



The Christmas Store
2020 REPORT





Amidst a global pandemic, we are proud to report that The Christmas Store was held on December 12, 2020 at the Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream. It goes without saying that our store looked different than previous years, yet our mission remained the same. We wanted to provide an opportunity for our families to purchase quality Christmas gifts at an affordable price.



Over 1430 Gifts donated



177 Families Shopped



470 Children received gifts



**82 Volunteers contributed
750 hours of service**

The families near the Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, so even more than previous years, the Christmas Store provided our families with an opportunity to provide a sense of hope and a spirit of joy for their children this Christmas season. The Store allows our families to purchase gifts for their children at a savings of 75% off retail price. We believe purchasing affordable presents honors parents and grandparents, while proceeds from the Store are designated to Outreach Community Center's case management services, which helps local families throughout the year who need financial assistance.

Starting last spring the Christmas Store Committee and Outreach staff, tackled the project of adapting the store to meet different levels of mitigation and safety/health precautions. In working with the local health department to ensure that we were meeting proper protocols, we were able to serve close to 200 families, representing 475 children. With such an unprecedented year, we wanted our families to know that we are still there to restore hope and provide opportunities. More than ever, we believe that this Store serves as reminder of the hope of Christmas for all those who participate. In keeping in step with previous years, the local community provided the necessary support to make this store a reality. A generous spirit was prominent this year as our friends, neighbors and colleagues stepped up and supported this Store in numerous ways.



Outreach
Community Center
in Carol Stream

SHOPPERS

The Christmas Store was open to any family served by the Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream for the past two years. This year over 200 families made appointments to shop and 177 participated in the Store.

Extremely Low-Income Shoppers

Families without monies to shop at the time of the store met with an OCC staff member to determine if a voucher is warranted. This year, families received vouchers representing 14 number of children.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Christmas Store is made possible by the generous support of our community partners through gift drives, volunteer service and financial contributions of both sponsors and individuals.

Volunteers

83 volunteers generously served 750 hours for the Christmas Store this year. Roles included shopper check in, shuttle drives, parking lot attendants, shopper helpers, cashiers and more. As representation of the community wide support of this event, we had volunteers from 18 churches.

Gift Drives

Over 30 area companies, organizations, churches and small groups held gift drives in support of the 2020 Christmas Store, including:

- 302 Wheaton
- Ladies 18 Holvers- Medinah Country Club
- College Church
- Church of the Savior
- Glen Ellyn Bible Church
- Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Invesco
- KeHE
- Orangetheory Fitness
- Our Savior Lutheran
- Precision Plumbing
- Spraying Systems Co
- St. Matthew Church, Wheaton
- St. Petronille Catholic Church
- Wheaton Bible Church
- Wheaton Christian Grammar School
- Wheaton Sports Center

Sponsorships

\$52,000 in sponsorships and donations were raised in 2020. Supporters included Friends of Outreach, Praise Fellowship Church and an Anonymous Donor as lead corporate sponsor. All financial contributions underwrite Store expenses, freeing up dollars earned by the store to go directly to the case management services at OCC, including the Client Assistance Fund.



"I started worrying about affording Christmas gifts for my girl, when I lost my job in July. I thought the Christmas Store would be called off. I can't tell you how much the Christmas Store means to me... after a difficult year, I'm feeling hopeful that it's all going to be OK."
-Shopper

"Something I always appreciate about the Christmas Store is how great the gifts are. My youngest daughter wanted a doll and they had so many dolls with dark skin to choose from. I picked one with curly hair who looks just like my daughter. That's an important thing for me, and the Christmas Store thinks it's important too."
- Shopper



Outreach

Community Center

in Carol Stream



Save the Date

2021 Christmas Store

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Christmas Store

COMMITTEE

Chellena Kessler

Diane Routson

Jennifer Ochs

Karla Feltes

Sally Keith

Sarah Bradley

Dina Hilliard, Executive Director - Outreach Community Center

Mindy Inman, Director of Volunteer Services - Outreach Community Ministries