service agencies and schools.



MONETARY DONATIONS

Donations from individuals, families, businesses, and churches provide the major portion of our income. Fund-raising events held by schools and grants from foundations provide the rest. In addition to financing our day-to-day operations, grocery gift cards for families and gift cards for teens are purchased and then distributed at the Christmas Giving Center.

Stark County is truly a better place to live when neighbors reach out to help neighbors. Your tax-deductible donation, payable to A Community Christmas, is welcome at any time.

MISSION STATEMENT

A Community Christmas is a volunteer organization that has coordinated the efforts of the Stark County community to provide Christmas assistance and eliminate duplication of services to the needy and economically disadvantaged residents of our county for more than 60 years.

A Community Christmas extends a special thank you to the McKinley Detachment of the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots Campaign for their generous support. We also thank the many Stark County businesses and individuals who made in-kind contributions.

A Community Christmas

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A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

A Non-Profit Organization





The Programs of Community Christmas

VOLUNTEERS

Nearly 250 volunteers donated more than 5,000 hours in 2013. They assisted the potential clients through the application process and then worked several weeks to set up the *Christmas Giving Center* and the *Community Christmas Closet*. They managed the 100 collection boxes for Coats for Christmas. They set-up 23 *Giving Trees* and then picked up the wrapped gifts for distribution. They manned the registration desk, shopped with clients, restocked the toys and did whatever needed to be done during its 3 days of operation. At its conclusion, they dismantled the *Christmas Giving Center*.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of *A Community Christmas*. You may call the office at 330-454-3941 or check the website: www.acomunitychristmas.org to volunteer. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

INTAKE PROCESS

Over a 3-week period each October, applications are accepted from Stark County families and individuals who request Christmas assistance. The names are cross-checked with other social service agencies to avoid duplication of services.

Approximately 1/3 of the applicants will be placed into the *Adopt-A-Family program*. The others will be served by the Christmas Giving Center.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Each year approximately 500 families are paired with a donor – family, business, church, etc. The donor receives the family’s “Christmas wish list.” We ask that they provide a minimum of 1 new item from the list for each family member with the cost not to exceed \$25. The donor also includes non-perishable groceries for the Christmas meal as well as a food gift card to purchase a turkey, ham, etc.



CHRISTMAS GIVING CENTER

All clients not served by the *Adopt-A-Family Program* are invited to the *Christmas Giving Center*, formerly known as General Distribution. It is open for 3 days in early December. The clients select 3 new toys for each child (0-10 years of age), thanks mainly to the donations from the McKinley Detachment of the Marine Corps League’s *Toys for Tots* program, as well as other community sources.

Clients also can choose stuffed animals, gently used toys, Christmas decorations, stocking stuffers, new and used books donated by libraries, individuals, and Books-A-Million. New and gently used clothing from *A Community Christmas Closet* and *Coats for Christmas* is also available. Youth (11-19 years of age and attending school full-time) receive a Christmas gift card. Each family also receives a grocery gift card, based on the size of the family, to purchase items for the Christmas meal.

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CLOSET

Donations of new or gently used clothing in all sizes, bedding, hats, gloves, and miscellaneous household items are accepted through out the year are supplemented with items purchased by the committee at end-of-season prices. Clients select available items for each member of their family with the assistance of a volunteer shopper.



COATS FOR CHRISTMAS

More than 4,000 coats were collected from the 100 collection boxes placed across Stark County in 2013. They were laundered or dry cleaned as needed before distribution at the *Christmas Giving Center* as well as to social service agencies, community centers, schools and churches throughout the County.

GIVING TREES

Names of individuals who are facing a bleak Christmas are obtained from area nursing homes, juvenile detention centers, day care centers, etc. The first name with a suggested gift is written on a gift tag and hung on a *Giving Tree* located in a church, shopping mall, business, library, etc., where it is selected by a caring Stark County resident. The wrapped gifts are returned to the *Giving Tree* location and picked up by our volunteers for distribution to the above agencies.