

FAQs Operation Christmas Miracle

1. What is Operation Christmas Miracle?

Operation Christmas Miracle is a program serving low-income, underprivileged, and homeless children in the DC region for over 95 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?

As active members in programs offered at the Comprehensive Family Resource Center, our families qualify for the free Christmas gifts based on income. Registration is required to participate. Most families are on governmental assistance programs.

In addition, there are several programs within Central Union Mission assisting men living at the homeless shelter or transitional housing; therefore, they too qualify for assistance for their children. Our NEW location in NOVA will also receive gifts to help families in the community this holiday season.

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, Target or Amazon 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 **three gifts per child**. No candy, food, shoes, or clothing.

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

A suggested gift list will be sent to you by age. This list is based on the gifts popular this season. You will also receive the child's winter coat size. Please no candy, food, shoes, or additional clothing.

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

We understand the need for clothing and shoes, but often find the sizes, colors or style doesn't match what the child would prefer. Therefore, a gift card is recommended. Popular stores are Wal-Mart, Target, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, H&M, Old Navy, and VISA to shop anywhere. **One exception are winter coats, which will be accepted for the child.**

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?

In Virginia, our NEW location at *Mission: NOVA* in Arlington will accept gifts as well as Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield. Please check our website or Donor Information Packet for details.

The Comprehensive Family Resource Center located in Washington DC is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am-3:30pm. (*The Central Union Mission Shelter at 65 Massachusetts Ave. is not able to accept gifts.*)

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

Yes, but its preferred gifts arrive by the **deadline, December 12, 2025**. 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 families still in need of gifts for Christmas.

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

Please contact Tracy Duncan, TDuncan@missiondc.org for more information or go to missiondc.org/volunteer.

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

Yes, we do accept Bibles for children. The Beginners Bible, The Student 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. The same information is also on the Christmas web page if you do not receive an email.

A follow up email will be sent within 2 business days with your child's information.

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

17. Is there a Wish List 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?

Yes, the Wish List on Amazon is Operation Christmas Miracle 2025. Gifts not listed on the Operation Christmas Miracle 2025 Wish List are welcome.

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

We are unable to confirm delivery, nor accept shipments on weekends.

18. What is the suggested amounts for sponsoring children?

Newborn to 2 years old - \$125; 3-5 years old - \$150; 6-10 years old - \$200; 11-14 years old - \$250

*These are only suggestions; any donation is appreciated and welcome!

19. Gift Cards: Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronic gift cards. If you are unable to drop-off or mail your gift cards, please donate at www.missiondc.org and designate it for Operation Christmas Miracle.



*"No one should live hungry and homeless."
Matthew 25:35-40*

