



2023 Holiday Giving Guide

Gift Giving Programs

Catholic Charities - Share the Joy

Share the Joy supports clients from various backgrounds, including families, individuals, and those in our shelters. Gift giving programs include family wishlists, Amazon wishlists (Single Gifts of Joy), and Gifts for Francis Friends (men's shelter). [More information](#)

Villa of Hope - Holiday Wishes

Villa of Hope's Holiday Wishes program makes sure that every young person served by the Villa gets holiday gifts. Holiday Wishes 2023 will begin after Thanksgiving. Stop by any Starbucks or branch of The Summit Federal Credit Union and pick up a wish tag – each tag has a youth's three wishes! All unwrapped gifts are dropped off at the Starbucks or The Summit Federal Credit Union where you picked up the tag. [More Information](#)

YWCA - Adopt-a-Family

The Adopt-a-Family program supports women and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. [More Information](#)

Salvation Army - Adopt-a-Family, Angel Tree, Gift Bags for the Homeless, and more

The Salvation Army has many opportunities for families, businesses, and community groups to support families and individuals over the holidays and bring joy back into the season for those who are struggling. [More Information](#)

Willow Domestic Violence Center – Holiday Gift Drive

Willow supports survivors in our community during the holiday season. For survivors of domestic violence, the holidays are not always happy and bright. Taking the first step towards safety often means that families have to leave everything behind. Give survivors of domestic violence the gift of normalcy this year. Options include the Purple Box Wish List and Adopt-a-Family. [More Information](#)

Golisano Children's Hospital CARES Center - Children in Need of Cheer Program

The Golisano Children's Health Home Program is dedicated to connecting families to community resources and strengthening their ability to maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle. Our team is committed to helping families by reducing the financial and emotional stress that go along with the holiday season. You can help too! Please consider donating or adopting a family or a child this holiday season. [More Information](#)

Pirate Toy Fund - 2023 Pirate Toy Fund Toy Drive

The Pirate Toy Fund's main holiday toy drive is November 24 - December 2. Drop off a new, unwrapped toy so that a needy child in our area can benefit at the holidays and through the year. Go shopping with your kids and ask them to pick out a toy they know another child in our community would love. Then drop off the NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS at any area Wegmans locations, Kinecta Federal Credit Union, Eastview Mall, Marketplace Mall, the Mall at Greece Ridge, or Mark's Pizzeria . . . and feel great that you're helping other kids in our area at the time they most need comfort and joy. You can also donate a toy online! [More Information](#)

Volunteers of America - Adopt a Program and Warm Winter Essentials

Spread holiday cheer to an entire program by donating gifts for every child at one of our family shelters or all of the adults at one of our residential programs. Hold a drive in your office to



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collect warm winter items like coats, blankets, hats, gloves and scarves for adults and children. These are some of the most highly requested items at our programs [More Information](#)

Hillside Family of Agencies - Special Santa

Spread holiday joy for children and families in need! With your support, Special Santa 2023 will brighten the holidays for thousands of youth and families served by Hillside. Your participation makes all the difference for children in need—and there are so many ways to play a part! Options include shopping via an Amazon Gift List, bringing gifts to a community location, and donating to the Special Santa Fund. [More Information](#)

Making Spirits Bright - Adopt a Family or Person

Making Spirits Bright is a referral-based Adopt-a-Family organization in the greater Rochester, NY area. [More Information](#)

Cameron Community Ministries (pending 2023 update)

Donate unwrapped gifts for infants to teens. [More Information](#)

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester - Season of Gratitude

Opportunities include sending a gift from the Amazon Wish List and purchasing gift cards. [More Information](#)

DePaul - Holiday Helper Program

You can make a wish come true for those we serve when you adopt a DePaul resident in need this holiday season. Individuals, businesses, schools, and service and faith-based organizations can “adopt” clients from DePaul’s mental health residential programs who may not have family support during this meaningful time of year. Participants can select from items on a wish list or choose to donate generic gifts such as hats, gloves, personal care items or socks for adults. [More Information](#)

Spiritus Christi Church - Adopt a Family

In the space of just four hours, 100+ families signed up for help with Christmas gifts for their children, ages infant-17 years old. If you would like to become a donor to help these families for Christmas, please use the sign up form. [More Information](#)

St. Peters Kitchen - Toy Shop

Every year, we run a toy store where community members can pick out new toys and gifts for children in their household. We need to fill the toy store with lots of great toys and gifts for children ages 12 and under. Board games, dolls, arts and crafts, books, etc are needed. [More Information](#)

CURE Childhood Cancer Association - Holiday Gifts

Please consider gifting our families this holiday season - it's as easy as picking your price range, choosing from our list and checking out. We have Amazon Wish Lists to shop off of to help make the holidays joyful for our families. [More Information](#)

Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County – Mitten Tree

Please consider donating mittens, gloves, hats, socks, scarves and hoodies in sizes child to adult.



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Delphi Rise – Gifts of Warmth for the Holidays

Many of the individuals we serve are homeless or returning from incarceration and trying to make ends meet. For the winter months, we would love to provide them with warm gloves/mittens, winter hats, Hot Hands, cozy blankets and warm socks. [More Information](#)

Center for Youth – Holiday “Shoe Box” packages and Giving Tree

We are asking the community/teams/ businesses to put together person hygiene kits for the holidays. You can wrap a shoe box filled with shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, lotion, Kleenex, Chapstick, a pair of socks, a pair of thermal gloves, etc. We will also host a Giving Tree over the holidays. Children/youth ask for a holiday gift, \$25-\$30 dollar limit. We put a tree in our lobby and community members can select a tag, go out and buy the gift and return it to the Center at 905 Monroe Ave for the young person to enjoy. [More Information](#)

*Note: Many nonprofit organizations in the Rochester area need more cash donations during the holiday season. If you are looking to support a certain cause or help a particular group in need, check out the large nonprofit database on the [Roc the Day website!](#)

Food for Families

Catholic Charities – Holiday Meals

Help a family make their own holiday meal! Your \$25 Aldi or Walmart gift card will help a family create a wonderful holiday meal to share. [More information](#)

Irondequoit Community Cupboard - Christmas baskets and stockings

Donate items to be included in Christmas baskets, as well as items for stockings to be distributed to seniors or adults with disabilities who may spend the holidays alone, or a single parent with no other family in town. [More Information](#)

Pittsford Food Cupboard - Christmas Needs

Donate items such as coffee, corned beef hash, specialty jams, hot cocoa, oatmeal, and baking items. Drop off by December 17. [More Information](#)

Cameron Community Ministries - Christmas Food Baskets (pending 2023 update)

Food donation suggestions include frozen ham/turkey, potatoes, stuffing, pie crust/filling, canned vegetables.

Volunteers of America - Sponsor a Meal

Food is an important part of the holidays. Cover the cost of a special meal for individuals and families at one of our programs, with the option of volunteering in-person. [More Information](#)

Brighton Food Cupboard – December Holiday Baskets

The Brighton Central School District and Brighton Food Cupboard - a program of Jewish Family Services - are working together to offer December Holiday baskets to families who would benefit from them. [More Information](#)

Mary Cariola Center - Food Pantry Needs

Like many families, our families are those that fall through the cracks. They make too much to qualify for many services but not enough to make ends meet. With rising prices, it makes their



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struggle even greater. Your donation of any of the items listed below would be greatly appreciated. [More Information](#)

SWEM Community Services – Christmas Baskets

SWEM is a community food cupboard serving the southwest region of Rochester/Monroe County. Please call (585) 235-4494 to receive a list of food items needed to make a Christmas basket and information about delivery of donation.

Beyond the Sanctuary – Holiday Food Drive

Help us bring cheer and kindness to families in our community by donating to Beyond the Sanctuary's December Holiday Food Drive! We are currently seeking donations of non-perishable foods for traditional holiday dinners (see website for our most wanted items). Our goal is to provide holiday dinners to 700 families this December! Donations can be dropped off on December 3rd and 10th in the vestibule of Memorial AME Zion Church. [More Information](#)

*Note – All food pantries in the Rochester area could use more donations during the holiday season. Find a list of most food pantries in Monroe County [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Peter's Kitchen

On Friday, December 22nd, from noon to 1 pm, we will serve a feast - a great volunteer opportunity. [More Information](#)

Salvation Army - Holiday Meals & Food Baskets

The Salvation Army helps bring people together for the holidays by providing everything needed for a traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner at home and hot meals at our centers where hundreds gather. You can volunteer by collecting, sorting or packing family meals. [More Information](#)

Salvation Army - Christmas Toy Distribution

The Salvation Army of Greater Rochester sets up a Toy Shop every holiday season. Volunteers are needed to help families who come in by touring them through the shop and helping them pick out toys. Volunteers also assist at the check-in table, by restocking toys in the shop and by gifting each family with the right free food bag for their household size. Shifts are available December - 18-21. Please see the United Way's Volunteers United website for registration. [More Information](#)

Salvation Army - Toy Shop Setup

An important step in helping the most people at Christmas time is preparation for events that occur during the weeks prior. To prepare for upcoming "shopping" tours, volunteers will decorate/set up the large warehouse area as a shopping space for parents. Volunteers will also arrange and group toys by age and interest. This allows for order and functionality when families come to "gift shop" for their children. Volunteers need to be able bodied as it is physical work with the set up of the Toy Shop. Shifts are available December 11-14. Please visit the United Way's Volunteer United website for registration. [More Information](#)



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Brighton Food Cupboard - Channukah and Christmas Basket Delivery (pending 2023 update)

Driving to JFS client residents' to deliver Channukah and Christmas food baskets on December 14 and 16. Delivery includes driving to locations around Monroe County. Baskets may weigh up to 40 lbs.

Trillium Health - Food Pantry (pending 2023 update)

Holiday Volunteers Needed to assist in Client Choice Food Pantry for December. Morning and afternoon shifts available! Distribution days are December 12-16. Groups are welcome!

Cameron Community Ministries - Holiday Opportunities (pending 2023 update)

Opportunities include sorting food donations, distributing Food Baskets, and helping with a holiday party.

Rochester Family Mission – Christmas Basket Distribution

Shifts are available on December 21 from 9am-12pm (arrive 8:30am) and 12pm-4pm (arrive 11:30am) at 180 Raines Park, Rochester, NY 14613. In first shift, volunteers will be responsible for unloading food trucks, organizing food, and preparing for holiday basket distribution. In second shift, volunteers will manage the flow of clients to enter the parking lot, load boxes into the client's vehicle, manage the flow of clients exiting the parking lot, and clean up parking lot and gym. [More Information](#)

*Note - Volunteer United by the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes has a [United for the Holidays section](#) where some of these opportunities are listed, and more may be posted.

Holiday Events

A Holiday Musical Cocktail Party at the George Eastman Museum – benefitting the Eastman Museum Council

November 30, 2023 at 6:30pm. Take a musical stroll through the museum's complex. Experience a dueling organ presentation on George Eastman's very own Aeolian pipe organs (ca.1905 and 1918), the original 1895 grand Steinway piano, and many other musical surprises! All guests have the opportunity to enjoy one complementary beverage of their choice, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$75. [More Information](#)

Lollypop Farm – Holiday Pet Photos

Bring the family along to create festive, winter-themed memories with your pet. For those interested, Santa will be available to join in photos. December 1, 2, and 3 - \$50 per sitting. [More Information](#)

8th Annual Kringle Krawl for a Cause – benefitting the Pancreatic Cancer Association & Substance Overdose Awareness Recovery Services (S.O.A.R.S.)

December 2, 2023, 12:30-5:00pm, beginning at Murphy's Law Irish Pub, 370 East Avenue Rochester. [More Information](#)

Society for the Protection and Care of Children - Angel Party

We would be delighted to have you join us for SPCC's Annual Angel Party on Monday, December 4th, from 6-9 PM at the Jackrabbit Club (40 Anderson Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607).



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Come and enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, auction items, and merriment as we celebrate in honor of the children and families SPCC supported in 2023, and raise funds and good wishes to continue our work in 2024. Tickets are \$50. [More Information](#)

House of Mercy – Mingle & Jingle

December 7, 6:00-9:00pm at Kin Event Space. Join us for an evening of festive fun and goodwill at the Mingle Jingle, a charity event to support the House of Mercy. Indulge in the holiday spirit as you mingle with friends old and new, savoring exquisite passed hors d'oeuvres and delicious cocktails. It's the perfect occasion to celebrate the season while making a difference in our community. [More Information](#)

Bivona Child Advocacy Center - Holiday Lights Tour

Take the tour from December 9-January 1. Bivona Child Advocacy Center has partnered with Rochester Gas & Electric and some of the brightest and most festively decorated homes in our area to bring you a fun, family-centered event. Holiday Lights Tour presented by Montage Wealth Management is a great way to celebrate the holiday magic while supporting children in our community. SLEIGH BOX PICK-UP EVENT WITH SANTA: Saturday, December 9, 5pm - 8pm. Drive-thru, pick-up your sleigh boxes and say hello to Santa & Mrs. Claus. [More Information](#)

Santa Stampede Fun Run and Walk - benefitting Bivona Child Advocacy Center

December 17, 2023 at Fleet Feet @The Armory - a 3ish Mile Fun Run/Walk starting at 10:00am. [More Information](#)

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***This Guide may be shared and copied for the purpose of disseminating philanthropic opportunities in the Rochester area, so long as Flower City Philanthropy is indicated as the author.**