

FAQs Operation Christmas Miracle

1. What is Operation Christmas Miracle?

Operation Christmas Miracle is a program serving low-income, underprivileged, homeless children in the DC region for over 90 years by providing gifts and encouragement to families who otherwise would not be able to afford gifts for their children.

2. How do you choose the families?

Our families qualify for the free Christmas gifts based on income. Yearly registration is required to verify the family is in need by asking them to provide proof of income. Most families are on governmental assistance programs.

In addition, there are several programs within CU Mission assisting men living at the homeless shelter or transitional housing; therefore, they too qualify for assistance for their children.

3. How many children can I sponsor?

As many as you want!

4. Can I sponsor a family?

If you would like to help the parents, a gift card for Wal-Mart or Target is appreciated. If you want to sponsor siblings, please indicate when registering on our website.

5. Can I host a toy drive instead of sponsoring a child?

Yes, we encourage businesses, churches and organizations to consider a toy drive. This is much easier to organize and to collect toys. Once completed, the toys will be used to make Christmas bags for children not sponsored.

6. How many gifts should a child receive?

We want every child treated equally, therefore we ask donors to supply a **gift card**, and **two-three gifts per child**. No candy, food, shoes or clothing.

7. How do I know what to purchase for the child?

A personalized wish list & suggested gifts will be sent to you. This list is based on the gifts parents have recommended for their children and what is popular this season. Please no candy, food, shoes or clothing. *Due to COVID-19, please consider purchasing all your gifts online and shipping directly to the Family Ministry Center.*

8. Why can't I purchase clothing for the child I am sponsoring?

Due to COVID-19, we are encouraging gift cards. We also understand the need for clothing and shoes, but often find the sizes, colors or style doesn't match what the child would prefer. Therefore, the gift card is preferred. Popular stores are Wal-Mart, Target, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, Macy's, and H&M.

9. Is there a particular age of children that need sponsored?

Yes, the older children, ages 8-14, are our hardest group to find sponsors. If you are able, consider helping an older child.

10. Can I get a tax receipt for my donation? Why does the tax receipt not list the amount I spent on the gifts?

Yes, tax receipts are available for everyone who donates towards the Christmas program. We do ask for the receipt along with the DONOR INFORMATION SHEET, to keep on file for our own tax purposes. However, as the donor, you are responsible for claiming your donation amount to the IRS.

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11. Can I drop my donation off in Virginia and Maryland?

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 there are no drop off locations in Virginia or Maryland. Only the Family Ministry Center located in Washington DC is open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:00pm.

12. Can I drop off gifts after the collection deadline?

Yes, but its preferred gifts arrive by the deadline. Extra time is necessary to sort and organize the gifts prior to distribution.

13. What happens if I give extra Christmas gifts?

Extra gifts are distributed to children not sponsored, and still in need of gifts for Christmas.

14. If I want to volunteer or bring a group to volunteer, how do I sign up?

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there are no volunteer opportunities available.

15. Do you collect Bibles for the children and if so, what version?

Yes, we do accept Bibles for children. The Beginners Bible, New International Version, The Action Bible, or New Living Translation are recommended. Children's Bibles are found at www.Amazon.com, www.lifeway.com.

16. When will I receive information about the child or family I sponsored?

You can begin shopping immediately after you sign up. A DONOR INSTRUCTION PACKET & SUGGESTED GIFT LIST should have automatically been sent to you after registering on-line. A follow up email will be sent within 2 business days with your child's ID number, first name and wish list.

*Check your JUNK/SPAM mail, sometimes the email will show up there.

17. Will the child I selected receive the gifts if ordered on www.Amazon.com? Can we order other gifts from Amazon and have them included or must they all come from the Wish List? What is the address gifts are mailed?

When purchasing from Amazon, the selected child will receive the gifts. However, it is important you label each gift properly with the child's **ID number**. We are unable to confirm delivery, nor accept shipments on weekends.

Yes, you can include additional gifts not listed on the Wish List, but include the gift tag with the child's ID number.

Mail gifts to: **Family Ministry Christmas**, 3194 Bladensburg Rd. NE, Suite B, Washington DC 20018.

