



Dear Christmas Sponsor,

Thank you for helping the ELANCO community this Christmas! Your support makes the difference in hundreds of families' lives, and your service is greatly appreciated to help bridge the gap of need in our community.

The Christmas Gift Program is an opportunity for our community to come together to make sure needs are met and families are empowered and loved during the Christmas season. All receiving families participate in a **one-day gift pick-up event** at CrossNet Ministries on **Saturday, December 14, 2024**. Families pick up their gifts, wrap the items themselves, talk to volunteers over cookies and hot chocolate, get stocking stuffers, and take their gifts home to give to their children on Christmas day.

As a donor, you will receive information about a family you have sponsored. You will receive the children's names, ages, parents' last name and a Wish List for each child. You can decide the size of the family you would like to help. Once you receive the wish lists for your selected family, please refer to the following details to help you finish the process:

- Please spend an equal amount on each child in the family you are purchasing for. We suggest a spending amount of \$100 per child. We also suggest purchasing at least one item from each of the categories on the list, "something to wear," "something they need," "something they want" and "something to read." **Please include gift receipts, especially for clothing.**
- **GIFT CARD OPTION:** Teens in 9th grade or above can participate in a **GIFT CARD ONLY** option! We all know how hard it can be to buy for older students. We hope this option will help make shopping easier! As you look over your Wish List you may notice some older students will have only one section filled in with a few gift card ideas. We suggest you take one or two of their suggestions and purchase up to **\$100 worth of gift card(s)** for each student that chooses this option. Label and return the gift card with your family gifts as instructed. Feel free to reach out if you need any clarifications for this option.
- You are welcome to (but don't have to) provide a parent gift or gift card for the family. We suggest a gift card to a local grocery store.
- **Please put unwrapped gifts in a single large black trash bag (one bag for each child), tie it closed and clearly print the child's first & last name on the bag tag,** as well as the parents **last** name. This information is listed on each child's Wish List. **PLEASE** include all gift receipts, especially for clothing and shoes. **Feel free to make copies and use the optional bag identification tags in this packet for each of your sponsored children!**
- Drop all gifts at CrossNet Youth Center at 110 W. Franklin Street during our **Christmas Workshop Week. Monday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 11th** from 9:00AM to 5:00PM! **We will have a few evening hours** as well, which will be published later. (Note gifts purchased online should be delivered to you **prior** December 9)
- **Optional Ways to Be Involved:**
 - **Gift Card Donations:** Older students love gift cards!! If you want to be involved but do not have the time to shop, would you consider donating a \$25-\$75 gift card (Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc.) for a teen? Note: this is not the same as the Gift Card Option program.
 - **Be a Volunteer:** We need individuals to help during our Christmas Workshop Week and at our Giveaway Event on Saturday, December 14th. Space for groups is limited, please contact Corrine for details.

If you wish to be a donor or volunteer or for more information, contact Corrine at the office 717-355-2454, or email me at corrine@elancocross.org. Or go to our website at www.elancocross.org to download a copy of the **DONOR HANDBOOK**. All donor requests should be turned in by **Thursday, November 9th** or sooner.

We are looking forward to partnering with you to make Christmas a little brighter!

Sincerely,

Corrine Horning, Community Events and Outreach Manager

*Please note this program is for families enrolled in the **FREE** lunch program in the ELANCO School District only or qualify via referral. All children living in the household are invited to participate in the program. The age range is from birth to 18 years old. If a child is older than 18, they may participate if they are still in high school.