



One Stop Community Christmas

December 14, 2024

What Is One Stop Community Christmas?

- One Stop is a collaborative effort of over 200 area organizations (civic groups, schools, businesses, aid organizations, churches, sororities, healthcare providers, etc.) to come together at Christmas time and provide help and hope to families from 7 counties (Coles, Cumberland, Shelby, Moultrie, Douglas, Edgar and Clark) during the holiday season.
- One Stop is an effort to band together and help even more families who need it, while making sure to provide a really positive experience for everyone involved. One Stop is about the power of partnership to make a difference in the community.

Is One Stop a Success?

- By any metric, yes. Last year (2023), 979 families registered for One Stop, and were able to provide a wonderful Christmas experience for 2569 kids! Not only that, but One Stop has brought civic leaders and community-minded people together in ways that were not likely (or even possible) outside this event. One Stop has truly strengthened our community.
- In 2011, the Salvation Army hosted the event in their gym. In 2012, One Stop took up the whole Salvation Army building. In 2013, One Stop moved to the West Building on the campus of Lake Land College! Due to COVID, One Stop went back to The Salvation Army in 2020. During 2021, the new Dunham's Sporting Goods store location was our home, thanks to Rural King and the Cross County Mall. One Stop keeps growing, and we are very thankful to Lake Land for their willingness to take us back in 2022, and continue for 2024.

How Can I Get Involved?

1. **Volunteer:** Beginning in the fall, we'll have an online volunteer application for folks to fill out and get involved as a table worker or personal shopper (someone who goes with the client family to each table and helps them navigate the event); we will also need set-up and tear-down helpers. Moving to Lake Land means we need even more help! www.onestopcommunitychristmas.com
2. **Give:** Every dollar makes a difference. Giving to the event (by check payable to SICF, Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation, and memo One Stop on the check, PO Box 1211, Effingham, IL 62401), or with physical items to give away is a crucial way for area organizations to partner with – and participate in – One Stop Community Christmas. Credit and Debit cards can be used here: <https://www.onestopcommunitychristmas.com>
3. **Drive:** For organizations with many members/employees, a great way to get involved is to find out from the Executive Committee what resources are needed and ask your members/employees to bring in that item through the fall. Having an “underwear” drive (or whatever) really helps us out.
4. **Adopt:** If you really want to invest in this very worthy event, then adopt a Table. When you do that, you become the Table co-chair and are responsible for helping staff and stock that Table for the event. This is a huge responsibility, but also one of the most rewarding experiences.

For more information, contact Sue Shumway at sshumway@roe11.org or 217.348.0151
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You can also find us on Facebook: One Stop Community Christmas