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A Community Christmas

*Bringing Christmas Joy to
Stark County Since 1959*

OF STARK COUNTY, INC.

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 1 | SUMMER 2026

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.

Grateful to the Stark County Community

It never ceases to amaze me how the Stark County Community responds to the needs of others! They certainly did for A Community Christmas (ACC) clients in 2025. **Thank you to the many generous Stark County residents, businesses and organizations that provided ACC with financial support, and the hundreds of volunteers that gave their time to make our programs possible!**

As a result of the community's generosity in 2025, ACC was able to provide a brighter Christmas for 1,907 children, 871 adults, and 527 senior citizens/disabled adults, for a total of **3,305 individuals**. The letter below (from a past client) helps show the impact ACC programs can have on our clients.

ACC programs exist solely on donations, so we amped up our fundraising efforts during 2025, and will continue to do so in future years. This effort helped fund the **23.7%** increase in the number of seniors/disabled adults served in 2025, compared to 2024. In sum, **\$47,060** was spent on 2,487 food vouchers and gift cards for the **527** seniors/disabled adults and **707** Giving Center families in 2025. Plus, over **7,340** toys from Marines Toys for Tots, and almost **10,518** taxable, non-food stamp items (donated and purchased for **\$6,857.54**) were distributed through ACC's Giving Center program.

Please consider joining our team as a 2026 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. 21), use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.acomunitychristmas.org.

With Gratitude,

Susan Hill, ACC President

Hi,

I don't know if you remember me and my daughter, but your organization [ACC] has helped us a lot the past couple years.

Well, [ACC] will not get an application from me this year, because I am doing good. I got the right help and I also was able to get a job to provide for us.

A thing I always live by and try to teach [my daughter] the same is gratitude and to give back when you can. I am grateful to [ACC] for not judging me and believing in me. I am thankful for the Christmases [we] got to enjoy because of [ACC] when I wasn't able to give [my daughter] a Christmas.

I want to give [ACC] the [enclosed] gift card so [ACC] can maybe help someone like me and give a Christmas to their child. Would you please do that for me?

Your Friend

◀ *This is an excerpt of a client letter received by A Community Christmas. It touched our hearts and validated the program's value for those that can't afford Christmas for their children. However, it's the financial support of the Stark community coupled with ACC's incredible, hard-working volunteers that make the program the success it is!*

2025 ACC PROGRAMS



INTAKE

1,176 Qualified Applications (704 family and 472 senior/disabled adult applicants), were received in 2025 representing 3,305 children & adults.

The intake procedure for 2025 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 the use of your parking lot.* Having two ways to submit applications was appreciated by our clients. 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 1,176 applicants, 272 families were served by the Adopt-A-Family program, 432 families were served by the Christmas Giving Center, and 527 seniors and disabled adults received a food voucher. To ensure a smooth running and successful program, it took over **900 volunteer hours and 22 volunteers to collect, process and cross check the 1,176 applications.**



CHRISTMAS GIVING CENTER

432 families with 734 children, 316 teens and 542 adults (totaling 1,592 people) were provided a merrier Christmas through the ACC Giving Center. To make this 2-day program a success, ACC had **100 volunteers** (several shown below) working a total of **2,000 hours** to help with set up, shopping, pre-bagging gifts (using suggestions from family information sheets), traffic control, clean-up, and loading the drive-by cars picking up their gifts at the **Stark County Fairgrounds. Thank you!**



More 2025 highlights:

- **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 or scooter if requested (**over 7,340 total items**).
- Each of the 316 teens (age 13-19 in school full time, not college), received a **\$40 Walmart gift card, totaling \$12,640. ACC is the only organization that provides gifts for teenagers.**
- Each of the 1,592 family members received a \$15 Marc's food/gift card (totaling **\$23,880**), hats and gloves, and socks.
- Each family (432) received toilet paper, paper towels, feminine products bars of soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, a blanket and Christmas hand towel. **\$6,857.54** was spent on these mostly taxable, non-food stamp items.
- **220 books, 122 bars of soap and 242 pairs of socks** were donated during ACC's *Christmas in July* fundraiser for distribution during the Christmas Giving Center.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY

272 families (857 children and 329 adults)

were adopted in 2025, bringing Christmas to 1,186 individuals. We are extremely grateful to our many generous Adopt-A-Family sponsors (churches, individuals and companies) that generously donated and wrapped over 6,250 gifts and gift cards for their adopted families. Special thanks to **Faith United Methodist Church** members for adopting 59 families, and **Aultman Hospital** employees for adopting 37 families. Plus, many thanks to all of the board members for helping to process applications and adopting families. **ACC also thanks:**

- **Canton Parks & Recreation** for allowing ACC to use the **Southeast Community Center** for the 2025 donor drop off and family pickup, and for agreeing to do it again in 2026
- **Canton Road Garden Center** for loaning us their garden carts
- **Alan Warnock**, our Distribution Director
- **Enbridge Gas Ohio volunteers, coordinated by Antionette Morrison**
- **The 75 ACC volunteers working more than 1,000 hours over 3 days to make Christmas merrier for those in need.**



SENIORS/DISABLED ADULTS

527 Senior Citizens and Disabled Adults (age 60+ or disabled) each received a \$20 food voucher to Marc's, totaling **\$10,540**. Many in this group have mobility issues, so they like the mail-in application process for easier submittal. Many thanks to Marilora Redrick for reading and processing all the senior and disabled adult applications.



VOLUNTEERS

Over 832 volunteers worked more than 6,050 hours in the 2025 ACC programs. Collecting, processing and cross checking applications took 22 volunteers 900 hours. The 100 Giving Center volunteers worked 2,000 hours to pickup, sort, setup, shop, transport and distribute items. Plus, 650 individuals worked 2,500 hours to purchase, wrap and deliver gifts for Adopt-A-Family clients, and more than 360 people generously donated items to the Mitten Tree program. ACC volunteers' dedication of time, enthusiasm and hard work made it possible to give aid to 4,720 Stark County individuals.

ACC is always seeking volunteers. If you can help in 2026, please call 330-454-3841 (office reopens Sept. 21) or email ACC at email@acomunitychristmas.org.



DONATIONS, GRANTS and FUNDRAISING

\$77,658.85 in Monetary Donations were received in 2025 from Grants, Foundations, Donors and Fundraising:

- **\$24,550 was received from Grants and Foundations:**

- Stark Community Foundation
(7 Partners in Giving, 1 anonymous):
 - W.A. and Nancy Maddox Fund
 - Buser Family Foundation
 - David & Laura Grabowsky Charitable Fund
 - Shannon English Marketing Charitable Fund
 - The Kerata Family Foundation
 - Roy H. and Nina P. Powell Family Charitable Fund
 - Bellisimo Family Charitable Fund
- Diebold Nixdorf Employee Charitable Fund
- Hoover Foundation
- Sisters of Charity
- Paul and Carol David Foundation
- James & Alice Stephens (Schwab Charitable)



- **\$48,164 was received from individuals, businesses, organizations, churches and online ACC donors at www.acomunitychristmas.org.** ACC's generous donors are all listed on the insert.

- **\$4,944.85 was raised through ACC's Christmas in July Fundraiser** thanks to our new Fundraising Chairperson, Amy Wise. We received 584 items, and thank donors: Buffalo Wild Wings, Best Burger, Meijer, Tomtreycos Inc./McDonalds and JDAD Inc./Hills & Dales Dairy Queen.



MITTEN TREE

1,400 Hats and Gloves

were collected in 2025. Donated items came from many local Stark County churches, businesses, libraries and individuals. All items collected were distributed to ACC Giving Center families, as well as many Stark County schools and agencies. We are very thankful to all those that supported the Mitten Tree Program, and **Faith United Methodist Church** for being our collection site.



THE SEASON OF GIVING

\$53,917.54 was spent on 3,305 Stark County children, teens, adults, seniors & disabled adults.

\$34,420 was spent on Marc's food cards for Giving Center families and seniors/disabled adults; **\$12,640** was spent on \$40 Wal-Mart gift cards for Giving Center teens; and **\$6857.54** 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/website updates, one part-time salary, storage, P.O. Box rental, accountants, and taxes. Also, many thanks to the **Canton Repository** for donating our office space. Remaining monies from 2025 will be used to start funding the 2026 program. This was truly a wonderful year of giving... and receiving.



FOOD DONORS

Over 175 volunteers working onsite at ACC's Christmas Giving Center and Adopt-A-Family programs, were fed by ACC as well as **FIVE** local eateries (below). Thank you to Sally Gray for preparing the kitchen and food at both program locations, and **special thanks to:**

- **Chick-Fil-A (Belden)**
- **Giant Eagle (Washington Square)**
- **Giant Eagle (Raff Rd.)**
- **MaryAnn Donuts (N. Canton)**
- **Pizza Oven (W. Tusc)**

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
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PAID
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PERMIT NO. 175

***Bringing Christmas Joy to
Stark County Since 1959***



**A Community
Christmas**

OF STARK COUNTY, INC.

A Non-Profit Organization

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Thank You to Our Donors of Goods & Services

ACC Volunteers
Adopt-A-Family Sponsors
Alan Warnock
American Legion Canton Post 44
Antionette Morrison
Aultman Hospital
Canton Chair Rental (Party Savvy)
Canton Parks and Recreation
Canton Repository
Canton Road Garden Center
Catholic Charities
Chick-fil-A (Belden)
Enbridge Gas Ohio
Eastern Buckeye Region PCA
Faith United Methodist Church
Giant Eagle (Raff Rd.)
Giant Eagle (Washington Square)
Giving Center Donors/Shoppers
M. Conley Company
Marines Toys for Tots
MaryAnn Donuts (North Canton)
Mitten Tree Donors
Pizza Oven (West Tusc.)
Stark County Fairgrounds
Southeast Community Center
Faith United Methodist Church

Upcoming 2026 ACC Schedule

2026 Assistance Applications

- **Submit applications Sept. 8 through Oct. 30, 2026**
- Download an application at www.acomunitychristmas.org and mail to:
ACC, P.O. Box 20050, Canton, OH 44701, or
- Drop off at American Legion Oct. 28 & 29 (1-4pm) or Oct. 30 (9am-noon)
- Clients not receiving an acceptance letter by Nov. 30, call 330-454-3841

2026 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. 13**
- Sponsors drop off gifts Dec. 8 (7am-4pm); Clients pick up Dec. 9 (8am-2pm) at the Southeast Community Center

2026 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. 14, 15 & 16
- Clients have drive-thru pick up on Dec. 17 & 18

**To become *A Community Christmas* volunteer, donor or sponsor,
please email us at email@acomunitychristmas.org,
visit www.acomunitychristmas.org, call us at 330-454-3841
(office reopens Sept. 21), or use the enclosed envelope.**