



HOLIDAY CONNECTIONS

HOLIDAY PROJECT AND AGENCY WISH LIST

LIVE UNITED

October 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Heidi Neuhaus at
717.724.4055 or via e-mail
hneuhaus@uwcr.org.



United Way of
the Capital Region

WHY HELP?

Every year hundreds of members of our community rely on the generosity of strangers throughout the holiday season. Whether it's receiving the ingredients for a special meal, gifts for family members, or warm clothing to wear, your caring gift makes a difference in someone's life! *Holiday Connections* was created to assist individuals and groups in our community identify and select holiday giving projects.

CHOOSING A PROJECT

Whether you're part of a group or an individual who wants to help, here are some hints to help you choose the right project for yourself or your family or group:

- Look over the complete list to get an idea of what projects are available.
- Think about how many people might want to get involved, i.e. will you invite your whole company or just your department to participate?
- Think about the resources available to the people in your group and choose an option that will allow the most people to participate at some level.
- Before making a selection, talk to a few people who might be helping to see if there is a strong area of interest, such as seniors, children or animals.
- Make sure your group understands and is comfortable with any restrictions requested by the agency, such as early deadlines or not wrapping gifts.
- If you would like more information about a particular agency and what they do, or you'd like some suggestions, call The Volunteer Center at 717.732.0700.
- If possible, decide on your project by early November. This is particularly important if you choose to adopt a family. While monetary donations are always welcomed by nonprofit agencies, most attempt to find "adoptive families" for their clients by this time.
- If you happen to get a late start, don't despair. Many agencies have last-minute needs and The Volunteer Center is available to help.
- Once you've chosen a project, call the agency contact person to let them know your plans. It's important the agencies know in advance what you are doing so they can plan appropriately and avoid duplication.
- If you plan to have 10 or more people involved in your project, consider asking a few to help you with planning and spreading the word.
- Don't forget to let us know how it went! We count on your feedback to evaluate the success of the program. Just e-mail hneuhaus@uwcr.org and let us know about your experience. If available, send us a photo of your group in action, too!

Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our less fortunate neighbors!

Amiracle4sure, Inc.

717.232.0100

Contact: Marsha Curry-Nixon

E-mail: mcurrynixon@amiracle4sure.com

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Girls, minimum age 12.

Donations are needed year round, but especially during the holiday season. Items needed for the women's residential facility include: personal care bags with slippers, hats and gloves, washcloths, towels, lotion and shampoo. Please also include a gift card for each bag (example: movie passes, Target, Walmart, etc.) so residents can buy a gift for their child or do something special with them during the holidays.

Donations are also needed for 20 personal care bags for middle school students in our Ladies First after-school program (ages 12-14 years old). Items needed are bags, nail polish, nail polish remover, combs/brushes, lotion and scented body sprays. Please also include a gift card for each bag (example: Claires, Piercing Pagoda, Walmart, Target).

Donations can be dropped off at the agency office located at 1735 State Street, Harrisburg between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties (CPARC)

717.249.2611

Contact: Holly Turner

E-mail: hturner@cparc.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

As a CPARC Angel, you'll make a difference in the life of someone with an intellectual disability. Some individuals who reside in a CPARC home may not have many family contacts and/or may be in need for the holidays. You can make sure their holiday season is full of love and wonder!

To help purchase gifts, please contact Holly by November 5. She will send you a gift tag (includes a first name and a wish list of an individual who receives services at CPARC). You will then purchase the item and return the new, wrapped gift along with the gift tag to CPARC by November 30.

Items on gift lists vary in price. Some of the individuals request gift cards because they – like you and me – like to eat out, get their hair styled, or shop on their own. CPARC will gladly accept gift cards (Visa, Wal-Mart, and Kohls are popular among our folks!) through November 30.

For those unable to shop, your kind monetary gift will be accepted through the end of the year.

Bethesda Mission

717.257.4442

Contact: Kristina Depew, ext. 229

E-mail: kdepew@bethesdamission.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 14.

Donations of food are greatly appreciated and needed for regular and holiday meals. The shelter also needs donations of men's deodorant, socks and underwear. Collections could be sponsored through churches, schools and/or businesses. The shelter is also looking for groups of up to five people (ages 12 and up) to serve in the Soup-line for dinner from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Bountiful Blessings, Inc.

717.790.2620

Contact: Theresa Orendi

E-mail: bountifulblessings2001@gmail.com

Youth: Appropriate for youth if accompanied by an adult.

The organization needs donations of paper products and personal care items for clients. The need is especially great over the holidays and winter months. Donations of toilet paper, paper towels, tissues or personal hygiene items are welcomed.

Boy Scouts of America – New Birth of Freedom Council

717.502.4190

Contact: Todd Weidner

E-mail: todd.weidner@scouting.org

This holiday season, consider supporting Boy Scouts of America. Camps Tuckahoe and Hidden Valley are seeking donations of canoes, kayaks, telescopes, fishing rods, binoculars, mountain bikes, picnic tables and fish tanks for their No Child Left Inside program.

Brethren Housing Association

717.233.6016

Contact: Blair Grove, ext. 818

E-mail: bgrove@bha-pa.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 14.

Holiday Giving Program: Each holiday season, BHA partners with local individuals and organizations to support families in our programs who are experiencing homelessness. Participants submit a wish list for each member of their family. We also provide each family with a holiday meal for both Thanksgiving and Christmas! We are seeking volunteers to adopt a client's wish list or provide a holiday meal! Sign up for these holiday giving opportunities at www.timetosignup.com/bhaholiday.

Donation Drive: Another way to get involved is by collecting items on our general wish list. Items needed are laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and personal toiletries. Gift cards to Walmart, Target or grocery stores are always welcome to help purchase additional items needed by the families we serve in our programs!

Caitlin's Smiles

717.412.4759

Contact: Cheryl Hornung

E-mail: caitlinssmiles@comcast.net

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 5.

Caitlin's Smiles needs supplies to fill bags for children in hospitals and specialty pediatric clinics. Needed items include: coloring books, journals, Play-Doh (regular or small sized), small toys/books or stress toys, word search books or playing cards are always a huge hit, crayons or markers and stickers. We create age-appropriate bags for toddlers/preschool, elementary and preteen/teen. Gift cards for Michaels, Walmart, Amazon, Dollar Tree and Hobby Lobby also appreciated! New items only please!

Capital Area Head Start (Keystone Service Systems)

717.541.1795

Contact: Marissa Thomas

E-Mail: mathomas@khs.org

Donations are needed to help low-income families with basic needs. The families have children ages newborn to 5 and some include pregnant women. Gift cards to Giant, Target or Walmart are particularly helpful as it allows them to individualize purchases and limited storage space. Other items needed include blankets, space heaters, CAT 11-ride bus passes, cleaning products, laundry products, bed sheets, towels, crock pots and safety items (baby gates, door latches, safety plugs, etc.). Additional items needed include rain ponchos and umbrellas for children and adults, and new socks and underwear for boys and girls, sizes 3T – 6.

Capital Area Greenbelt Association

717.261.7525

Contact: David Misner

E-Mail: davidjamesmisner@gmail.com

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Do you have someone that is hard to shop for? Here's a great opportunity for a unique gift. In November and December, the Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA) is requesting donations towards the purchase of native plants, trees, shrubs and gardening supplies. CAGA is an all-volunteer nonprofit that cares for the 24-mile trail system in the Harrisburg area. CAGA is transitioning to planting all native plants at Greenbelt trailheads, the Five Senses, and the MLK gardens. Plants will be purchased from two local nonprofits - the Hungry Hook Native Plant Farm in Bainbridge and the Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse in Boiling Springs. Under trained Penn State Master Gardeners, volunteers will then plant the donated native plants for Greenbelt visitors to enjoy in the spring. Help build a better Greenbelt. Donate at <http://caga.org/donate/>. You can also send a check made out to the Capital Area Greenbelt Association and mail it to: PO Box 15405, Harrisburg, PA 17105- 5405.

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA)

717.298.7035

Contact: Maiya Harris

E-mail: mharris@catra.net

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 13 (unless accompanied by an adult).

Volunteers are needed daily to help maintain the facility. All work is outdoor, farm-focused and ideal for small group projects. Opportunities are available to care for horses and small animals. This is an excellent family atmosphere where parents and children can volunteer together. Additional help is needed to prepare the facility for the holidays.

Contributions to CATRA's wish list are also a great way to support the facility during the holidays. Items on the wish list include: both dry and wet dog/cat food, salt blocks, hot chocolate, hot cider, paper products (tissues, paper towels, cups, toilet paper), garbage bags and cleaning supplies (Pine Sol, dish soap, sponge mops).

Catholic Charities – Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families

717.652.8740

Contact: Lisa Peck

E-mail: lpeck@cchbg.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

The agency needs donations of paper products (plates, bowls, cups, utensils), toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish washer detergent, disposable face masks and bathroom cleaning supplies. Diapers are also needed (sizes 4, 5 and 6). Donations of gift cards are always welcome to help purchase additional items and holiday gifts for families as needed.

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank

717.564.1700

Contact: Dave Carl

E-mail: dcarl@centralpafoodbank.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth any age.

Virtual Fund Drive: Invite your friends, neighbors and colleagues to make a holiday gift to fight hunger. For every \$1 donated, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank can provide six meals. Your financial donations maximize the Food Bank's acquisition of bulk quantities of healthy, fresh food to keep up with the need to feed 200,000 people per month. A fun web-based virtual fund drive allows everyone to participate at the office or at home, or their home office.

Christ Lutheran Health Ministries

717.236.8382

Contact: Rev. Matthew Best

E-mail: pastor@christharrisburg.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth with adult assistance.

The free health clinic is in need of: Contour blood glucose test strips; generic Claritin, Zyrtec and Benadryl; honey; cough drops; and tissues. Other items needed include: hygiene items, new or gently used washcloths and towels, new underwear and socks for men or women, coffee, hot chocolate and tea bags.

The ministry also welcomes gift cards (Walmart and Target are most requested) for families to purchase gifts for the holidays.

Christian Churches United (HELP Ministries & Compassion Action Network)

717.230.9550

Contact: Aisha Mobley

E-mail: amobley@ccuhbg.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Donations are needed for the Holiday Help-a-Family Program where staff matches individuals or groups with families in need of holiday gift assistance. This year we are ONLY accepting gift cards (Walmart, grocery stores, etc.) to allow us to provide last-minute holiday gifts for homeless and low-income individuals.

Volunteers and donations are also needed for our Winter Hazardous Weather Shelter for women. Volunteers serve from 7-10 p.m., two to four times a month during the winter. Needed items include clear storage bins, cream/sugar packets for coffee, sanitizing spray/wipes, gallon size Ziplock bags and used smartphones.

Welcome Home Kits: This is a great project for a family, workplace, church or civic group. These starter kits help a homeless individual or family get established in a new apartment. For details visit: www.ccuhbg.org/welcomehome.

Contact to Care

717.724.4055

Contact: Heidi Neuhaus

E-mail: hneuhaus@uwcr.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Contact to Care, a community initiative focusing on access to health care, needs items to help families they work with. Items needed are: dental kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss), first aid supplies (band-aids, antibacterial ointment, thermometer and ibuprofen) and personal care kits (shampoo/conditioner, soap/body wash, brush, comb, hair bands and scrunchies). Items may be donated in bulk or assembled in kits prior to donation.

Cumberland County Library System Foundation

717.240.6174

Contact: Jairee Counterman

E-mail: jcounterman@cumberlandcountylibraries.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Donations of new books for children, young adults, and early readers, as well as gift cards, are needed to be used as gifts/incentives for young readers at public libraries and library events throughout Cumberland County. Drop off between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays at the System Headquarters or mail the to the CCLS Library Foundation, 400 Bent Creek Blvd, Ste 150, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. For more information, visit www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

Dauphin County Library System

717.652.9380

Contact: Brenda Fernsler, ext. 1009

E-mail: bfernsler@dcls.org

The library is looking for donations of new children's books and early reader books (hardcover or paperback). These books are given away at programs and events throughout Dauphin County and serve to build home libraries for children and families to enjoy together. Please deliver to any of the eight libraries in the Dauphin County Library System and specify they're for "Project Open Book." See dcls.org for locations and hours.

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties

717.258.4806

Contact: Cait Deane

E-mail: cdeane@dvscp.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 14.

The agency provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children. The holidays are especially hard on the families, many of whom have never been away from home before. There are two ways to help:

- Gift cards for gas and groceries make great holiday gifts for residents. Gift cards can also be used to help with prescription medications. Gift cards also allow parents to choose gifts for children that are appropriate for their family.
- A group could also provide a holiday meal at any time between Thanksgiving and New Years. This would be coordinated with the shelter supervisor.

Downtown Daily Bread

717.238.4717

Contact: Brad Gephart, ext. 123

E-mail: bgephart@pinestreet.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Gifts of Comfort and Warmth: We assist 100+ homeless individuals every day in our shelter and soup kitchen. Warm clothing and cozy blankets are always needed. Please donate new or gently used hooded sweatshirts (men's sizes L-2XL), knit or fleece hats (dark colors), and microfiber/polyester blankets (Twin only, dark colors). Involve family, friends and co-workers! To schedule a donation drop off, e-mail bgephart@downtowndailybread.org. We'll meet you at our front door, no need to park. For more information, visit www.downtowndailybread.org.

Friends of Midland

717.579.0003

Contact: Barbara Barksdale

E-mail: mscmyldy@aol.com

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 16.

Donations will be used for land restoration, preservation and educational purposes. We need office supplies such as document containers for historic information that can be obtained from Staples via gift cards. We also need tools for the care of the fragile headstones that are over 100 years and the wooden fencing. Gardens tools are always needed. Gift cards from Home Depot and or Lowe's are appreciated.

Healthy Steps Diaper Bank

717.526.8143

Contact: Rebecca Cason

E-mail: rcason@healthystepsdiaperbank.com

Hundreds of families need the gift of diapers this holiday season. We need volunteers to host a Holiday Diaper Drive so that we have enough diapers to provide to families. It's as simple as putting out a collection box and spreading the word to your friends, neighbors and colleagues. We will provide signs, information sheets and flyers. Or you can choose the virtual option and use our Amazon Wish List. We are in most need of sizes 5, 6 and Pull Ups. We also accept open diaper packages and monetary donations.

To host a diaper drive, volunteer, donate or purchase diapers from our wish list: <https://linktr.ee/HSDB>.

Historical Society of Dauphin County

717.233.3462

Contact: Christine Turner

E-mail: director@dauphincountyhistory.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 13.

Volunteers are needed to give public tours of the Harris-Cameron Mansion, to assist with archives data entry and exhibits, to assist in the office, and to assist with gardening and grounds maintenance.

Hope Within Community Health Center

717.367.9797

Contact: Anne Marie McAlester, ext. 313

E-mail: annemarie.mcalester@hopewithin.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 14 (for service projects).

Hope Within is a free primary care medical, dental and counseling clinic. We care for the members of our community that cannot access health care through their workplaces or through medical assistance for various reasons. Our patients include refugees, the working poor, single moms, students and immigrants.

Each Christmas, the agency assembles cold and flu packs that contain over-the-counter medications that our patients cannot afford such as NyQuil, Ibuprofen, vitamin supplements, Turmeric, Tylenol and other personal care products such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. We also include small personal care items such as razors, body soap and loofahs, shampoo and other necessities that are difficult for our patient population to afford. These are items that we do not budget for but we like to provide for our patients. Other needs include test strips and compatible meters for diabetics, etc.

Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg

717.233.1681

Contact: Lori Weitzman, ext. 3125

E-mail: weitman@jsofhbg.org

To help clients over the holiday season, the agency would appreciate donations of gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations or stores that sell essential household goods. Also needed are winter gloves and hats, personal care items, bus passes and children's toys and books. The agency also needs volunteers to pack and deliver nutritious Kosher meals due to increased volume over the holiday season. Donations of nonperishable food items such as soup, canned tuna and chicken, canned fruit, crackers and more. Please e-mail the agency for a full listing of requested foods.

Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

717.236.9555

Contact: Terri Travers, ext. 3110

E-mail: t.travers@jewishfedhbg.org

Website: www.jewishharrisburg.org

The agency would appreciate donations of cash or gift cards (Giant, Weis, Lowes, Target). These items will benefit our early learning center, after-care program and our seniors' program. We can also use new card games, board games and other items to work hand eye coordination and dexterity for Rock Steady Boxing for people with Parkinsons. Our agency serves individuals of any religious denomination.

Join Hands Ministry

717.582.7844

Contact: Rita Schaaf or Brooke Haas

E-mail: info@joinhands.help

Website: www.joinhands.help

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Join Hands coordinates the Holiday Network program for Perry County. The agency needs new, unwrapped children's toys, gift cards or sponsorships for needy families. For those who don't have time or are unable to shop, the agency welcomes cash donations and volunteers will purchase the gifts.

Joseph T. Simpson Public Library

717.766.0171

Contact: Sue Erdman

E-mail: serdman@cumberlandcountylibraries.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 13.

The Joseph T. Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg needs gift cards to Amazon, Walmart, Giant, Karns, Weis, Wegmans and Aldi. The gift cards would be used to purchase materials and supplies for our children, teen and adult programs. The agency also needs reams of 20-pound white photocopy paper.

Joshua Group

717.236.4464

Contact: Jeannitta Politis

E-mail: joshcenter@comcast.net

Youth: Appropriate for youth ages 3-18.

The Joshua Group welcomes donations for students participating in its preschool, kindergarten and J Crew after-school programs. The agency wish list includes school supplies (construction paper, crayons, markers, pens, pencils, paint) and personal care supplies. The Joshua Group also welcomes gift cards (Amazon, Giant) to purchase other items the students might need. The Joshua Group supports at-risk youth living in Harrisburg.

MidPenn Legal Services

717.234.0492

Contact: Paula Burkett

E-mail: pburkett@midpenn.org

Youth: Appropriate for Youth. No minimum age.

Donations of wrapped books and small toys are needed for children who come into the office.

Midwest Food Bank

717.614.8095

Contact: Erika Walters

E-mail: ewalters@midwestfoodbank.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are fast approaching, Midwest Food Bank Pennsylvania needs your help in collecting essential food items for friends and neighbors in need.

Items needed are:

- Instant mashed potatoes
- Stuffing
- Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, mixed vegetables)
- Yams
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Turkeys and hams

Donations can be dropped off at Midwest Food Bank PA, located at 2700 Commerce Drive, Middletown, PA 17057 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Monetary donations are also accepted. For every \$1 given, Midwest Food Bank is able to hand out \$30 worth of food! Your financial donations maximize the Food Bank's acquisition of bulk quantities of rescued food.

Please donate here: <https://midwestfoodbank.org/locations/pennsylvania/donate>.

Mission Central

717.766.1533

Contact: Hope Harrison

E-mail: missioncentral@missioncentral.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 10 when accompanied by an adult.

Mission Central assists millions of people each year...locally, nationally and globally. Donations are critical to help fulfill the agency's goal of "Connecting God's Resources with Human Need." In addition to financial donations, other donations are extremely helpful. The items needed to assemble various kits, donations of household goods, furniture, clothing and even computers, can make the difference for someone. You'd be amazed at how much good your GENTLY used furniture or unused medical supplies can do!

Items most needed include: toothbrushes, toothbrush holders, toothpaste, men's socks, winter hats, gloves and scarves, travel size toiletries, first aid items, reusable water bottles, ponchos, school supplies, new toys, board games, children's slippers and drawstring vinyl backpacks.

Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church

717.233.6541

Contact: Quetrina Sims-Shelton

E-mail: gsims-shelton@neighborhoodcenterumc.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Angel Tree Program: The Center will serve 50 families through this program. Each family will be able to select one educational item, one art supply, one stocking stuffer, a special gift and clothing items. To sponsor a family, please contact Quetrina Sims-Shelton.

The agency has several upcoming Family/Community Holiday events and could use assistance, including:

- Thanksgiving/Community Meal Dinner in November: Items needed are food/gift cards, decorations, coats, hats and volunteers to prepare and serve the meal.
- Christmas Party in December: Items needed include decorations, toys, gifts, volunteers and food for the party. Donations are needed to support young mothers and low-income families with basic needs. The agency welcomes donations of gift cards to Target, Giant and WalMart so clients can purchase food and other living essentials. Other items needed are diapers, toilet paper, disinfectant and household items.

The Neighborhood Center's wish list consists of donations of new tables and chairs to host daily programming and community events. No donation is too small.

Newport Public Library

717.567.6860

Contact: Jeanne Heicher

E-mail: nppublib@pa.net

Newport Public Library hosts "Santa Claus Lane Gift Shop" each December. Area children shop for gifts (all donated) for family members for only \$1 per gift. Gifts are wrapped and ready to place under the tree when the children leave the shop. Volunteers are needed to help children shop and wrap gifts.

New Hope Ministries

Mechanicsburg Center

Contact: Alyssa Sutowski, 717.766.7333, ext. 3010

E-mail: asutowski@nhm-pa.net

West Shore/Lemoyne Center

Contact: Megan Warren, 717.774.6255, ext. 602

E-mail: mwarren@nhm-pa.net

Enola Center

Contact: Joanne Fortney, 717.996.9006, ext. 902

E-mail: jfortney@nhm-pa.net

Volunteers are needed for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner distribution and our Christmas Blessing Express program. Help is needed at New Hope locations for sorting and set-up and then for distribution. Typically, we need extra help one week prior to each of our events. Thanksgiving Distribution is scheduled for November 17-18. Christmas Blessings is scheduled for December 5-17.

Please visit <https://nhm-pa.org/holiday-events/> to reserve your time and spot to help volunteer.

Northern Dauphin County Branch YMCA

717.362.9494

Contact: Carol Bostdorf

E-mail: carol.bostdorf@ymcaharrisburg.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Donations of new blankets of any size are needed to distribute to local families in need.

Northern Dauphin Human Services Center

717.905.2700

Contact: Bonnie Kent

E-mail: bkent@dauphincounty.gov

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 7.

The agency will be collecting toys and food for holiday food baskets and gifts for the “Be a Santa to a Senior Citizen” program. The agency also needs volunteers to create ornaments and Christmas cards. The agency also needs volunteer bell ringers for their Salvation Army Unit.

Paxton Ministries

717.236.5508

Contact: Marla Sheaffer

E-mail: msheaffer@paxtonmin.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 12

Paxton Ministries provides affordable housing and support services to adults in need. To make the holidays extra special for Paxton residents, the home provides Christmas gifts, plans special activities, and holds seasonal parties to celebrate. They would appreciate donations of \$5 gift cards to Walmart or Target. Volunteers are also needed to help on weekends with serving meals, especially lunch and dinner. Groups that desire to serve are welcome to email the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@paxtonmin.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA

717.533.4001

Contact: Alyssa Noel

E-mail: anoel@rmhc-centralpa.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Donations are needed year-round, but especially during the holiday season. Contributions to RMHC’s wish list are a great way to help support our families staying at the House. Items on the wish list include: new fleece blankets in fun designs, LEGO sets, ear buds, action figures, Hasbro sets (Marvel, My Little Pony, etc.), infant and toddler toys, UNO cards, PopTarts, granola bars, single serve salty snacks/chips, single serve mac & cheese cups, and single serve oatmeal cups. We are also in need of Sam’s Club, Walmart and Amazon gift cards to help support our families.

The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region

717.233.6755

Contact: Jenny Gallagher Blom, ext. 113

E-mail: Harrisburg.Services@use.salvationarmy.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Giving Tree Program: Purchase gifts for local children in need and deliver them to the agency. Each giving tree tag includes the name, gender, age, clothing sizes and gift ideas for a specific child. Request as many tags as appropriate for the size of your group.

Adopt-a-Family Program: Purchase gifts and a holiday dinner for a specific family, wrap the gifts and deliver them to the family in time for Christmas. The agency will help you choose a family and provide their wish list.

Adopt-a-Senior Program: Purchase the ingredients for a holiday dinner or provide a gift card for a meal along with a small gift (throw blanket, books) and deliver it to the senior in time for the holidays.

Provide a holiday meal basket: Provide a holiday meal for a family in need.

General Gift Collection: Collect NEW toys and/or clothing for children in our Christmas Assistance program whose Giving Tree tag was unfulfilled.

For more information on the opportunities listed above visit: pa.salvationarmy.org/harrisburg-pa/.

Contact: Carly Dubetsky, ext. 137

E-mail: cdubetsky@use.salvationarmy.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 16 (must be accompanied by an adult).

Volunteers are needed in December to sort, pack and distribute gifts for children. This project is appropriate for individuals and groups. Sign up at: www.timetosignup.com/salvationarmyhbg.

Contact: Major David Childs, ext. 115

E-mail: david.childs@use.salvationarmy.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers are needed to help ring bells at the standing kettles. Four and a half hour shifts are available at various locations. Great for families, groups or individuals. Can share shifts with others to split it up. Sign up at: www.timetosignup.com/salvationarmyhbg.

St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen

717.232.1003

Contact: Carol Fagan

E-mail: cfagan@hbgdiocese.org

Volunteers are needed to help serve Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 26. Volunteers are also needed for the soup kitchen's Christmas party on December 19. Small gifts for children and adults are needed for the Christmas party. Also, gift cards for Giant, Weis, Target or Walmart will be very helpful. Cash donations are always welcomed for the day-to-day operation of the soup kitchen.

Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven

717.232.5029 or 717.829.7873

Contact: Denise Sturnes

E-mail: dsturnes@ccuhbg.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age for collection drives. Must be 18 to volunteer on site.

You can help Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven through volunteering and/or doing a holiday drive.

As program that offers services 24/7, we need volunteers for our Overnight shelter which runs from December through March. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, and hang out with the residents for our Thanksgiving dinner on November 23 and our Christmas dinner on December 18.

The following items can be collected in a holiday drive (or year round): Welcome Home tote bags/book bags, morale boosting items such as hair clippers, hats and gloves, paper towels and paper products, soap, toilet paper, detergent, dish detergent, all-purpose cleaners, men bikes, CAT 11-ride bus passes, garage bags, white photocopy paper, men smell good items (cologne, deodorants, shampoo), reusable water bottles, unused medical supplies, rain ponchos, and gift cards to Burger King. Donations of food are appreciated for regular and holiday meals. For those who don't have time or unable to shop, the agency welcomes cash donations or gift cards which will be used to purchase materials and supplies for our residential guest and donations through online stores as Amazon, Walmart, Target, Giant, Weis and Karns.

Susquehanna Service Dogs

717.703.0346

Contact: Vicki Lagaza

E-mail: ssdd@khs.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Donations are needed for the whelping families who care for the puppies from birth to 8 weeks. Laundry detergent, Lysol laundry sanitizer, paper towels, Clorox multi-surface spray, Clorox disinfecting wipes, Baby wipes, Purina Fortiflora Probiotics for Dogs and Powder supplement. Purina One True Instincts or Merrick Power Bites training dog treats, any flavor, are always needed as well as gift cards to Chewy, Amazon and PetSmart.

Tri County Community Action

717.232.9757

Contact: Serina Asekomhe, ext. 113

E-mail: sasekomhe@cactricounty.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Help disrupt and break the cycle of poverty this holiday season. Give the gift of reading by donating books, the gift of stability by donating gift cards, and the gift of service by volunteering. Books should be new and can depict various cultures, backgrounds and languages (including bilingual) for all ages/reading levels. However, we cannot accept books promoting theology or religious values. We also welcome gift cards of any denomination for the purchase of baby care items, household supplies, or work appropriate attire. Volunteers for poverty simulations and monetary donations are appreciated as well.

Donations can be dropped off at our: Main office at 1514 Derry Street, Harrisburg; West Shore office at 123 N. Enola Drive, Second Floor, Enola; or Perry County office at 8407 Spring Road, Suite 1, New Bloomfield. Volunteers can register at www.cactricounty.org/volunteer.

Tri County OIC Adult Learning Center

717.238.7318

Contact: Bob Harden

E-mail: rharden@tricityoic.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

The agency needs new or gently used children's books and educational games to assist clients with holiday gifts. Also needed are \$10 gift cards to local grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations to use as incentives and rewards.

UCP Central PA

717.737.3477

Contact: Terri Dorsey

E-mail: terri.dorsey@ucpcentralpa.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Holiday Gift Wrap: Volunteers are needed to staff a gift wrap booth at the Capital City Mall from December 1-24. Daily shifts are available and require at least four people per shift during the week and five during the weekends. This is ideal for individuals or groups: www.ucpgiftwrap.org.

Adopt-a-Family: Purchase gifts for a family with young children (including children with disabilities) or an adult with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. The gifts should be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas. Available after November 1: www.ucpwishlist.com.

Donate Program Supplies: Purchase supplies for residential homes and community participation supports programs. This includes items such as art supplies, small household items and recreational items. Available after November 1: www.ucpwishlist.com.

United Way of the Capital Region

717.724.4055

Contact: Heidi Neuhaus

E-mail: hneuhaus@uwcr.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Holiday Meal in a Box: Help us provide a holiday "meal in a box" to families being served through one of our initiatives. We will provide a list of all the items needed for a holiday meal (nonperishable) including a small gift card to purchase a turkey or ham. Once you collect the items, you can decorate the box and include a card for the recipient family. Boxes should be delivered to United Way of the Capital Region no later than December 15. We can provide a customized flyer to help with your efforts. All meal boxes will be distributed to families in need who are participating in our initiatives.

Upper Dauphin Human Services Center, Inc.

717.453.9352

Contact: Kristy Enders

E-mail: udhumanservices@gmail.com

Youth: Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 12.

Each year the agency provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for families in need. Donations of turkeys (or canned hams) for 100-120 families are needed for both holidays. The agency can make arrangements to pick up donations of multiple (10 or more) turkeys. The agency also needs gift cards in the amounts of \$10 or \$15 for Weis or Giant.

The agency needs volunteers to help pack the food boxes for distribution to recipient families. Volunteers are also needed to sort donations for the Christmas program.

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania

717. 238.2531

Contact: Paul Zavinsky

E-mail: pzavinsky@vrocp.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

This season, consider making a gift to support Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) to help an individual who is blind or visually impaired. There are several ways you can help:

- A contribution of \$25 will see that one client will have the opportunity to select an eyeglass frame for glasses that will be fitted with prescription lenses to meet their vision needs.
- Gift cards are always appreciated. Cards allow the agency to provide snacks or arts and craft items for Life Enrichment Group meetings and office supplies like keyboard batteries and compact discs for Audio Services duplication purposes.

Wildheart Ministries/Love the Hill

404.234.0866

Contact: Stacey Foust

E-mail: contact@wildheartministries.net

Youth: Appropriate for youth.

Wildheart is located in Allison Hill, one of the most underserved communities in Harrisburg, serving residents through beautification and clean-up projects. To foster connection and community, Wildheart also hosts multiple block parties every year. You can help by donating the following items: folding tables, 10'x10' tents, paper products and gift cards for food (Costco, Giant).

Another way we bring life and hope to Allison Hill is through our urban farm, community gardens, trash removal and beautification projects. You can help by donating items such as: new or gently used gas-powered outdoor equipment, a mobile watering tank, work gloves, hand gardening tools, shovels and rakes, contractor trash bags, and Home Depot/Lowes gift cards. Monetary donations of any kind are also very much appreciated and will go directly into our efforts to Love the Hill.

Christmas at The Mansion: Donations (cash and material) and volunteers are needed for our seventh annual event hosted in the heart of Allison Hill. Donations of age-appropriate gifts for children (boys and girls) ages infant to 18 years are also needed. The gifts will then be sorted and given out by volunteers on December 9.

YWCA Greater Harrisburg

717.234.7931

Contact: Jennifer Sands

E-mail: holiday_giving@ywcahbq.org

Youth: Appropriate for youth, adults, families.

Holiday Giving Program: Each holiday season, the YWCA Greater Harrisburg partners with local individuals and organizations to support hundreds of families in need. Residents and clients in need sign up for the program by submitting a wish list consisting of one need and one wish. We are seeking community members to adopt a client's wish list!

Another way to get involved is by sponsoring items on our general wish list. These items are distributed to new women and children that arrive in the shelter over the holidays.

We welcome individuals that are delivering gifts or volunteering to help wrap presents. Volunteer opportunities will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.