



LSSI Christmas Program

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information or to donate: www.lssin.org/christmas

How does the matching program work?

When a sponsor indicates that they are interested in adopting a family for the LSSI Christmas program via the sponsor information form or online, staff will work with them to determine the size of the family/families they wish to sponsor. Families must meet requirements for program participation and income level. Families are matched according to family size and order of application to the program. A sponsor will provide a Walmart gift card for each family, with funds for \$50 for each individual of the family, and a gift card for \$100 for food items. These gift cards will be given to the family during a program visit and the staff will assist the family to pick and purchase items that would have typically been purchased and donated by a sponsor in previous years.

Can I buy a card for Target/Kroger/Another retailer?

For gifts, we ask that the gift cards be specifically to Walmart. It is possible that you could be matched with a family outside of Allen County that does not have access to other retailers. Walmart, for our clients, is the most universal and most widely shopped.

Can I request specifics about a family that I sponsor?

LSSI staff will work with you to match you with a family of the size you wish. We may be able to accommodate some requests (such as a family in Allen County or a family in St. Joseph County) but we cannot promise to meet ALL donor requests. We will do our best, but must also ensure that we are serving the families with the greatest need in our programs.

Do I have to purchase items from Amazon?

No! We have provided a list on Amazon for easy shopping and no contact delivery. If you are interested in hosting an item drive, or purchasing items directly, that is okay. We just ask that you stick to similar items on the list and that they be new. A hard copy of the list of items is provided in our sponsor packet for those that do not wish to go online.

Why are gift cards asked to be to LSSI by December 3?

Because of supply chain issues, we anticipate shipping of items to take longer than a standard Christmas season. Also, we require our LSSI staff to shop in person or sit with the adult in the family to order the gifts online. The early December deadline allows for time for staff to arrange a meeting for shopping and shipping of the items to the family home.

How do I get gift cards to LSSI?

When you purchase your food gift card or Walmart gift card, you can drop them off to our LSSI office (333 E Lewis Street) between 8-5 Monday - Thursday and 8-12 on Friday, or arrange at time for LSSI to come pick them up. Because of the value of the cards, we would not suggest mailing them. If you would like to purchase the cards online, they can be emailed to Gillian (gfrazier@lssin.org).

Can I know who I am sponsoring?

Due to the nature of our programming, we must abide by privacy laws and cannot release the names or information about the families that are sponsored through the LSSI Christmas Program. After the program is finished, LSSI works diligently to get thank you cards from the families sent to the sponsoring families. Unfortunately, not all families complete thank yous. Please know that each family and LSSI are very grateful for the support of our sponsors. Without you, there would be many families without the means to provide a Christmas for their children.

Can I refer someone who needs help this Christmas?

Families that receive the benefits of the LSSI Christmas program are nominated by an LSSI staff person and must meet criteria to be eligible, including being actively engaged in an LSSI program. If you have a family in need this Christmas, please contact us and we can help refer the family to an appropriate community program. We may also be able to assess eligibility for LSSI programs that could assist the family beyond Christmas.

What types of families could I adopt?

LSSI has many different programs that support individuals and families that help them learn the skills needed to move them toward economic and family stability. To be a part of our program, the families must be nominated by the staff to receive Christmas. Family types include small, such as an ECHO teen and their infant to large, such as a family enrolled in Community Partners with a mom, dad and several children. We will match you with the size family you wish to support. Please rest assured that these families are working hard and they are asking for Christmas help because they simply don't have enough extra funds to provide it for their children.

Will the family I support be in my community?

LSSI serves families in several programs throughout the northern third of the state. If you do not designate a preference, the family we match you with could be in any part of our service area. If you prefer to support a family in your own community, we will do our best to honor your wishes.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

At any point in time, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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