

# CROSSNET CHRISTMAS PROGRAM GUIDE



**A GUIDE TO SPONSORING  
A CHILD WITH CROSSNET'S  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

123 W. Franklin Street, PO Box 154, New Holland, PA 17557  
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*“The Christmas Gift Program is an opportunity for our community to come together to make sure needs are met, families are empowered, and the love of Jesus Christ is shared at Christmas time. Our goal is to offer support to the local community by building relationship and providing valuable resources.”*

*-Meredith Dahl, Executive Director*

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# MISSION & IMPACT

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## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM MISSION:

to ease financial burdens, build resources, and to match community support with under-resourced families in the ELANCO School District by providing a Christmas meal and gifts for their children. Together we can bring help, hope, and the love of Christ to families at Christmas.

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## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IMPACT:

*For over 12 years, CrossNet has ensured children in the ELANCO Community have a blessed Christmas. Prior to this, we supported the ELANCO School District in their program. We have been keeping Christmas stats since 2013! The numbers below represent the total number of students served for that season.*

**2013 = 380**

**2014 = 400**

**2015 = 429**

**2016 = 447**

**2017 = 462**

**2018 = 546**

**2019 = 550**

**2020 = 528**

**2021 = 542**

**2022 = 605**

**2023 = 610**

**Our goal is to ensure every child has gifts and necessary resources to enjoy at Christmas!**



# HOW TO SPONSOR A CHILD



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***We invite you to share in the Christmas joy this season by being a sponsor with CrossNet Ministries. Sponsorship registration runs September through November each year. Check out our website, or this handbook for more details, or go to [www.elancocross.org](http://www.elancocross.org) to download a copy of this handbook.***

## **WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE PROGRAM:**

CrossNet sends out the Christmas Program paperwork and information through local organizations, the ELANCO School District, and churches. Family registration runs from August to November. Children newborn to 18 years old who meet the criteria are excepted into the program.

### **To qualify, families must:**

- (1)** qualify for the FREE lunch program in the ELANCO School District
- (2)** be currently living in the ELANCO School District area
- (3)** and/or be referred to us by CrossNet Social Workers, ELANCO School Counselors, or a partnering ELANCO church

## **SPONSORSHIP TIMELINE:**

- 1. Anyone can be a sponsor!** This program is a great way for your organization, business, church, community club, or individual to come together to give back during the Christmas season. You can register as either an individual or on behalf of your group.
- 2. Register to be a sponsor:** Simply fill out the short Sponsorship Application included in the back of this Handbook and submit to us by November 22nd. Copies of the application can also be emailed to you or found on our website at [www.elancocross.org](http://www.elancocross.org).
- 3. Receive your Wish List(s):** Starting in mid-September, CrossNet begins the overall family matching process. Upon receiving your individual or group application request, you will receive a confirmation email with an attached Wish List for each child sponsored. Wish Lists include general information about the family, children's clothing sizes, and a number of wish list requests. Once you have these in hand you can begin your shopping!
- 4. Drop Off Your Gifts:** Drop off all gifts (and stocking stuffers) at CrossNet Youth Center at 110 W. Franklin Street, New Holland during our Christmas Workshop week that runs December 9th-12th from 9AM to 7PM.
- 5. Event Day:** Gifts, stocking stuffers, and other items will be distributed to families at the Christmas Program Event on Saturday, December 14th from 9 AM to 5 PM at the CrossNet Youth Center.



# 2024 IMPORTANT DATES & LOCATIONS



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## 1 IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024

### AUGUST 2024:

- Family Participant Applications & Wish Lists are sent out to potential participating families in partnership with the ELANCO School District.

### SEPTEMBER 2024:

- Sponsorship Applications are available online and via email.
- This is the perfect time for groups and Giving Tree Coordinators to start their preparations. Contact [corrine@elancocross.org](mailto:corrine@elancocross.org) for specific details.

### OCTOBER 2024:

- Consider hosting a stocking stuffer or toy drive. CrossNet has **20** collection bins available to put out in the community.
- Consider hosting a **specific** toy drive (i.e. all legos, all nerf products, all baby dolls, etc.). Contact Corrine for more details at [corrine@elancocross.org](mailto:corrine@elancocross.org).
- Encourage your colleagues, friends, and family to sponsor a family.

### NOVEMBER 2024:

- Collection Drive month!
- Shop, shop, shop! Take advantage of all those early Black Friday sales! Remember to order online items early!
- Volunteer Sign-ups begin! Online sign-up begin November 1, a link will be emailed.
- Family Registration deadline is November 22, 2024

### DECEMBER 2024:

- Workshop Week – December 9–12, 2024
- Gift Drop & Stocking Stuffer Drop-Off – December 9–12, 2024
- Christmas Program Event – December 14, 2024

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## 2 IMPORTANT LOCATIONS

**CrossNet Offices:** 123 West Franklin Street, New Holland, PA

**Christmas Workshop Drop-Off and Volunteer Locations:** CrossNet Youth Center, located at 110 West Franklin Street, New Holland, PA

**Christmas Program Event:** CrossNet Youth Center and Warehouse 100 at 100 & 110 West Franklin Street, New Holland, PA

# FAQ'S & OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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## **How Much Money Should I Spend?**

We are asking donors to spend \$100 per child (i.e. \$400 for a family of four). Donors should spend equal amounts of each child gift(s) and if a child has checked the GIFT CARD ONLY OPTION a \$100 in gift card(s) should be given for each child with this option.

## **Why Should I Include Gift Receipts?**

Gift receipts make it easier for families to return gifts, especially clothing. Sizing on clothing varies greatly between brands and is the main reason we ask for gift receipts.

## **Are there other ways to participate besides sponsoring?**

Of course! Below are some other ways to partner with CrossNet for this Christmas Program:

- **Gift Card Donations:** Older students love gift cards! Would you consider donating \$25-\$100 gift cards for a teen? We suggest Walmart, Target, or Amazon gift cards.
- **Stocking Stuffer Collections:** Donate small items such as gum, candy, socks, toiletries, and small toys to be used as stocking stuffers.
- **Cookies:** If you love to bake, we are always in need of cookies for our volunteers and parents during Workshop Week and at our Christmas Program Event.
- **Wrapping Paper & Tape:** This basic need is helpful and used at the Christmas Program Event.

## **Can I Make a Monetary Donation Instead?**

Absolutely! Please visit our website at [elancocross.org](http://elancocross.org) and click on the DONATE tab to donate. Please designate your gift for the Christmas Program or send contributions to the following address:

### **CrossNet Ministries**

Attention: Christmas Program  
PO Box 154, New Holland, PA 17557

## **Can I Volunteer to Help With the Christmas Program?**

Yes! We need individuals to help during our Christmas Workshop Week (December 9-12, 2024) and at our Christmas Program Event on Saturday, December 14th. An online volunteer sign-up will be emailed (or can be requested) on November 1, for interested individuals. Space for groups can be limited; please contact Corrine if more information or details are needed.

**Thank you for participating in the 2024 Christmas Program and making  
this Christmas season special for our families! For all other questions, please contact  
717-355-2454 or email [corrine@elancocross.org](mailto:corrine@elancocross.org).**

# GIVING TREE DETAILS

YOU CAN SPONSOR A CHILD  
THROUGH HOSTING YOUR OWN  
GIVING TREE AT YOUR CHURCH,  
BUSINESS, OR OTHER  
ORGANIZATION!

## Planning a Giving Tree

- **Select a Giving Tree Coordinator:** This will be the contact person for your organization to coordinate details with a CrossNet staff member.
  - Create an electronic spreadsheet or checklist with the student name, basic info, and the wish list items listed as a way to track assignments and tag listings.
- **Create tags to hang on your tree:** You can create your own paper tags or you can print and use pre-made tags from the CrossNet website. Tags include the age and gender of the recipient(s). They should also include a few things on the child's wish list, like clothing sizes so gifters can buy wearable items.
  - Please include a gift drop-off deadline (that coincides with CrossNet's date) on the tag along with a request for the tag to be taped to the unwrapped gift.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Please include gift receipts for all clothing, shoes, or wearable items.
- **Assign "Secret Shoppers":** Anyone who wants to help can pull a tag off of the tree. The "secret shopper" buys the wish list items for the child on the tag and returns the unwrapped gifts to the Giving Tree organizer by the designated deadline, with the tag attached to the outside of the gift.
  - We ask donors to spend \$100 per child.
  - People who want to donate gifts to kids but don't want to shop can donate money or gift cards instead, which you can use to buy gifts for unfilled tags.
  - We encourage you to ask shoppers to return their gifts the week before CrossNet's gift deadline to ensure all your gifts are returned.
- **Deliver Gifts to CrossNet:** When all the gifts for a child are received, place all unwrapped gifts for that specific child in a black garbage bag and label with their last name on the outside of the bag. Deliver bag(s) to CrossNet for distribution to the recipients on Event Day.
  - All bags need to be at CrossNet by December 12th.
- **Organize an Online Giving Tree:** You can also organize an online Giving Tree! With an online Giving Tree, donors can give from anywhere. Have online donors ship items directly to you. You can organize and account for their gifts before delivering to CrossNet for Workshop Week (Dec 9–12).
  - **IMPORTANT:** Please ensure online gifts/donations have a delivery date prior to your program deadline.



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# APPENDIX

*This section contains additional resources used in the Christmas Program.*

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## RESOURCES CONTAINED IN THE APPENDIX ARE AS LISTED BELOW

**1. Sponsor / Donor Letter & Application:** This is the application has important details such as how much to spend, drop off gifts and on how to get involved in the Christmas Gift Giving Program. Please feel free to use these forms or make copies of them to become a Christmas Sponsor/Donor.

**2. Giving Tree Tags:** This is a sample of the Giving Tree Tags that are available for your use on our website for your use.

***Visit [elancocross.org](http://elancocross.org) to get more or digital copies of these items!***



**Thank you for your partnership in offering help and hope in the name of Jesus!**

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## CONTACT US

123 West Franklin Street, PO Box 154, New Holland, PA 17557

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[corrine@elancocross.org](mailto:corrine@elancocross.org)