



# HOLIDAY CONNECTIONS

Holiday Project and  
Agency Wish List



October 2025

## 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](mailto: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!

For more information, contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717.724.4055 or via e-mail [hneuhaus@uwcr.org](mailto:hneuhaus@uwcr.org).

## **Amiracle4sure, Inc.**

**717.232.0100**

**Contact:** Marsha Curry-Nixon

**E-mail:** [mcurrynixon@amiracle4sure.com](mailto: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 & Perry Counties (CPARC)**

**717.249.2611**

**Contact:** Victoria Burczy

**E-mail:** [vburczy@cparc.org](mailto:vburczy@cparc.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth; must be 18 to volunteer

The Advocacy & Family Education department needs acrylic frames/stands for signs and resources. They also need cases of water bottles and seasonal décor for quarterly dances. Volunteers are always needed and welcome at dances. Residential Services are beginning a large project for paperwork within the group homes and are in need of plastic binder tab dividers (75-100 packs total). Community Participation Programs within CPARC needs craft supplies and various gift cards for places in the local community to encourage outings and activities. The Community Fusion Day Program is in need of Walmart gift cards.

## **Bountiful Blessings, Inc.**

**717.790.2620**

**Contact:** Theresa Orendi

**E-mail:** [bountifulblessings2001@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **Brethren Housing Association**

**717.233.6016**

**Contact:** Blair Grove, ext. 818

**E-mail:** [bgrove@bha-pa.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:caitlinssmiles@comcast.net)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth. Minimum age 5.

Caitlin's Smiles needs supplies to fill Bags of Smiles and Coping Kits for children in hospitals and specialty pediatric clinics. Needed items include: coloring books, journals, small toys/books, stress/fidget toys, word search books/crossword puzzle books/Mad Libs, 24-pack crayons and stickers. We create age-appropriate bags for toddlers/preschool, elementary and preteen/teen.

Gift cards for Walmart, Amazon, Dollar Tree and Dollar General are also appreciated. New items only please! You can find both virtual and in-person volunteer opportunities on our website as well as how to donate. [www.caitlins-smiles.org](http://www.caitlins-smiles.org).

## **Capital Area Head Start (Keystone Service Systems)**

**717.541.1795**

**Contact:** Marissa Thomas

**E-Mail:** [mathomas@khs.org](mailto:mathomas@khs.org)

Donations are greatly appreciated to support low-income families with basic needs. CAHS is a free and comprehensive program serving families and children prior to transitioning into kindergarten. Our home-based program serves expectant families and children from birth to three years old.

Gift cards to Giant, Target, and Walmart are particularly helpful as it allows families to individualize purchases and limit storage space. Other items needed include blankets, space heaters, CAT 11-ride bus passes, cleaning products, laundry products, bed sheets, towels, crockpots and safety items (baby gates, door latches, safety plugs, etc.). Additional items are rain ponchos and umbrellas for children and adults. New socks and underwear for boys and girls including sizes 3-4 and 5-6 for both.

## **Capital Area Greenbelt Association**

**717.571.2535**

**Contact:** Cindy Hogeman

**E-Mail:** [chogeman@gmail.com](mailto:chogeman@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:** Ben Nolt

**E-mail:** [bnolt@catra.net](mailto:bnolt@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.



CATRA offers opportunities for members of the community to donate time, talents and resources to help others achieve personal goals utilizing animal-assisted therapies.

CATRA is in need of funds to support care of the animals. 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), 55-gal. 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](mailto: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, bath towels, washcloths 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:** Joe Arthur, VP/Development

**E-mail:** [jarthur@centralpafoodbank.org](mailto:jarthur@centralpafoodbank.org)

**Youth:** Age 14 or above for volunteer sessions

We welcome financial contributions and volunteer help during the holiday season and all year long, but the holiday season is particularly important for our mission. The easiest way to donate or sign up for a volunteer session is through our website at: [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org) For every \$1 dollar donated, our Food Bank can provide 4 healthy meals for a neighbor facing hunger. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about how you can support our mission!.

## **Christ Lutheran Health Ministries** **717.236.8382**

**Contact:** Rev. Matthew Best

**E-mail:** [pastor@christharrisburg.org](mailto:pastor@christharrisburg.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth with adult assistance.

The free health clinic needs: 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.

We also welcome gift cards (Walmart and Target are most requested) for families to buy gifts for the holidays.

## **Christian Churches United (HELP Ministries)** **717.230.9550**

**Contact:** Leah Payne

**Email:** [lpayne@ccuhbg.org](mailto:lpayne@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 that need 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 Women's Overnight Shelter. Volunteers serve from 7-10 p.m., two to four times a month. Needed items all-purpose cleaners, cream/sugar packets for coffee, sanitizing spray/wipes, gallon size Ziplock bags, underwear (briefs), Swiffer wet pads, and much more. See the full list at <https://www.ccuhbg.org/what-we-do/overnight-shelters.html>

## **Cumberland County Library System Foundation**

**717.240.6174**

**Contact:** Jairee Counterman

**E-mail:** [jcounterman@cumberlandcountylibraries.org](mailto: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](http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org).

## **Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties**

**717.258.4806**

**Contact:** Amanda Novak

**E-mail:** [anovak@dvscp.org](mailto:anovak@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:** Kristen Herman, ext. 4

**E-mail:** [kherman@downtowndailybread.org](mailto:kherman@downtowndailybread.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth, minimum age 16

Gifts of Comfort and Warmth: The agency assists 100+ homeless individuals every day in our shelter and kitchen programs. Warm clothing and under garments are always needed. Please donate new or gently used hooded sweatshirts (men's sizes M-3XL), knit or fleece hats (dark colors), and packs of men's or women's underwear (size m-2x). We also are collecting canned good items and gift cards for our pantry for the holiday season for the families that visit our pantry.

If your group would like to volunteer visit: <https://form.jotform.com/242736354379163>. To schedule a donation drop off, e-mail [kherman@downtowndailybread.org](mailto:kherman@downtowndailybread.org). For more information, visit [www.downtowndailybread.org](http://www.downtowndailybread.org).

## **Friends of Midland**

**717.579.0003**

**Contact:** Barbara Barksdale

**E-mail:** [msscmyldy@aol.com](mailto:msscmyldy@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**

**717.919.2590**

**Contact:** Rebecca Cason

**E-mail:** [rcason@healthystepsdiaperbank.com](mailto:rcason@healthystepsdiaperbank.com)

Holiday Volunteers: We have openings for corporate and civic groups to volunteer at Healthy Steps Diaper Bank on December 3, 10 or 17. Give the gift of comfort and joy to a local baby by wrapping diaper packs with your colleagues. Groups of up to 10 are welcome and must request and register in advance using the email above.

Holiday Donations: Diapers and monetary donations are greatly appreciated during the holiday season  
<https://linktr.ee/HSDB>

## **Historical Society of Dauphin County**

**717.233.3462**

**Contact:** Christine Turner

**E-mail:** [director@dauphincountyhistory.org](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Staci Mathura, ext. 3130

**E-mail:** [smathura@jfsfghbg.org](mailto:smathura@jfsfghbg.org)

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is a human service agency offering a variety of programs to clients from all backgrounds and denominations. Our Resettlement Agency welcomes donations of gift cards (Giant, Aldi, Walmart, Weis, Community Aid, Target) and in-kind donations of seasonal adult and children's clothing, winter accessories, school supplies, and monetary contributions. Our Food Pantry accepts Kosher items, pantry staples, canned goods, and hygiene products. Volunteers are needed for holiday events, Kosher Meals on Wheels, and Refugee Resettlement. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

## **Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg**

**717.236.9555**

**Contact:** Christine Cutuli, ext. 3200

**E-mail:** [c.cutuli@jewishfedhbg.org](mailto:c.cutuli@jewishfedhbg.org)

**Website:** [www.jewishharrisburg.org](http://www.jewishharrisburg.org)

The agency would appreciate donations of Amazon gift cards and Lowes gift cards in any denomination. The gift cards would be used to purchase supplies and sports equipment for our various children and youth programs, as well as for our Parkinson's programs. They would also be used to purchase tools and materials to build and create the sets and costumes for our Ellie Goldenberg Theatre program. Our organization serves individuals of any religious denomination and serves as a central unifying communal organization in Central PA, providing cultural, health and wellness support to our members and the greater community.

## **Join Hands Ministry**

**717.582.7844**

**Contact:** Rita Schaaf

**E-mail:** [info@joinhands.help](mailto:info@joinhands.help)

**Website:** [www.joinhands.org](http://www.joinhands.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Join Hands Ministry coordinates its Christmas 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](mailto: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:** Jeannetta Politis

**E-mail:** [joshcenter@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## **LHM Social Services Foundation**

**717.723.3993**

**Contact:** Ellen Abbot, 717.569.3807

**E-mail:** [ellen.abbott@lhm-foundation.org](mailto:ellen.abbott@lhm-foundation.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth

LHM Social Services Foundation is launching our new transitional housing program, Horizons, in January of 2026. As we welcome our inaugural program participants, we are asking for donations of personal care items to welcome them into their new home. These personal care items will go a long way in providing a welcoming, comfortable, and self-care encouraging environment not only for these first participants, but for all others who move in afterwards. Specific items needed:



- Disinfecting cleaning wipes
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Tissue boxes
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Liquid hand soap
- Bath soap (bar or liquid)
- Toothpaste

- Toothbrushes (adults and children)
- Deodorant (unisex scents)
- Shampoo and Conditioner (including those specifically formulated for textured hair)
- Menstrual care products
- Disposable razors and shaving cream

## **Midwest Food Bank**

**717.614.8104**

**Contact:** Janice Reinke

**E-mail:** [jreinke@midwestfoodbank.org](mailto:jreinke@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 or mixed vegetables), stuffing, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), yams, 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.- 3 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 at <https://midwestfoodbank.org/locations/pennsylvania/donate>.

## **Mission Central**

**717.766.1533**

**Contact:** Hope Harrison

**E-mail:** [missioncentral@missioncentral.org](mailto: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. In 2024, we assisted over 8.7 million people, many of them living in Pennsylvania. 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. Needs are great and requests increase during the holiday season. You would be amazed at how something small can make a huge difference in someone's life.

Items most needed during this season include: socks - all sizes, toiletries, small, new toys, board games, first aid items, school supplies, children's slippers, underwear (all sizes), backpacks, hats, and gloves/mittens.

## **Newport Public Library**

**717.567.6860**

**Contact:** Jeanne Heicher

**E-mail:** [nppublib@pa.net](mailto: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:** Danine Jaykus, 717.766.7333, ext. 3010

**E-mail:** [djaykus@nhm-pa.net](mailto:djaykus@nhm-pa.net)

### **West Shore/Lemoyne Center**

**Contact:** Brenda Harding-Albert, 717.774.6255, ext. 602

**E-mail:** [bharding@nhm-pa.net](mailto:bharding@nhm-pa.net)

### **Enola Center**

**Contact:** Joanne Fortney, 717.996.9006, ext. 902

**E-mail:** [jfortney@nhm-pa.net](mailto: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.

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:** Danielle Mace

**E-mail:** [danielle.mace@ymcaharrisburg.org](mailto:danielle.mace@ymcaharrisburg.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

Donations of new blankets, personal hygiene items, and cold weather accessories 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 snack-sized candy, single serve snacks (chips, pretzels, etc.), packs of crackers, and granola bars. Volunteers are also needed to help on weekends with serving meals, especially lunch and dinner, with shifts lasting two hours. Groups that desire to serve are welcome to email the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@paxtonmin.org](mailto:volunteer@paxtonmin.org).

## **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA**

**717.533.4001**

**Contact:** Alyssa Noel

**E-mail:** [anoel@rmhc-centralpa.org](mailto: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:** Yolanda Haywood Gross, Ext 113

**E-mail:** [Harrisburg.Services@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Harrisburg.Services@use.salvationarmy.org)

**Contact:** Lily Markley, Ext 139

**E-mail:** [Lily.Markley@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Lily.Markley@use.salvationarmy.org)

**Angel 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. [Sponsor Registration](#)

**Adopt-a-Senior Program:** Purchase a gift card for a meal along with a small gift (throw blanket, books) and deliver it to the senior or to TSA in time for the holidays. [Sponsor Registration](#)

**General Gift Collection:** Collect NEW toys and/or clothing for children in our Christmas Assistance program whose Angel Tree tag was unfulfilled. Our Amazon wishlist can be found here > [Amazon Wish List](#)

**Volunteer:** Each Christmas, The Salvation Army Harrisburg operates a Christmas program whereby we provide new toys, clothing, and meals for over 5,000 children. Volunteers are needed to sort, pack, and distribute the gifts and food for these local families. This opportunity is appropriate for individuals (16+) and groups. Christmas intake assistance occurs from October through November. Sign up here - <https://bit.ly/TSAChrismas2025Volunteer>

All volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are also available on our website:

<https://pa.salvationarmy.org/harrisburg-pa/holiday-opportunities>

## **St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen**

**717.232.1003**

**Contact:** Carol Fagan

**E-mail:** [cfagan@hbgdiocese.org](mailto: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 21. 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](mailto:dsturnes@ccuhbg.org)

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

Support Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven by volunteering or organizing a holiday drive! We welcome youth with adult supervision, but on-site volunteers must be at least 18. We need help from December to March for our 24/7 residential program and Overnight Shelter, as well as for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

You can collect items like paper products, soap, toilet paper, dish detergent, all-purpose cleaners, CAT 11-ride bus passes, 60-gallon garbage bags, and men's personal care items. Food donations for our meals are also welcome!

If shopping isn't possible, monetary donations or gift cards are great ways to help us purchase essentials. Thank you for your support—together, we can make a difference!

## **Theatre Harrisburg**

**717.232.5501**

**Contact:** Alexandra Johnson

**E-mail:** [marketing@theatreharrisburg.com](mailto:marketing@theatreharrisburg.com)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth

Join us in helping our furry friends this holiday season. Accepting donations of dog and cat food (wet or dry) kitty litter, toys, paper towels, or monetary donations can also be accepted. We'll be collecting from Dec 1-19. Drop off at the theatre 10 am-2 pm and also during the run of our 1940's radio play, *Merry Christmas George Bailey*, December 12-14. Bring to the theatre and place under our lobby Christmas tree.

## **Tri County Community Action**

**717.232.9757**

**Contact:** Serina Asekomhe, ext. 113

**E-mail:** [sasekomhe@cactricounty.org](mailto: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](http://www.cactricounty.org/volunteer).

## **Tri-County OIC Adult Learning Center**

**717.309.4623**

**Contact:** Christina Johnson

**E-mail:** [cjohnson@tricityoic.org](mailto:cjohnson@tricityoic.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth. No minimum age.

We are currently seeking donations to support our community, with a special focus on the holiday season. The following items are needed:

- Slippers
- Hats and gloves
- Washcloths and towels
- Lotion
- Gift cards (Target, Walmart, movie passes, etc.)

Items may be dropped off at Tri-County OIC, 500 Maclay Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

## **United Way of the Capital Region**

**717.724.4055**

**Contact:** Heidi Neuhaus

**E-mail:** [hneuhaus@uwcr.org](mailto: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. We can provide you with new boxes to use. 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 programs.

Thanksgiving boxes must be received by Friday, November 14, 2025.

Christmas meal boxes must be received by Friday, December 12, 2025.

**United Way’s Access to Health Care Program:** Families served by the program have needs for hygiene and personal care items including: dental kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss), first aid supplies (band-aids, antibacterial ointment, thermometer, cold pack) 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.

## **Upper Dauphin Human Services Center, Inc.**

**717.453.9352**

**Contact:** Kristy Enders

**E-mail:** [udhumanservices@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 at any level, designated for the Eye Clinic, can become part of an agency fund for client items that are medically necessary, but not covered financially through partnership programs. For example: a need for tinted lenses or transition lenses.
- The Eye Clinic also has an on-going need to replenish eye drops that are used in every routine examination, for a variety of purposes (\$30-\$60 contribution):
  - Dyes that help the doctors identify a variety of eye issues
  - Numbing drops for client comfort during examinations
  - Dilation drops, that allow doctors to check the inside health of the eye
- Alexa (\$40 donation): Visually impaired individuals can enjoy VROCP Audio Services or other favorite content such as voice activated music, audiobooks, and podcasts, via Bluetooth at any location with a Wi-Fi connection.



## **Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania**

**1.855.202.4741**

**Contact:** Amanda Zellner

**E-mail:** [azellner@voapa.org](mailto:azellner@voapa.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth. No minimum age for collection drives.

This holiday season, you can help children and youth served across Pennsylvania through our holiday toy drive. Our agency provides specialized support to veteran families experiencing homelessness and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We can provide individual family wish lists to those interested in shopping for specific families. We also accept gifts, including winter apparel and household items to support all age groups. We are requesting gifts and gift cards for families to the following stores: Amazon, Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, The Children's Place, Burlington Coat Factory, Bath & Body Works, Giant Food Stores, ShopRite, Weis Markets and Aldi.

Gifts and toys may be dropped off at the regional office (2112 Walnut Street, Harrisburg) between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit: <https://www.voapa.org/holiday-toy-drive/> to learn more or call 855.202.4741.

## **Wildheart Ministries/Love the Hill**

**717.343.3223**

**Contact:** Nic Dunlap

**E-mail:** [contact@wildheartministries.net](mailto: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, 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 6.

## **YWCA of Carlisle& Cumberland County**

**717.243.3818**

**Contact:** Katherine Smith

**E-mail:** [ksmith@ywcacarlisle.org](mailto:ksmith@ywcacarlisle.org)

**Youth:** Appropriate for youth, adults, families.

The Pad Pantry Project provides free period products to those in need. We offer a space where anyone can access these essentials without questions or judgment. Beyond just hygiene, we recognize that menstrual products are a fundamental aspect of holistic well-being. The project also extends its support to local school bathrooms, ensuring that students can navigate their school days with comfort and confidence.

This holiday season, while many of us are making wish lists and wrapping gifts, we invite you to consider adding a different kind of gift to the mix—one that fosters dignity and care. All types of menstrual products are welcome, as long as they are individually wrapped. Non-scented products are most requested, but whether it's disposable pads, tampons, washable cloth pads, or menstrual cups, we appreciate them all.

Product donations allow us to provide immediate relief, while monetary gifts help us order additional items and cover operational costs, ensuring this support continues well beyond the holidays. You can also purchase directly from our Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/22IWzRG>

**Contact:** Kim Greenawalt

**E-mail:** [holiday\\_giving@ywcahbg.org](mailto:holiday_giving@ywcahbg.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. Current residents and clients of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg 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.