

Fact Sheet for 2023



Principles

- The opportunity to shop at the Christmas Store is offered to clients of the Outreach Carol Stream and residents of the area served by the Center, with priority given to clients.
- No shopper is denied participation in the Christmas Store due to race, culture, religion, or inability to pay.
- Exceptional service is the standard by which we measure every area of the Christmas Store.
- Volunteers are partners in the planning and implementation of the Christmas Store. They are included in as many roles as is possible and feasible.
- Volunteers are given a meaningful assignment, trained, and supported in their role.

Data

Shoppers:

Families shopping at the Christmas Store live within one square mile of Outreach Carol Stream, situated along two of the high need census tracts in DuPage County.

- **2023: 281 families shopped for 785 children**
- Families who do not have the financial resources to shop at the Christmas Store are invited to come to the Center to meet with a case manager to determine whether a “Christmas Store Gift Voucher” is warranted.

Volunteers:

Volunteer work begins in early October and goes through to the day of the store.

- **2023: 327 volunteers from more than 46 different churches with 1956 volunteer hours served**
- Volunteers can sign up to volunteer starting on November 1 by visiting www.weareoutreach.org/christmas-store

Gift Drives:

Much of the success of the Christmas Store depends on gift drives that fill the shopping tables every year. It’s a huge undertaking to collect enough gifts for nearly 1,000 children, from infants to 18 years old.

- **2023: 25 churches, businesses, organizations, schools, families, and individuals sponsored gift drives and 1,950 gifts collected**

Fundraising:

The Christmas Store’s net proceeds are dedicated exclusively to the Case Management Department of Outreach Carol Stream. Local businesses and service clubs help underwrite expenses.

- **2023: \$56,476.00 in corporate sponsorships and individual contributions.**

A few words from last year’s Christmas Store...

“Coming in, I was worried about how much I could afford. The people were so friendly, the music was uplifting and I was reminded that everything is going to be OK.” - Shopper

“Whether someone is a gift giver, a volunteer in the stock room, or a community member who shops, the Christmas Store invites us all into a larger narrative of joy and giving. Christmas can be so wrapped up in sales, toys, and money. But the Christmas Store helps us all to dream bigger and cast a clearer picture of the kingdom of heaven.” - Volunteer