

**VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
**2019 Holiday Guide**

happy holidays



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## You can make a difference.

The United Way of Berks County Volunteer Center  
helps you help others.

The **2019 Holiday Giving & Volunteering Guide** is designed to provide you with information on the needs of agencies serving Berks County. You can make a difference in the life of a child, family, older adult, organization or individual during the holiday season. This guide will provide details on donations, volunteer opportunities and “fulfilling wishes”. Please contact the agency you wish to assist and inform them of your interest in helping.

*\* Please be sure to mention you read about their needs in the United Way of Berks County Holiday Giving & Volunteering Guide \**

### Tips on Holiday Giving and Volunteering

- You can donate as an individual or bring together friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, or church group members.
- Please contact the agency directly **before** you begin a collection drive or volunteer project on their behalf – the agency’s needs may have changed.
- Please keep in mind that agencies are often overwhelmed during the Holiday season; please be patient.
- Remember the Holiday season comes once a year, but volunteer opportunities are available all year long! The best Holiday gift you can give our community is your commitment to service. Please visit [www.uwberks.org](http://www.uwberks.org) to find opportunities that match your interests and availability.



#### For more information, contact:

Darby Wiekrykas  
Volunteer Engagement Program Manager  
[darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org)

United Way of Berks County  
P.O. Box 702, Reading PA 19603  
(610) 685-4574  
[www.uwberks.org](http://www.uwberks.org)



**VOLUNTEER  
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## **American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter**

### ***Veterans Holiday Basket Program Santa's Helpers***

Help deliver baskets to local Veterans on December 11 or 12 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

**Contact** Sherry Bingaman at [sherry.bingaman@redcross.org](mailto:sherry.bingaman@redcross.org) or 610-375-4384.

## **Berks County Parks & Recreation Department**

### ***Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill***

Volunteers are needed for "Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill" sponsored by the Berks County Parks & Recreation Department, open Thursday through Sunday, December 5 through December 29, from 6:00-9:00 PM. Background Clearances are required for all volunteers 18 and up.

### ***Would you like to be Santa?***

Volunteers are needed to **play Santa** from December 5 through December 22, Thursdays through Sundays 6:00-8:30 PM. Volunteers are also needed on Sundays, December 8 and 15, from 1:00-4:00 PM. We provide the Santa suit and padding if needed!

### ***Do you like to make Crafts?***

Volunteers are needed to help children make crafts at our Holiday Craft Workshop on Sunday, December 8 and December 15 from 12:00-4:30 PM

### ***Do you enjoy playing with trains?***

Volunteers are needed to help run the HO scale Model Train Display, December 5 through 29 (Thursdays – Sundays) from 5:30-9:00 PM.

**Contact** Becky Richards at [richards@countyofberks.com](mailto:richards@countyofberks.com) or 610-374-2944 X2611 or 484-256-5296.

## **Berks County Area Agency on Aging**

### ***Driver/Transporter***

Volunteers are needed to transport senior citizens to and from the Christmas Day dinner on December 25 for the noon meal at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. These seniors will be otherwise alone on Christmas and driving them to the dinner allows them to be with others and celebrate the holiday with other 'family.' Drivers will be needed from 11 AM – 1:30 PM.

**Contact** Ann Barlet [abarlet@countyofberks.com](mailto:abarlet@countyofberks.com) or 610-478-6500 X5523.

## **Berks Encore**

### ***Sponsor a Holiday Party at a Senior Center***

Church and school groups are always welcome during the month of December to provide a holiday concert and/or provide refreshments for our seniors. In addition, local businesses and groups are invited to sponsor a special holiday event including food and entertainment (approx. number of participants 50-75).

**Contact** Birdsboro – Kate Sweinhart, [KSweinhart@BerksEncore.org](mailto:KSweinhart@BerksEncore.org) or 610-582-1603.

**Contact** Reading – Jim Youndt, [JYoundt@BerksEncore.org](mailto:JYoundt@BerksEncore.org) or 610-374-3195 X237.

### ***Santa's Helpers***

Volunteers are needed to assist with putting together Christmas "goodie bags" for Berks Encore Meals on Wheels recipients on Tuesday, December 3 starting at 9:00 AM. The bags will be packed at Berks Encore's Reading Center located at 40 N. 9th Street, Reading.

**Contact** Rita Phillips at [rphillips@berksencore.org](mailto:rphillips@berksencore.org) 610-374-3195 X225.

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## Bethany Children's Home

### *Gift Wrappers*

This is the time of year when Bethany's Elves are needed to assist us with the receiving, sorting and wrapping of all the generous gifts we receive for our kids. We would love to have you join us this year in Christmas Land to share in the holiday spirit. Volunteers are needed on the following dates: Monday – Friday we are open from 9 AM – 4 PM. You may volunteer for 1 hour up to the entire day. We are flexible with the schedules. Monday, December 9; Tuesday, December 10; Wednesday, December 11; Thursday, December 12; Sunday, December 15 (12-4); Tuesday, December 17; Thursday, December 19.

**Contact** Carolyn Spano at [Cspano@bethanyhome.org](mailto:Cspano@bethanyhome.org) or 610-589-6828.

## Boyertown Area Multi-Service

### *Turkey Trot*

Volunteers are needed to assist with registering and directing runners and handing out Turkey Trot items on November 28 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM at the Boyertown Park.

**Contact** Mary Ann Gruber at [mgruber@BoyertownAreaMulti-Service.org](mailto:mgruber@BoyertownAreaMulti-Service.org) or 610-367-6957.

## Children's Home of Reading

### *Sorting Elves*

Volunteers are needed to sort gifts/donations M-F 9 AM – 5:30 PM starting December 1 through December 20, at CHOR, 1010 Center Avenue, Reading. Some weekend opportunities may be available if needed. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Some lifting and administrative work is available.

**Contact** Suku Shaf at [sshah@choreading.org](mailto:sshah@choreading.org) or 610-478-8266 X427.

## Crime Alert Berks County

### *Shop With A Cop*

We're looking for a few extra hands to wrap the presents that needy children choose for their special loved one(s). On Thursday, December 12, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM, 20 children are paired with a local law enforcement officer to help spend \$100 on their loved one(s) at Boscov's North. We are looking for Gift Wrappers to wrap the presents that the children select.

**Contact** Chris Nein at [cnein@ptd.net](mailto:cnein@ptd.net) or 610-334-0633 by December 2.

## Cups of Compassion

### *"Pop Up" Soup Kitchen*

This event provides a hot meal and warm clothing to those in need on December 19 from 8 AM – 12 Noon at 4th & Penn Sts., Reading. Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up and tear down. Also, carolers and musicians are needed to perform holiday music.

**Contact** Lori Hoffman at [lhoffman550@comcast.net](mailto:lhoffman550@comcast.net) or 484-926-1675.

## Friend, Inc.

### *Christmas Gift Distributions*

Volunteers are needed on the following dates: December 8, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Gifts are dropped off from local churches and need to be carried up a flight of stairs and match the code on the gift to the bag with the identical code; December 18, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Volunteers load cars with gift bags for children, turkeys, Holiday dinner boxes and other items; December 19, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Volunteers assist with pantry distribution and distribute turkeys, holiday dinner boxes and gift bags for children; December 20, 9:00 AM to Noon, Volunteers assist with pantry distribution and distribute turkeys,



holiday dinner boxes and gift bags for children.

**Contact** Cathy Dill at [cathy@friendinc.org](mailto:cathy@friendinc.org) or 610-683-7791.

## Habitat for Humanity of Berks County/ReStore

### *Santa's Helpers Needed at ReStore*

The ReStore could use some extra help during the busy holiday shopping season. Volunteers assist with a variety of tasks including receiving donations, prepping donated goods for the sales floor, displaying inventory, general cleaning and assisting customers. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and wear closed-toe shoes. Individuals and groups of up to 10 are welcome for at least three-hour shifts. The ReStore is open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday Noon to 6 PM.

**Contact** Penny Hummel at [phummel@habitatberks.org](mailto:phummel@habitatberks.org) or 610-373-3439.

## It's A Gift

### *Gift Wrappers*

*It's a Gift!* is a not-for-profit store. We donate our profits to local Berks County charities each year. This year our Charity Partner is Habitat for Humanity of Berks County. Volunteers are needed to gift wrap purchases for customers during business hours on November 23, 24 and Saturdays and Sunday during December.

**Contact** Sallie Weaver at [sallie@sallieweaver.com](mailto:sallie@sallieweaver.com) or 610-373-0960.

## Lifeline of Berks County

### *Giving Tree Assistants*

We are lucky to receive many Christmas gifts for our mothers and babies. Would you help us put them away and keep our storage area ship-shape? Duties include sorting gifts and calculating their value. Opportunities are available from December 20 through the end of February.

**Contact** Debbie Baker at [debbieb@lifelineofberks.org](mailto:debbieb@lifelineofberks.org) or 610-374-8545.

## Opportunity House

### *Spread Holiday Cheer to Our Kids*

Our children (ages 1-13) in the Second Street Learning Center would love to see you for the holidays! You may host a party, lead a holiday-themed craft, or pitch us an idea of what you would like to do (a holiday singalong, holiday storytelling etc.). Dates and times are flexible to accommodate your schedule.

**Contact** Nancy Remy at [nremy@opphouse.org](mailto:nremy@opphouse.org) or 610-374-4696 X254.

### *Serve/Donate A Meal*

Seeking a meaningful way for your business, club, association, church, group of friends, or family to live the season of giving? Make a meal for our shelter clients! You donate the food for the meal, and then prepare and serve it on the day of your choosing. Lunches and dinners available!

**Contact** Contact Julia VanTine at [jvantine@opphouse.org](mailto:jvantine@opphouse.org) or 610-374-4696 X227.

## Phoebe Berks Health Care Center

### *Holiday Decorators*

Please join us on November 30 to decorate our senior facility for the holiday season. You may select a tree location and we will reserve it for you or just help deck the halls! Help is needed any time between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We provide the decorations – you provide the holiday cheer!

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TIME**

### ***Holiday Music***

Christmas carolers, musicians and performers are welcome any time at our facility – especially during the holiday season. Bring the gift of music to residents this holiday season.

### ***Holiday Crafts or Activities***

Organize a craft activity or bingo night for our residents! You bring the supplies and holiday cheer and we will bring the smiles and gratitude!

**Contact** Liane Mayernik at [lmayernik@phoebe.org](mailto:lmayernik@phoebe.org) or 610-927-8514.

### **Safe Berks**

#### ***Volunteer Gift Wrappers***

We are seeking volunteers to gift wrap at the Berkshire Mall from December 1- 24. All proceeds benefit Safe Berks.

**Contact** [giftwrap@safeberks.org](mailto:giftwrap@safeberks.org) to sign-up.

#### ***Holiday Meals***

Looking for small groups to cook dinner for the residents of our Safe House. We serve 50 people which includes parents and children. You can prep and cook the food at our facility or you can prep it ahead of time and warm it up on site. The choice is up to you and our kitchen is ready and available for use. Please plan on serving dinner around 6:00 pm.

**Contact** Mindy McIntosh at [mindym@safeberks.org](mailto:mindym@safeberks.org) or 484-869-5293.

### **The Salvation Army – Hamburg Service Center, 700 S 4th St., Hamburg**

#### ***Angel Tree Volunteers***

Volunteers are needed on the following dates at the Hamburg Field House.

December 9, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Gifts and food pick-up, unload gifts from trailers, set-up tables, sort gifts, make and label boxes etc.

December 10-14, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Volunteers sort gifts

December 16, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Pick-up remaining gifts and continue sorting

December 17-18, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Organize tables and final preparations

December 19, 10 AM - 3 PM, Assist with distribution of gifts.

December 20, 12:00 to 7:00 PM, Assist with distribution of gifts, tear down and clean-up

Contact Cathy Correll or [angeltreehsc@gmail.com](mailto:angeltreehsc@gmail.com) at 610-562-3576. From December 9-20 please call 484-650-2161.

#### ***Volunteer Bell Ringers***

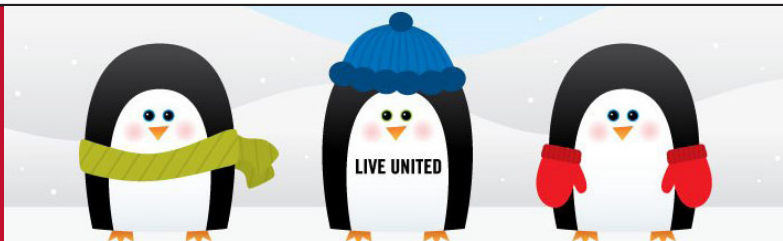
Volunteers are needed from November 29 through December 24, Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM in Hamburg, Leesport and Bernville area locations.

**Contact** Kettle Coordinator at [redkettlehamburg@gmail.com](mailto:redkettlehamburg@gmail.com) or 610-562-3576.

### **The Salvation Army - Reading Corps, 301 S. 5th St., Reading**

#### ***Kettle Bell Ringers***

Business groups, organizations, civic clubs and individual volunteers are needed to ring the bells at the kettles in various locations throughout Berks County from November 18 through December 24.



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### ***Holiday Drivers Needed***

December 9, 10, 11 and 12 – volunteer drivers are needed to pick-up Angel Tree gifts from businesses and deliver them to the Salvation Army. Vehicles do not have to be large since some donors have 20 or fewer gifts.

### ***Santa's Elves***

Various dates in November and December – volunteers are needed to help in preparation for Holiday distribution. Duties include completing angel tags to be placed on trees at area businesses in the community, hosting an angel tree, helping sort toys, helping to distribute toys and various other tasks to assist with the Holiday season.

**Contact** Yesenia Mejia at [Yesenia.mejia@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Yesenia.mejia@use.salvationarmy.org) or 610-373-5208 X207 or Capt. Luis Merced at [luis.merced@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:luis.merced@use.salvationarmy.org) or 610-373-5208 X210.

## **Wernersville State Hospital**

### ***Christmas Caroling***

Caroling groups and musical events (playing instruments) are welcome additions to the Christmas & Holiday spirit. Please call to schedule your date and time.

**Contact** Kathy Ellett at [kellett@pa.gov](mailto:kellett@pa.gov) or 610-670-4164.

## **Yocum Institute for Arts Education**

### ***"A Christmas Carol and More"***

A variety of volunteers are needed to help organize and put the final touches on Victorian costumes (not all require sewing), assist with ushering, decorating the set, and children's art activities for our upcoming show "A Christmas Carol." Ushers, Children's Art Project Help and Front of House needed 1 hour before performance time December 12, 14, 15. Costume and Bonnet Decorating will be on November 17 from 3-6 PM and November 19 from 5-7 PM.

**Contact** Beverly Houck at [primarystages@yocuminstitute.org](mailto:primarystages@yocuminstitute.org) or 610-376-1576 x205.





## American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter

### *Veterans Holiday Basket Program*

Help us honor our Veterans. Donations of canned food items as well as other items are needed for our Veteran's Baskets. We ask items be delivered by November 29. Please call first for additional information.

**Contact** Sherry Bingaman at [sherry.bingaman@redcross.org](mailto:sherry.bingaman@redcross.org) or 610-375-4384.

## Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS)

### *Share Christmas Joy*

BCPS coordinates a Holiday Gift Project each year to serve children of incarcerated parents. All families served through this project are invited to attend a Holiday party hosted by West Lawn UM Church. Small toys/craft donations are needed to hang on Christmas trees for this year's event on December 7, 2019. As children wait to see Santa, they choose a small gift from the trees. Suggestions are Matchbox cars, small plush animals, small dolls, small crafts/stickers, etc. Donations should be delivered by December 2 to the BCPS office at 19 N. 6th St, 4th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.

**Contact** Kathy Galtere at [kgaltere@bcpsreentry.org](mailto:kgaltere@bcpsreentry.org) or 484-260-3860.

## Berks Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

### *Santa Helpers*

BDHHS will be making Holiday Baskets for families in need. We are looking for non-perishable food items to make a holiday dinner, and/or gift cards in any dollar amount to Giant, Weis, Redners or other grocery stores. All donations and gift cards should be dropped off at the agency during business hours by December 14.

**Contact** Lori Fisher at [lfisher@bdhhs.org](mailto:lfisher@bdhhs.org) or 610-685-4520.

## Berks Encore

### *Operation Santa*

Berks Encore will be putting together Christmas gift bags for Meals on Wheels recipients this holiday season. Our goal is to provide a gift bag to our 625 MOW recipients, and we are asking your help! If you are able to sponsor a collection drive for needed items or as an individual or business you would like to donate either items and/or gift cards in any dollar amount that can be used to purchase items you will help us make this goal a reality. Some of the greatest needs for our seniors are the things we take for granted every day. All donations should be dropped off at any Berks Encore Center no later

than Wednesday, November 28. Gift suggestions include bags to use as the gift bag, toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, hand soap, tissues, disinfectant spray and/or wipes, individual containers of cleaning products or gift cards.

**Contact** Rita Phillips at [rphillips@berksencore.org](mailto:rphillips@berksencore.org) or 610-374-3195 x225, or Lori Smith at [lsmith@berksencore.org](mailto:lsmith@berksencore.org) or 610-374-3195 X213.



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## Berks Heim

### *Tissue Drive*

Each year we give a box of tissues to every resident for Christmas. We are asking for donations of tissues (cube box size) to help us achieve our goal of 400 boxes. Individual donations or group donations are welcome. *Any* amount donated is appreciated! We will be accepting donations from November 14 through December 15.

### *Santa's Corner Gifts*

December is filled with many events for our residents to celebrate the season. One of the most popular events is Santa's Corner, where residents can shop for a gift, visit with Santa, and enjoy cookies and drinks. There is no cost to the resident for their chosen gift. We are asking for donations of items for this special day. Popular items include costume jewelry, necklaces that can go over the head, and stretchy style bracelets. Many residents enjoy adult coloring books and markers. Cardigan sweaters, sweat pants, and sweat shirts (larger sizes are more in demand) are the most requested items of clothing for both the women and men. Gift wrap, gift boxes (shirt sized) and mid-sized gift bags are also needed. We will be accepting donations for this event from November 14 through December 5.

**Contact** Ann Gilmer at [agilmer@countyofberks.com](mailto:agilmer@countyofberks.com) or 610-376-4841 X7424.

## Berks Teens Matter

### *The Gift of Gift Cards*

This holiday season you can join BTM in supporting our youth to develop and share knowledge about healthy relationships. We would appreciate donations of gift cards to support our youth activities in the community. If you have (or have been) a teen, you know the value of gift card giving. The dollar amount of the card is irrelevant when compared to the magic of holding purchasing power in the palm of your hand! \$5 gift cards to teen friendly sites in the community (Yogo Crazy, McDonald's, etc.) are the most popular 'refer-a-friend' reward at our Health Resource Center. Additional gift cards for the same/similar locations can be used to support post-meeting-outings for our Youth Ambassadors throughout the year.

**Contact** Nadine Smet-Weiss at [nsmetweiss@cocounty.org](mailto:nsmetweiss@cocounty.org) or 610-375-6523 X107.

## Bethany Children's Home

### *Special Holiday Collection*

Please join us in helping youth who will be residing at Bethany Children's Home this holiday season. Through your special gifts you will create new positive memories in their life. For many this will be their first Christmas with personal gifts. Bethany youth are between 10 and 19 years of age. We kindly ask that all items are new. We are unable to distribute used items to the youth. We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.

Activity Items: Art and craft kits, adult coloring books, paint-by-number, tie dye kits (with white shirts and pillowcases), card stock, paint brushes, stress balls, squishies, gel pens, hand-held games, board games, scrapbook paper, stretched canvas (various sizes), canvas boards, yarn and crochet and knitting needles, Lego sets.



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Gift Cards to Support Independent Learning Skills: Walmart, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, TJ Maxx/ Marshall's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Boyer's, Redner's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Ross, Michael's, Hobby Lobby.

Art Studio: Michael's or Hobby Lobby gift certificates, canvases, acrylic paint, premixed acrylic pouring paint, heavy duty paint brushes, Sharpie markers, stencils, hemp string, gimp, embroidery thread, fuse beads and fuse bead bases, wooden boxes for art projects, chalk board paint, paintable masks, artist paint brush set, calligraphy ink all colors, small wooden projects, Dremel tools and Dremel tips, wood burner kits.

**Contact** Carolyn Shultz Spano at [cspano@bethanyhome.org](mailto:cspano@bethanyhome.org) or 610-589-6828.

## **Boyertown Area Multi-Service**

### ***Christmas Room***

Donations of toddler through age 18 snow pants and snow boots are needed. These items will be given as Christmas gifts. Please deliver the items by December 3rd.

### ***Santa's Secret Shop***

We provide the children of our clients the chance to Christmas shop for their parents. The gifts are free to the children and it gives them a sense of pride to "buy" something for their parents. Donations of gift cards to places where their parents might shop i.e. Wal-Mart, Wawa, Dunkin' Donuts, Lowes, any car wash, Home Depot etc. are a great opportunity to help the families OR donate items that any Mom or Dad would like to receive i.e. candles, gloves etc.

**Contact** Mary Ann Gruber at [mgruber@boyertownareamulti-service.org](mailto:mgruber@boyertownareamulti-service.org) or 610-367-6957.

## **Children's Home of Reading**

### ***Holiday Wish Lists***

Businesses, groups & individuals are needed to fulfill donations - Christmas Tags, Angel Trees, General Wish Lists and Amazon Wish Lists are available.

**Contact** Suku Shaf at [sshah@choreading.org](mailto:sshah@choreading.org) or 610-478-8266 X427.

## **Clare of Assisi House**

### ***Spread Christmas Cheer***

Help residents by donating Walmart or Boscov's gift cards, personal care products or movie theater gift cards.

**Contact** Chris Williammee at [eazydoesit55@aol.com](mailto:eazydoesit55@aol.com) or 610-401-6039.

## **Cups of Compassion**

### ***"Pop-Up" Soup Kitchen***

This event provides a hot meal and warm clothing to those in need on December 19 from 8 AM – 12 Noon at 4th & Penn Sts., Reading. Donations of food, new or gently worn clothing such as coats, hats, gloves, toiletries, blankets and socks are needed by December 16.

**Contact** Lori Hoffman [lhoffman550@comcast.net](mailto:lhoffman550@comcast.net) or 484-926-1675.

## **Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania**

### ***Toy and Book Wish List***

Help Easterseals Eastern PA build a community where children with disabilities realize their goals, dreams and aspirations. This holiday season, we would like to receive children's books for use by our therapists, new toys for our summer day camp and tickets or gift cards for Community experiences.

The following is a suggested list of items.

Toys: jigsaw puzzles (large pieces), board games, Legos, Play Doh, playground balls (basketball, soccer, kickball, etc.), DVDs (recent animated and young adult films), fidget toys, foam blocks, Aaron's putty, stress balls, sensory sand, water beads, liquid timers and other sensory items.

Books: various books for children ages one to eight, including board books for toddlers. New and gently used books will be accepted.

Tickets/gift cards for community experiences: museum passes, movie tickets, Ozzy's Family Fun Center, restaurant gift cards, GoggleWorks classes, Reading Royals, Fightin' Phils, etc.

Items may be delivered to our center at 90 George Street in Reading, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM or by appointment. Please label items as part of the United Way gift drive.

**Contact** Sue Schamberger at [sschamberger@esep.org](mailto:sschamberger@esep.org) or 610-289-0114 X222.

## Family Promise

### *Holiday Wish List*

Family Promise offers case management and shelter to homeless families and provides Drop-In Center facilities and case management to unaccompanied/homeless youth in Berks County. Please consider making an impact by donating personal care products, backpacks, BARTA bus passes, paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, gift cards. (Walmart, Giant, Target), towels, washcloths, protein bars, cleaning supplies, school supplies, socks, hats and gloves, laundry detergent, first aid supplies, diapers and wipes.

**Contact** Elise Chesson at [echesson@familypromiseofberks.org](mailto:echesson@familypromiseofberks.org) or 610-373-3323 X24.

## Friend Inc.

### *Thanksgiving Turkey Drive*

Donations of GIANT gift cards are needed to purchase the turkeys we distribute to each of our families at our November pantry.

**Contact** Cathy Dill at [cathy@friendinc.org](mailto:cathy@friendinc.org) or 610-683-7791.



## Hope Rescue Mission

### *Gift Collectors*

Donations of men's hats, socks, gloves, packaged underwear and undershirts are greatly appreciated. Amazon list link <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2BMOACHA33S9S>.

**Contact** Jayme Eenigenburg at [volunteer@hopeforreading.org](mailto:volunteer@hopeforreading.org) or 610-743-4945.

## Literacy Council of Reading

### *Transportation Assistance*

Winter student transportation is needed December, January, February and March. BARTA monthly passes are a great help.

**Contact** Beverly Hirneisen at [bev@lcrb.org](mailto:bev@lcrb.org) or 610-670-9960.

## Lutheran Home at Topton

### *Christmas Sharing*

An ongoing tradition, Christmas Sharing, allows residents an opportunity to choose a gift at no cost to them. Simply bring in a new item to our community and your donation will help create a "store" designed to give each resident a holiday

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shopping experience. The gift is then hand delivered by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Donations are being accepted between November 11 and December 6. Popular items include toiletries, blankets, clothing for women/men (all sizes) silk scarves, packaged candy/cookies, stuffed animals and baby dolls (for residents with dementia).

**Contact** Karen Sinkovits at [SinkovitsK@diakon.org](mailto:SinkovitsK@diakon.org) or 610-682-1425.

## New Journey Community Outreach

### *Christmas Giving*

We are looking for groups to collect hats, gloves and socks for men, women and children as a special gift for the holidays. There are also other ways you can help! We are collecting toiletries for men and women - shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant and sanitary products. Our food pantry also needs some essentials - soup, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal/oatmeal, pasta sauce, and rice.

**Contact** Cathi Cavallo at [ccavallo@njcoinc.org](mailto:ccavallo@njcoinc.org) or 610-375-2662.

## Northwest Middle School – Reading School District

### *Gift Collection*

Gift ideas for students in need: gift cards, sport equipment, headphones, art supplies, young adult fiction books, basketball sock, fuzzy sock, Eco style hair gel, Chapstick/lip gloss, scrunchies, body spray/lotions, choker necklaces.

**Contact** Amber Stine at [stinea@readingsd.org](mailto:stinea@readingsd.org) or 610-371-5882 X52926.

## Olivet Boys & Girls Club

### *Santa's Helpers*

Christmas gift donations are needed for our Olivet Boys & Girls Club teen members. Our teens would enjoy gift cards, board games, headphones, blankets, socks, book bags, movie theatre tickets and sporting goods equipment. Please drop off all donations by December 6 to the Olivet Administrative Building, 1161 Pershing Blvd., Reading.

**Contact** Abigail Frost at [abigail.frost@olivetbgc.org](mailto:abigail.frost@olivetbgc.org) or Rose Morales at [rose.morales@olivetbgc.org](mailto:rose.morales@olivetbgc.org) or 610-373-1314.

## Phoebe Berks Health Care Center

### *Adopt a Resident*

Bring Christmas joy to the residents in our Health Care Center with a donation for our Giving Tree Program. Great gift ideas are pads of paper, pens, puzzle books, music CDs, lotions, and other special personal care items, books, special magazines, socks, slippers with rubber soles, tissue boxes, change purses, SMALL knickknacks preferably unbreakable, snacks/candy, shirts, blouses or nightgowns. Please wrap in gift bags or boxes if possible so we know each person receives an appropriate item.

**Contact** Liane Mayernik at [lmayernik@phoebe.org](mailto:lmayernik@phoebe.org) or 610-927-8514.



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## Safe Berks

### *Holiday Gift Donors*

Please consider donating unwrapped gifts for the holiday season for parents and children who reside in our Safe House and transitional housing. We have up to 75 parents and children living in our center at any given time. Children's ages range from infancy up to 17 years. Please contact Safe Berks for a list. You may also "adopt" a family for Christmas by providing gifts for the whole family.

**Contact** Mindy McIntosh at [mindym@safeberks.org](mailto:mindym@safeberks.org) or 484-869-5293.

## Shady Hollow Assisted Riding

### *Wish List*

We are having our Amazon Wish List - in conjunction with our Giving Tree - for the third year at SHAR from December 1 to January 4. The wish list is a way for people to donate to our program who may not live close, who cannot make it to the barn, or may simply enjoy online shopping. With prices ranging from \$5 to \$500, the wish list consists of items that are either heavily used at the farm or are desperately in need of replacement. Please visit the following website to begin your shopping spree: <http://a.co/3RQImR3>. Don't forget to include your name on the gift receipt at checkout so that we can properly thank you!

**Contact** Ally Sternat at [amsternat12@gmail.com](mailto:amsternat12@gmail.com).

## St. Catharine Senior Apartments

### *Christmas Dinner for our Seniors*

Help us make our Christmas dinner a success by donating gift cards or gift baskets to support low income seniors. All items received will either help purchase the food for the dinner or gifts for those in need.

**Contact** Alicia Waid at [awaid@cshhcs.org](mailto:awaid@cshhcs.org) or 610-743-5374.

## Veterans Coalition of Pennsylvania

### *Operation Veterans*

Assist local veterans with donations of canned goods: fruit, vegetables, canned meat, soups, peanut butter, jellies. Dry items: pasta, crackers, pancake mix, cereal, oatmeal. Personal needs: toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, washcloth, shampoo, combs, brushes. Clothing: insulated underwear, socks, winter coats, winter shoes, and boots. Grocery and gas gift cards in any amount are also appreciated.

**Contact** Chris Spohn at [spohn353@comcast.net](mailto:spohn353@comcast.net) or 610-372-8267.

## Wernersville State Hospital

### *Personal Gift Giving*

Brighten a resident's Christmas with a small gift! Items include shampoo, conditioner, body gel, scented lotions, deodorant, wallets, chap sticks, socks, gloves, winter hats, baseball caps (really need men's items in everything!) purses with small handles, make-up bags, lipsticks, memo pads (no spiral backs), coloring books (no staples), word search books, decks of regular playing cards, UNO card game, Skipko Card game, t-shirts for men and women size large to 4X, sweatshirts for both men and women size xl-4X, PJ's large to 3X, slippers with backs - no slip ones, non-slip slipper socks.

**Contact** Kathy Ellett at [kelleth@pa.gov](mailto:kelleth@pa.gov) or 610-670-4164.



## YMCA of Reading & Berks County

### *Child Care and School Age Classrooms Wish List*

The Child Care center needs assistance with donations of various items including , area rugs, giant plush stacking rings, mini baby kitchen, CD player with Bluetooth, dress up clothing, children's music CDs, bean bag chairs, hard cover books, Lego table and Legos, ride on scooters, wiki sticks/water beads, Bluetooth radio, Magna-tiles building blocks, art supplies (crayons, markers), mini air hockey table, dodge balls, foosball game, and large comfortable chairs.

### *Baby University Wish List*

The Baby University Program needs assistance with donations of various items, including, filler paper, 1 inch binders, 1-2 year pocket planners, baby wipes, baby bath wash, lotion, candles, picture frames, sippy cups, family games (Memory, Uno, Roll & Play, Candy Land, Connect Four), books for all ages. Toys; push pull, soft plush dolls, educational toys that teach shapes, counting, colors and writing.

### *Transitional Living Wish List*

The YMCA is home to several transitional living programs and the residents are in need of various items, including, cook ware, dish towels and rags, bath towels and wash rags, sheets, blankets, shampoo, conditioner, body gel, scented lotions, tooth paste, soaps, deodorant, chap sticks, socks, gloves and winter hats.

**Contact** Michele Reinert at [mreinert@ymca-berkscounty.org](mailto:mreinert@ymca-berkscounty.org) or 610-378-4714.

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## THANK YOU!

From our United Way family to yours, we thank you for caring and wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season.

For more information, contact:  
Darby Wiekrykas  
Volunteer Engagement Program Manager  
United Way of Berks County  
P.O. Box 702, Reading PA 19603  
(610) 685-4574  
[darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org)