

**A Community Christmas
of Stark County, Inc.**
P.O. Box 20050, Canton, Ohio 44701
Phone: 330-454-3841
Fax: 330-454-1117
website: acomunitychristmas.org
Email: email@acomunitychristmas.org

*Bringing Christmas Joy to
Stark County Since 1959*



**A Community
Christmas**
OF STARK COUNTY, INC.
A Non-Profit Organization

NON PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT NO. 175

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*Celebrating
65
years
of giving*

*Some of the ACC volunteers and
board members that ensured
the 2023 Christmas Giving
Center held at the Stark County
Fairgrounds was a success.*

Thank you to all the ACC Volunteers!

A Community Christmas

*Bringing Christmas Joy to
Stark County Since 1959*

OF STARK COUNTY, INC.

VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1 | SUMMER 2024

*Since 1959, A Community Christmas (ACC) of Stark County, Inc. has been
a local non-profit organization with a mission to help Stark County families
during the Christmas season that are in need of food, toys, clothing and more.*

65 Years of Giving and Gratitude

A Community Christmas (ACC) was able to provide a brighter Christmas for all families and individuals that qualified for aid in 2023 – 1,052 applicants, representing 604 families, and 448 senior citizens and disabled adults, for a total of 2,860 children and adults. **Thank you to the many generous Stark County residents, organizations and businesses that made this possible!**

Compared to ACC's 2022 program, there were significantly more clients and applications for Christmas aid in 2023. ACC forecasts that this trend will continue in 2024 due to the rising costs of daily necessities. Here's a recap of 2023's many increases:

- **26% More** Total Clients/Applicants with **46% More** Seniors/Disabled Adults
- **14% More** Total Individuals Served
- **11% More** Giving Center Recipients and **7% More** Adopt-A-Families
- **6.5% More** Toys, Gift Cards, Clothing & Household Items were Distributed
- **11% More** Monetary Donors

Due to more monetary donations being received, ACC was able to distribute **1,928** food vouchers (\$31,160) to Giving Center families and seniors/disabled adults; **309** teen gift cards (\$12,360); and **28,348** mostly donated toys, gifts, books, bikes, toiletries, household items and clothing.

Thank you to all who contributed time, money, and support to ACC – we couldn't do it without your incredible generosity and the assistance of over 875 dedicated and hard-working volunteers!

Please consider joining our team as a donor or volunteer, and help ensure every Stark County resident in need has a Merry Christmas. Email us at email@acomunitychristmas.org, call us at 330-454-3841 (office reopens Sept. 23), use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.acomunitychristmas.org.

With Gratitude, Susan Hill, ACC President

Susan J. Hill



*Celebrating
65
years
of giving*

If you'd rather receive
this newsletter by email,
send us an email with
the subject line
"Email Newsletter" to:
[email@
acomunitychristmas.org](mailto:email@acomunitychristmas.org)

To become A Community Christmas volunteer or donor, please email us at email@acomunitychristmas.org, visit www.acomunitychristmas.org, call us at 330-454-3841 (office reopens Sept. 23), or use the enclosed envelope.

**ACC Office
Reopens
Sept. 23**

Upcoming 2024 ACC Schedule

2024 Assistance Applications

- **Submit applications Sept. 5 through Nov. 8, 2024**
- Download an application at www.acomunitychristmas.org and mail to:
ACC, P.O. Box 20050, Canton, OH 44701, or
- Drop off at American Legion Nov. 6 & 7 (1-4pm) or Nov. 8 (9am-noon)
- If clients haven't received an ACC acceptance letter by Nov. 30, call 330-454-3841

2024 Adopt-A-Family

- Potential AAF Sponsors receive a letter in September; if you want to adopt and don't get a letter by Sept. 18, call the office at 330-454-3841
- **Requests must be made by Nov. 15**
- Sponsors/Donors drop off gifts on Dec. 10 (7am-4pm); Clients pick up on Dec. 11 (8:30am-12:30pm) at the Coleman Southeast Community Center

2024 Christmas Giving Center

- Takes place at the Stark County Fairgrounds
- Those not in the Adopt-A-Family, are served by the Giving Center
- Volunteers pre-bag gifts on Dec. 16, 17 & 18
- Clients have drive-thru pick up on Dec. 19 & 20

2023 ACC PROGRAMS

INTAKE



1,052 Qualified Applications (604 family and 407 senior/disabled adult applicants), were received in 2023 representing 2,860 children and adults – a 14 % increase over 2022!

The intake procedure for 2023 allowed clients to either print out applications online and mail them to ACC, or drop them off during ACC's 3-Day Application Drop-Off Service at the **American Legion Canton Post 44** – *thank you for letting us use your parking lot.* Having two ways to submit applications was appreciated by our clients – 35% of the total applications were dropped off, while 65% were mailed (seniors prefer to mail applications). Thanks to the help of **Catholic Charities**, ACC was able to ensure that no applicant requested duplicate assistance or services from multiple organizations. Of the 1,052 applicants, 223 families were served by the Adopt-A-Family program, 381 families were served by the Christmas Giving Center, and 448 seniors/disabled adults received a food voucher. To ensure a smooth running and successful program, it took over **850 volunteer hours and 15 volunteers** to collect, process and cross-check the 1,052 applications.

FOOD DONORS



Over 125 volunteers working ACC's Adopt-A-Family and Christmas Giving Center programs, were fed by **FOUR** local eateries (below). Thank you to Judy Vellucci for donating food, Jerry Hill and Chuck Gray for picking up the food, and to Sally Gray for preparing the kitchen and food at both program locations. **Special thanks to:**

- **Chick-Fil-A** (Belden)
- **Dunkin' Donuts** (Fulton Rd.)
- **Mary Ann Donuts** (N. Canton)
- **Pizza Oven** (W. Tusc)

ADOPT-A-FAMILY



223 families (651 children and 281 adults)

were adopted in 2023, providing Christmas to 7% more families and individuals over 2022. Thank you to the individuals and companies that generously adopted families, especially to Faith United Methodist Church and Aultman Hospital who adopted many families. **ACC also thanks:**

- **Canton Parks & Recreation** for allowing ACC to use the **Coleman Southeast Community Center** for the 2023 donor drop off and family pickup, and for agreeing to do it again in 2024
- **Canton Road Garden Center** for loaning us their garden carts
- **Alan Warnock**, our Distribution Director
- **Dominion Energy** volunteers, especially **Tracy Stevens** for managing this program for over 30 years!
- **Canton Repository** for placing ads and donating our office space

We are grateful to our generous Adopt-A-Family donors and the more than 75 volunteers working more than 700 hours over 3 days to make Christmas merrier for so many people.

CHRISTMAS GIVING CENTER



381 families with 683 children, 309 teens and 488 adults (totaling 1,480 people, an 11% increase) were provided a merrier Christmas through the ACC ACC Giving Center. The Christmas Giving Center continued to use the popular **drive-by gift pick up** (rather than "in-person shopping") to distribute gifts and vouchers at the **Stark County Fairgrounds**. Each family's gifts were pre-bagged using suggestions from clients' information sheets. Highlights of the 2023 program include:

- **Marines Toys for Tots** provided AAC with enough items to give each child (under 12) 3-5 new toys, stocking stuffers, stuffed animals, books and a bike if requested (**about 8,540 total items**).
- Each of the 309 teens (age 13-19 in school full time, not college) received a **\$40 Walmart gift card, totaling \$12,360**. *ACC is the only Christmas giving agency that provides gifts to teenagers.*
- All 1,480 family members received a \$15 Fisher Foods food voucher, as well as hats and gloves (**\$22,200 was spent on food vouchers**).
- Each family received toilet paper, paper towels, a blanket, hand soap and tooth paste. Some families also received hand wipes, Kleenex, toothbrushes, Christmas decorations, boxes of food, clothing, coats, shoes and boots. **\$3,223.90** was spent on these mostly taxable, non-food stamp items.

To make this 2-day program a success, ACC had over **50 volunteers** working **1,000 hours** to help with set up, shopping and bagging gifts for each family, traffic control, loading the drive-by cars and cleanup – **thank you**. We also thank the **Stark County Fairgrounds** for hosting the 2023 Giving Center and for agreeing to host it again in 2024; **Canton Chair and Table Rental** for discounted chairs and tables; and **Canton Road Garden Center** for loaning us their garden carts.

SENIORS/DISABLED ADULTS



448 Senior Citizens and Disabled Adults

(age 55+ or disabled) each received a \$20 food voucher to Fisher Foods, totaling **\$8,960**. Compared to 2022, **46% more seniors** were helped during the holidays. This increase corresponds to an increase in mail-in applications, which seniors/disabled adults prefer due to transportation or mobility issues. Therefore, ACC will always keep the mail-in option for seniors to make their application submittal easier.

VOLUNTEERS



Over 675 volunteers worked 3,800+ hours

in the many 2023 ACC programs in various capacities (intake, applicant processing, pickup, sorting, setup, shopping, transporting and distribution). This includes at least 250 individuals who purchased gifts for Adopt-A-Family clients, and 310 church members, business employees and the public, who generously donated items to the Mitten Tree program. ACC volunteers' dedication of time, enthusiasm and hard work made it possible to give aid, gifts and clothing to more than 8,800 Stark County individuals through our various programs and distribution channels.

ACC is always seeking volunteers. If you can help in 2024, please call 330-454-3841 (office reopens Sept. 23) or email ACC at email@acomunitychristmas.org.

DONATIONS and GRANTS



\$57,807.16 in Monetary Donations were received in 2023 from grants, foundations, and donors (individuals, churches and businesses).

- **\$18,600 from Grants and Foundations from:** Hoover Foundation, Paul and Carol David Foundation, Sisters of Charity, Diebold Nixdorf Charitable Giving, Tracy Stevens/Dominion Energy Dollars for Doers Program, and five Stark Community Foundation – Partners in Giving: The Carl S. and Sally A. Sorenson Charitable Advised Fund, The Edward J. and Helen L. Harhager Donor Advised Fund, The James V. and Velia Armogida Charitable Fund, The Virginia J. Roof Donor Advised Fund, and Wright Family Charitable Fund
- **\$39,207.16 was received from 170 past and new donors** (all ACC's generous donors, except anonymous ones, are listed on the insert). **18%** of these donations were made online through the ACC website: **www.acomunitychristmas.org**.
- **Canton Repository** donated space for our offices and print advertising, which saved ACC a lot of money!

Donations are welcome and appreciated anytime. *Donations received before mid-November are spent on clients for the current Christmas season (since that's when gift cards, food vouchers and household necessities are purchased), while donations received afterward are used for the next year's program.*

Thank you, we couldn't help so many without your support!

MITTEN TREE



6,747 Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Clothing items were collected in 2023.

Donated items came from 31 local Stark County churches, businesses, libraries and many individuals. All items collected were distributed to Stark County Community Health Clinics and Shelters, as well as Canton City and Plain Local Schools. We are incredibly thankful to all of those that support the Mitten Tree Program, especially the North Canton Public Library and Trinity United Church of Christ for being our collection site.

THE SEASON OF GIVING



\$46, 743.90 was spent on 2,860 Stark County children, adults, senior citizen & disabled adults.

\$31,160 was spent on food vouchers for Giving Center families and senior citizens/disabled adults; **\$12,360** was spent on \$40 Wal-Mart gift cards for Giving Center teens; and **\$3,223.90** was used to purchase taxable, non-food stamp items for Giving Center families. The program also had expenditures such as postage, venue rentals, chair/table rental and security. Plus, normal non-profit business operational expenditures including insurance, software and website updates, one part-time salary, storage, P.O. Box rental, accountants, and taxes. Office space and print advertising costs were donated by the **Canton Repository**. Remaining monies from 2023 will be used to start funding the 2024 program. This was truly a wonderful year of giving... and receiving. **Thank you!**

You Make It All Possible! Heartfelt Thanks to our Generous 2023 Individual and Business Donors:



- Erin **Adcock**
Lucy & William **Anderson**
Jean **Angbrandt**
Fran & Steve **Armatas**
Dena & John **Bahas**
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Mari & William **Ballas**
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Nancy **Whitaker**
Barbi **Wiggins**
Megan **Wingerter**
Theodora **Wyss**
Jack **Ziegler**
Diane **Zollars**

We value all our donors and apologize for any accidental omissions or typos.
Please report any errors to: email@acomunitychristmas.org
Thank you!

Grant Providers, Memorial/Honorary Gift Donors & Services Providers ►

A Community Christmas

of Stark County, Inc. since 1959

Become an

ADOPT-A-FAMILY SPONSOR*

**Individuals, families, businesses, organizations and churches are needed to adopt qualified local families needing assistance for this Christmas season*

CALL 330-454-3841

(Office reopens on September 23)
or Email: email@acomunitychristmas.org

Last Date to “Adopt-A-Family” is November 15, 2024

How the Program Works:

- Request one or more families
- Receive family wish lists
- Buy new gifts and wrap with a name tag
- Please supply a local grocery store gift card
- Optional (but appreciated): canned goods, toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies, gas/store gift cards

Drop Off Adopt-A-Family Gifts on
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 from 7am to 4pm
at the Southeast Community Center
1400 Sherrick Road SE, Canton 44707

To donate or volunteer with A Community Christmas, visit www.acomunitychristmas.org or call 330-454-3841 (Office reopens on September 23)

A Community Christmas of Stark County, Inc.

2023 Year in Review

Celebrating its 65th year, A Community Christmas (ACC) is a local non-profit organization that has been supplying Christmas aid to needy Stark County children, families, disabled adults and senior citizens with food vouchers, gift cards, toys/gifts, books, clothing and household items.



675+ VOLUNTEERS WORKED 3,800+ HOURS

to successfully run all 2023 ACC programs – 140 ACC volunteers worked 2,650 hours (and were generously fed by 4 local eateries), and 535+ additional volunteers worked over 1,150+ hours shopping for 223 Adopt-A-Families and Mitten Tree items

\$46,743.90 in FOOD VOUCHERS, GIFT CARDS and TAXABLE ITEMS

was spent by ACC on Stark County families, children, senior citizens and disabled adults to ensure they had a merrier Christmas

14,218+ ITEMS COLLECTED

including 9,707 hats, gloves and scarves, 2,225 clothing items, and over 2,286 taxable grocery items not covered by food stamps (paper products, toiletries, wipes, cleaning products, etc.), were distributed through the ACC Giving Center and to the community*

*Mitten Tree items collected were distributed to many Stark County Schools, and various Stark County Clinics, Shelters and Service Agencies.

8,800+ INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

2,860 children and adults were given aid (food vouchers, gift cards, toys/gifts, clothing, toiletries and/or household items) through ACC's Giving Center and Adopt-A-Family programs; and at least 5,940 children and adults received hats or gloves through the Mitten Tree program

16,367+ TOYS & GIFTS

were distributed to 1,643 children and 1,217 adults, including senior citizens and disabled adults; 8,538 toys, stocking stuffers, books, stuffed animals and bikes came from the Marine's Toys for Tots program, over 5,592 gifts were donated for Adopt-A-Families, and ACC provided 2,237 gift cards and food vouchers

\$57,807.16 IN DONATIONS

\$18,600 from 5 grants and 7 Stark Community Foundation Partners in Giving, and \$39,207.16 from 170 individuals and business donors, ensured that every family and individual that submitted a qualifying application received assistance from ACC for a more enjoyable Christmas

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

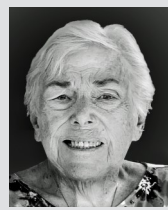
Thank you to the Canton Repository and our 2023 Grant Providers:

- Hoover Foundation
- Paul and Carol David Foundation
- Diebold Nixdorf Charitable Giving
- Dominion Energy Dollars for Doers Program / Tracy Stevens
- Sisters of Charity Foundation
- Stark Community Foundation and 5 Partners in Giving:
 - Wright Family Charitable Fund
 - Carl S. and Sally A. Sorenson Charitable Advised Fund
 - Edward J. and Helen L. Harhager Donor Advised Fund
 - James V. and Velia Armogida Charitable Fund
 - Virginia J. Roof Donor Advised Fund



Loved Ones Remembered or Honored with a Gift to A Community Christmas - Thank You Donors:

IN MEMORY OF...



• **Donna Craig,**
a beloved,
long-time
ACC volunteer
by the ACC
Board Members

- **Ray & Mary Adelph** by Jean Angbrandt
- **Dolly & Glenn Bowersox** by their children
- **Mary Davis** by Ronald Davis
- **Diana Durr** by Alice Gupton
- **Michele Fach** by Arthur Fach
- **Gary Gregory** by Martha Gregory
- **Kaye Halvorson** by Lucy & William Anderson
- **David Hoffman** by Regina Hoffman
- **Tom Johnson** by Dorothy Johnson
- **Al Joliet** by Sally Joliet
- **Robert Leach** by Nancy Leach
- **Cindy, Ruth & Alyson Mather** by Laura & Brian Meader

- **Elizabeth McCutchan** by Jonell & William McCutchan
- **Brian Moock** by Patricia Moock
- **George Saimes** by Elizabeth Saimes
- **Samuel Sliman** by Harlene Smuckler
- **Nathan Lee Slusser** by Rebecca Slusser
- **Kristine Elaine Smith & Margaret Mary Lee** by Carlotta Smith
- **Aaron Stephanic** by Laura Cantini
- **Audrey Vellucci** by Christine Steigerwald
- **John & Virginia Walker** by Nel & Dave Lawson
- **Larry Whitaker** by Nancy Whitaker
- **Viola Williams** by Molly Streb
- **Stan & Martha ZaK & Richard Zollars** by Diana Zollars

IN HONOR OF

- **All Volunteers** by Marcia & Thomas Hope
- **Kenneth Beyer** by Betty Beyer
- **Joan Brindlinger** by Jack Ziegler
- **Iverson Fike** by Mickey Frank
- **Julie & Susan** by Mary Spino
- **Our 4 Grandsons** by Linda & Greg Parrish

Thank You to Those Donating Goods, Supplies and Services:

ACC Volunteers
Adopt-A-Family Donors
Alan Warnock
American Legion Canton Post 44
Aultman Hospital
Canton Chair Rental
Canton Parks and Recreation
Canton Repository
Canton Road Garden Center
Catholic Charities
Chick-fil-A (Belden)
Coleman SE Community Center
Dominion Energy
Dunkin' Donuts (Fulton Road)
Faith United Methodist Church
Giving Center Donors/Shoppers
Marines Toys for Tots
MaryAnn Donuts (North Canton)
Mitten Tree Donors
North Canton Public Library
Pizza Oven (West Tusc.)
Refuge of Hope
Stark County Fairgrounds
Tracy Stevens
Trinity United Church of Christ



Bringing
Christmas
Joy to Stark
County
Since 1959

Thank You! A Community Christmas could not function without its many volunteers and donors!
To become an ACC volunteer, please call the office at 330-454-3841 (office reopens Sept. 23) or email: email@acomunitychristmas.org. To donate to ACC, visit www.acomunitychristmas.org or mail it to P.O. Box 20050, Canton, Ohio 44701.

◀ Individual & Business Donors on Reverse Side