

Please contact Mary Grace Antony, Director of Development with other ideas, or for more details / clarification
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Thank you for considering giving to The Family Shelter this holiday season. We are always grateful for your generosity and kindness in making this time of year special for our shelter clients!

Here is some information to help you plan your donation.

Please do not donate: Holiday gifts for residents

Holiday gifts are already provided by the Catholic Church that owns the shelter building, and by another donor.

So we do not need other donated presents / gifts for the families. Also, since space is limited in the shelter, the families do not have enough space to keep many gifts in their rooms. Excess gifts crowd up other shared spaces in the shelter.

Most preferable giving options include:

- gift cards (grocery stores, clothing stores, are preferable)
- gas cards
- bus passes or cards
- new sheets / linens / bedding. We can always use these.
- Towels
- socks and underwear
- dishes, silverware, bowls, and cups
- children's dinnerware, cups, cutlery

Other options for directly interacting with / serving shelter clients:

- organize a holiday meal (one generous donor has offered to cook Thanksgiving dinner, but Christmas is still available)
- visit and cook dinner at the Shelter on a weekend
- donate holiday meal ingredients
- for former shelter residents, grocery sacks containing ingredients for a holiday meal. Shelter staff can drop them off at resident's new houses, or ex-residents come by the shelter to collect them.
- organize an activity / class / party for the children over the winter break (this is very much appreciated)
- organize a Christmas party with food, carols, games, and Santa Claus

Long-term giving options:

- sponsor and/or decorate a client room at the shelter (e.g., a church could adopt a room for a few months, or a year, or an extended longer duration)
- set up a recurring donation (funds or in-kind goods)
- legacy / bequest / planned giving (individual or organizational)