

## WHAT IS THE DHS HOLIDAY PROJECT?

Since the late 1960s, the DHS Holiday Project has provided holiday gifts to eligible children and youth who receive services through the Department of Human Services. Thanks to the generosity of county residents—including employees of corporations, school groups, faith-based organizations and individuals—tens of thousands of holiday mornings have been brightened.

## HOW TO SIGN UP

To sign up to be an individual or group sponsor or for more information about the Holiday Project, please contact:

**Event and Donations Team at  
412-350-3428 or by email at  
EventandDonationsTeam@  
AlleghenyCounty.us**

Visit the Holiday Project webpage for gift ideas, gift-collection locations and event updates at: [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/holidayproject.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/holidayproject.aspx)

### DHS IS

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

### DHS PRINCIPLES

All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.



**Rich Fitzgerald**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: 412-350-3428  
Fax: 412-350-5891  
[www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs)

**Human Services Building  
One Smithfield Street, First Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected class including: race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or place of birth; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; familial status; age (40 and older); use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx)  
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ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

*Holiday  
Project*

**BRIGHTENING  
THE HOLIDAYS OF  
CHILDREN SERVED BY  
CHILD WELFARE.**



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES**

[alleghenycounty.us/dhs](http://alleghenycounty.us/dhs)



## WHO ARE THE CHILDREN THAT BENEFIT FROM THE DHS HOLIDAY PROJECT?

All of the children who receive gifts through the DHS Holiday Project are from families that are either receiving DHS services related to child maltreatment or receiving DHS services related to homelessness. Recipients of gifts include newborns through young adults. In every case, gifts from the Holiday Project provide an invaluable sense of normalcy for children and youth whose lives are shaped by daily challenges.

## HOW ARE HOLIDAY PROJECT GIFTS PROVIDED?

New gifts are provided to children through the Holiday Project by sponsors and donors.

Sponsors are given the wish lists of individual children, sibling groups or as many children as desired to make shopping easier and more personal. Though it remains anonymous, many people prefer this option since they have the satisfaction of knowing they purchased a “wished-for” gift. Sponsors are asked to contact the Event and Donations Team to request wish lists by mid-September.

Donors are invited to provide either new gifts or monetary donations year round that replenish the DHS Holiday Project Workshop where volunteers select an ideal gift for each non-sponsored child. Monetary donations are used to increase the pool of culturally diverse gifts as well as those in much-needed age ranges such as infants and teens.

Donors are encouraged to consider hosting a spring, summer or autumn event to gather gifts for holiday giving. While we promote Denim Days fund raisers, and the collection of sports equipment, winter accessories and board games, donors are also encouraged to be creative and design a drive that matches the interests of their workplace, faith-based organization, club or other group.

## BENEFITS OF GROUP PARTICIPATION

Individuals or groups wishing to brighten a child or young person’s holiday can do so in a number of ways:

Groups, that through direct sponsorship or donations, provide gifts for 200 or more children or donate \$5,000 or more may have

- their name in the list of supporters on the Holiday Project webpage
- their name mentioned in the widely available DHS NEWS e-newsletter.

Groups that donate gifts for 20 or more children and/or youth, may arrange for a one-time gift pick-up at a local location of their choice.



## PICK-UP & DELIVERY OF GIFTS & MONETARY DONATIONS

- Collection boxes are placed throughout Downtown Pittsburgh and at various locations in the county. Visit the Holiday Project webpage for details.
- Individuals may also drop their unwrapped gifts off at the Human Services Building located at One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.
- Checks should be made payable to: DHS Donations Fund with “Holiday Project” on the memo line and mailed to:  
DHS Holiday Project/OCR  
Human Services Building  
One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

## SUGGESTED GIFTS



### Holiday Project Amazon.com Wish List

Gifts from this list are shipped automatically to the Holiday Project Workshop. Simply search “DHS Holiday Project” on Amazon.com’s wish list site.

## Choose your own gifts

Gifts must be new and unwrapped, but gift bags are encouraged. As a guideline, we try to provide each child with a gift(s) valued at a minimum of \$25.

### Year round donation requests

 <b>Sporting Goods Drive</b> Kids enjoy basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, baseballs, bats, gloves, & helmets.	 <b>Winter Wear Collection</b> Collect warm winter clothing, like hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, for ages 0-18.
<b>Denim Days</b> Host a casual or jeans Friday and ask those who participate to donate \$5 towards the Holiday Project.	 <b>Board Games Drive</b> Donate the classics like Candy Land, Trouble or Clue, or donate a board game your family enjoys playing.

### Open donations

The Holiday Project is always in need of new toys, books and gifts that relate to children of all ages from diverse cultures.

- Books with diverse cultural themes for children of all ages
- Creative kits (e.g., art, science) for school-age children
- Developmental toys for infants and toddlers
- Dolls and action figures with a full range of skin tones
- Hat, glove and scarf sets
- Imaginative play toys for school-age children
- Music-related electronics
- Purses, jewelry, make-up
- Remote control toys
- Riding toys such as bicycles, tricycles and skateboards (please include a helmet)

Ideas for the hottest toys and gifts and children’s books that celebrate diversity are listed on the DHS Holiday Project webpage.

Donors are encouraged to review the list of suggested items before heading out to shop.