
Special

Sign-ups for SVDP Giving Tree program have started

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The Holidays are coming soon, and now is the time to sign up for this year's Giving Tree program, sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Sign-ups began October 3.

The Giving Tree program offers assistance to struggling households living in Carver, Lakeville, Middleboro, and Rochester. The program provides Christmas gifts of clothing and /or toys for eligible children, from newborn through high school.

Chairperson Arlyn White is working with a group of volunteers to provide for over 700 gift recipients this year. The plan is for each child to receive three gifts of clothing, games, or toys. The Giving Tree program is community-based and depends on local businesses and individuals to help sustain it. Area businesses from each of the four towns support the program by requesting gift tags to display on a Christmas tree. Businesses can also distribute tags to employees or patrons who choose to help sponsor a child by purchasing the gift item listed on the tag.

The restrictions of the current pandemic have added some new features to the program. Many employees are now working from home and may not be able to get a tag from their company. They are encouraged to donate to the program to fund the gifts.

Sign-ups for the Giving Tree will be conducted at the Sacred Heart Food Pantry located at 53 Oak Street, Middleboro. They will continue on Saturdays from 8:30 - 10:30 am, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 8:30 - 10:30 am, and the second and fourth Wednesdays from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Registration will end on Saturday, November 21.

Eligible applicants must provide a personal ID, proof of guardianship, birth certificates for each child, and proof of residency (such as a utility bill, bank statement or similar document dated within the last 60 days.) All applicants are asked to bring a list of suggested gifts and sizes for each child. Families participating in other Christmas gift programs are not eligible.

Businesses and individuals wishing to make contributions may contact the Giving Tree phone line at 508-658-0114. When mailing a donation, it should be sent to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 1381, Middleboro, MA 02346. Please put the "Giving Tree Program." in the memo space.