

Fact Sheet for Outreach Carol Stream Christmas Store 2024

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.
- 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.

- **2024: 239 families shopped for 647 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.

- **2024: 329 volunteers from more than 38 different churches with 1750 volunteer hours served**
- Volunteers can sign up to volunteer starting on November 1 by visiting www.weareoutreach.org/christmasstore-cs

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 700 children, from infants to 18 years old.

- **2024: 22 churches, businesses, organizations, schools, families, and individuals sponsored gift drives and 2,100 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.

- **2024: \$75,645.00 in corporate sponsorships and individual contributions.**

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

"The Christmas Store helped me provide for my children when I thought it wouldn't be possible this year. God bless all of you who made this happen!" - Shopper

"It was special to think about the ripple effect of the experience. First there are all the people that donated the gifts to Outreach, then there were us, the volunteers, that got to see the joy and excitement on the parents faces as they searched for the perfect gift for their kids, and then finally to think about the kids opening up their gifts on Christmas morning. It was a joy to be a part of." ~ Volunteer