

Christmas Assistance is Here

Bartholomew County families in need of Christmas assistance, who have not already partaken in another Christmas gift program, may contact the Christmas Clearinghouse for assistance. The Christmas Clearinghouse is hosted by First Call For Help 211 and registers children for such gift programs as Shop with a Cop and Fireman's Cheer Fund. The Clearinghouse is also responsible for taking registrations for the Fireman's Cheer Fund food basket and Love Chapel Holiday Food Visit. Registrations take place Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a-4p November 2nd-December 4th.

PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Clearinghouse works in conjunction with other area Christmas assistance programs including Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center Angels of Love, Salvation Army Angel Tree, East Columbus United Methodist Church Christmas Circus, and many others. All children will be eligible for only ONE gift program and each family may only register for ONE food assistance program. Only custodial parents/guardians may register children for Christmas assistance. Non-custodial parents, grandparents, care takers, neighbors, etc. may not register children/families for assistance.

For information on Christmas assistance in our other counties, please call 2-1-1.

Volunteers Needed

The fall season has arrived, but we have Christmas holidays on our minds at First Call For Help 211. Our agency networks with various community organizations to help thousands of people get a little extra assistance during the holidays through our Christmas Clearinghouse Registration Program. Starting in November (and earlier for some programs), Bartholomew County families will be able to contact our Christmas Assistance line to register for Christmas gift and food assistance. First Call For Help 211 oversees a majority of the registration process, and WE NEED YOUR HELP with the registration process. During holiday registrations, volunteers are asked to commit to a two hour time slot Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9a-4p. However, hours may be flexible to better meet a busy schedule if needed.

To become a volunteer with the Christmas Clearinghouse a short training will need to take place. We ask that all volunteers whether new, current, or

former partake in the hour long training to review the registration process and to learn or review the multiple Christmas programs that are available. Individuals training sessions may be scheduled prior to first volunteer shift. Please contact Kathy Campbell 314-2943 for more information.

Welcome to Our New AmeriCorps Member

First Call For Help 211 is lucky enough to participate a second year in the Bartholomew County Volunteer Resource Capacity Building Program through AmeriCorps. Our newest AmeriCorps member is Jordan Hopkins. Jordan is a recent graduate of Columbus North High School who is attending IUPUC studying Accounting. Jordan serves as an Office Manager with TechReconnect and has held several volunteer positions throughout the community. Jordan is very excited to work with First Call For Help 211 and will be instrumental in carrying our volunteer program to new heights.

Coats Available!



Any Bartholomew County resident in need of coat assistance should visit the Salvation Army (2525 Gladstone Ave.). Coats are available to anyone in need, and no appointment is necessary. Hours of availability are Mon.-Wed. 9a-2p and Thurs. 9a-12n.

The program will continue until December 10th as long as supplies are available. Those seeking further information may contact Salvation Army 372-7118.

Those wishing to donate coats for the distribution should take their coats to Sans Souci, Inc. Thrift Store 1526 13th St. Mon.-Fri. 10a-5p or Sat. 10a-4p.

Calendar of Events

Christmas Clearinghouse Begins	November 2 nd
Veterans Day-Office Closed*	November 11 th
Thanksgiving Holiday-Closed*	November 26 th & 27 th

**On days our local call center is closed, information is still available by dialing 2-1-1.*

Concession Sales

First Call For Help 211 has a great need for volunteers to help with concession sales. These concession sales are through Aramark and Centerplate and take place at Lucas Oil Stadium, Victory Field, and other venues in the Indianapolis area. Previous volunteers have had a great time, and we would love to have more volunteers to take with us. The more volunteers we have, the more money we are able to make! For more information on these concession sales, please contact our AmeriCorps Volunteer Resource Manager Jordan Hopkins 812-314-2944 or visit volunteermatch.org.

Train Donation

A generous donation of LGB brand and other "G Scale" train cars has been offered to First Call For Help 211 in an effort to help supplement the shortfall in our budget. First Call For Help 211 posted some of the items on E-bay and took many items to Christy's Auction House in Indianapolis. Additional train cars, accessories, and other railroad materials were also up for sale. These auctions are now over, but we were excited for the opportunity to venture into a new fundraising challenge.

We are so thankful for the donation given to First Call For Help 211 and are hopeful it will provide some necessary funds for our agency. As we continue to struggle to meet our budgetary needs, we are always open to similar fundraising ideas. For those who have similar ideas or who would like to help First Call For Help 211 with additional fundraising activities, please contact Director Anne Dolan 812-375-2204.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

To honor those from your home, family, neighborhood, school, church, or business who have struggled with domestic violence, please visit or call your local domestic violence shelter or community group and help take a stand against domestic violence.

Agencies who help survivors overcome domestic violence include Jennings County Council on Domestic Violence 812-346-1592, New Directions of Decatur County 812-663-8822, Turning Point Domestic Violence Services 812-376-9844, and many others.

Helpline Statistics

September helpline calls totaled 1051 by month's end with callers expressing 1318 needs. Some of the top needs included Utility Assistance (134), Clothing Assistance (95), Rent Assistance (65), Emergency Food (60), and Furniture (47).

For the 1318 needs, our helpline specialists offered 1421 referrals. Referrals included 99 to Sans Souci, Inc for Voucher Assistance, 64 to Love Chapel Emergency Assistance Fund, 55 for Columbus Township Trustee; 36 referrals were made to the Energy Assistance Program at Bartholomew County Human Services as well as to the Housing List published by First Call For Help 211.

County Call Volume

Bartholomew	753
Brown	61
Decatur	26
Jackson	95
Scott	28
Unknown	35
Other	53

Consider Giving to First Call For Help 211

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

Name: I would like to learn more about First Call For Help 211

Address: I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities

I would like to learn more about helping with special events

Phone:

E-mail: Please send donations to:
 First Call For Help 211
 1531 13th Street, Suite G900
 Columbus, IN 47201
 812.376.0011

My donation is: in honor of in memory of:

I wish for my gift to remain anonymous