

Crestwood's Holiday Giving

Crestwood is widely known for its community outreach and its compassion for people facing serious problems in their lives. It is a challenge we take on 365 days a year, but we seem to be gearing up for some extraordinary reaching-out activities.

We are still munching on left-over Halloween candy, but already there are requests for help with Thanksgiving dinners, and people are reaching for children's wish lists hanging on the two Angel Trees. We are regularly hearing in person on Sunday mornings from representatives from a wide-range of non-profits operating in the city whose organizations we support and who have Christmas needs.

This is a wonderful time of year to remember our many blessings, and we want to share with others during this special season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. But I find myself turning in circles with all the needs and requests. I am overwhelmed and forget what group needs what and in what form. I decided to try to arrange the requests in my mind, and then I thought perhaps our generosity would make a Spotlight article. But I'm having a hard time getting this organized. What if I leave some group out?



Personally, I'm not sure where to start with my own giving. I took the first step by buying a lottery ticket, but you can imagine how that turned out. We want to support our youth in their efforts to help others. We want to support community groups that we know are serving as God's hands for all of us. We want to support the activities of our own small Crestwood groups. I've got no suggestions on figuring out where to put your support if you have to choose, but here is the range of opportunities as I can sort them out:

THANKSGIVING:

- **Nathaniel Mission** (offers a variety of social services to those in severe need). We are preparing food for their community Thanksgiving meal, helping with set-up and serving.
- **Lexington Rescue Mission** (offers a wide range of services for many types of people in need). This is an on-going youth project to serve meals to the Mission's Steady Hands Bible Study group.
- **Arbor Youth Services** (gives a safe place and a series of services for homeless, abused, endangered children and young people) This is a November project of the DWM. Items and funds needed.

CHRISTMAS:

- **The Angel Tree** (opportunity to fulfill personal Christmas wish lists for 180 children from Glendover, Russell Cave, Liberty and Julius Marks Elementary schools). The trees are already up, and presents must be returned by Dec. 3.
- **Angel Tree Continued.** Turnabout is fair play (and a good lesson). The children of Glendover are making book marks for our congregation which will be hung on the tree after Dec. 3. Each of us will be encouraged to take one.
- **Later gifts:** After the Angels on the trees are taken, we are encouraged to place winter hats, scarves, gloves under the trees for children at the schools or adults in need of such items.
- **Thank you to Glendover Staff** (Crestwood and Glendover have partnered throughout the years on many projects) "Encouragement packages" and congregational notes will be sent to Glendover staff, including teachers, office workers, administration, para-educators, etc. in thanks for their unsung efforts.
- **The Nest:** (Center for Women, Children, and Families). Our youth have an ambitious project to provide 400 boxes of food for the Center's families. This amazing project was featured in a Spotlight article last year. Money donations needed—the food will be bought in bulk.
- **The Christian Appalachian Project:** (Providing aid and Christmas to impoverished areas of Eastern Kentucky). Financial donations needed.
- **Silver Bells:** (A holiday project created by the Nursing Home Ombudsman to provide presents for the people in nursing homes with no outside contacts) This is the November project of the DWM. Watch publications for needed items and funds.
- **The Chrysalis House:** (Offers services for women with substance abuse disorders) This is the December project of the DWM. Watch publications for a list of needed items and funds.

My head is swimming with all the needs and opportunities to help. If you want to write a check for any of the projects, be sure to put the project name on the check to designate where you want it to go. Specified items needed for DWM projects can be found in Crestwood publications. The items can be left in the Giving Lane.

If you have further questions, best not to ask me at this point! This is all I know. Contact these people instead: Elementary school projects call Missy Wallace; Youth projects call Steph Wallace; DWM projects contact [Tracy Lovan](#). All collections with further details will be mentioned in the Crestwood publications as the holidays approach.

Someone asked me a related question that needs an answer. As a church, the Local Outreach Committee annually gives financial support to Arbor Youth Services, Greenhouse 17, Lexington Rescue Mission, Natalie's Sisters, New Life Day Center, and Step-by-Step. All of the holiday projects listed here, are above and beyond what we are already doing.

Sometimes we get overwhelmed with giving. But it is nothing compared to what families with no financial cushion must feel when their children say they want a cherished present from Santa, or say they are hungry. Or imagine the overwhelming feeling of loneliness that people with no homes, or no families, must feel on these days of celebration. It is a privilege to give them a bit of excitement and pleasure. Crestwood is an amazing church, with arms that reach far out into the world.

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If there is some area of the church you would like to know more about, please share your ideas with me. Let's explore together. [Gaye Holman](#)



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