

Samantha A. Hurd, Director

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October 8, 2021

Dear Community Partners,

We need your help! Please consider supporting the 2021 Operation Santa Claus program, administered by the Currituck County Department of Social Services. Our program serves hundreds of children and families each year, and we know more families will be in need this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our annual program helps provide Christmas gifts to families with children residing in Currituck, and to the county's children in foster care. Your donation is tax deductible. All proceeds benefit citizens of Currituck County.

You can help us meet the needs in the community by doing any of the following things:

1. **SPONSOR** a family with children by purchasing new, unwrapped gifts for the children.
2. **Donate MONEY or GIFT CARDS** to be used by the Department to purchase Christmas gifts for children. These donations can be made as follows:

- 1.) By scanning the following QR code on your smartphone.
- 2.) Go to the County website and clicking on the PayPal link.
- 3.) In person at our office during business hours Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.
- 4.) By mail- 153 Courthouse Road, Suite 400, Currituck, NC 27929.

Please make checks payable to "County of Currituck"



3. **Referral Organization**- if you are an independent organization and you can receive referrals from us to help children in need through your own program.

To help a child through these programs, please contact **Samantha Hurd** 252-232-6040 or **Heather Corbell** 252-232-6042 or via email at Operation.Santa@currituckcountync.gov

- 4.) **Food Basket Program for Adults**- you can help by donating food, money, or gift cards to the Food Basket program which serves disabled and elderly adults in need of extra support. We also accept monetary donations to purchase Christmas gifts for disabled adults which DSS is guardian for. Monetary donations for this program can only be made in person or by mail. To help an adult please contact **Lori Langley** 252-232-6039 or email Lori.Langley@currituckcountync.gov

Please see the enclosed **Frequently Asked Questions** sheet for additional information regarding each of our programs. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for making a difference!

Very Warm Regards,

Samantha A. Hurd
Director

Frequently Asked Questions

1.) **How does sponsoring a family work?** Sponsors are responsible for purchasing Christmas gifts for the children within the family. We serve children 0-17 years of age. When considering becoming a sponsor, begin by determining the total number of children you would like to sponsor for Christmas this year. Once you decide, contact us and we will match you with a family. You will receive a wish list for each child that includes ages, sizes and gift suggestions. The wish list will help you shop for the children. Each wish list will be assigned a number to identify the family. The gifts must be labeled with the application number and delivered to Social Services **December 13, 2021**. You may deliver earlier if you would like.

2.) **How much money do I need to spend per child?** We do not set contribution guidelines for sponsors; there is no set dollar amount to spend per child. There is also no set amount of toys to purchase. We encourage you to spend as much as you reasonably can to assist a family. Please keep in mind the gifts you provide will be the only gifts some children receive. It would be an amazing contribution if you are able to purchase a few wish list toys for each child and add stocking stuffers to the bag.

3.) **Why are the gifts required to be unwrapped? Will you accept gently used toys?** For safety reasons all donated toys and gifts must be unwrapped and new. We cannot accept used toys and sponsors cannot provide used toys to families.

4.) **What is a Referral Organization?** These consist of organizations or programs which administer their own Christmas assistance program, but partner with the Department of Social Services to receive referrals of families in need. Some referral organizations prefer to handle distribution of the Christmas gifts independently, others deliver the gifts to DSS for distribution. We are happy to accommodate either preference.

5.) **Can I enclose a note to the family I am sponsoring, or could I meet the family?** No, in order to preserve and protect the confidentiality of children and their families, we are unable to allow sponsors to enclose notes, cards or meet the family.

6.) **If I cannot sponsor a family, are there other ways I can help?** Yes, donations of money and gift cards are always welcome! Please make checks payable to “County of Currituck”. Separate donations can be made to provide gifts for disabled adult wards

8.) **What is the Food Basket Program?** This program provides groceries to disabled and/or elderly adults receiving services through the Currituck County Department of Social Services. Non-perishable food items and canned goods are always needed. Additional perishable items such as frozen turkey and ham can also be donated. Please contact Lori Langley to coordinate.

Other: In an effort to maximize the number of families served, the Currituck County Department of Social Services partners with other community organizations to avoid duplication of sponsorships and contributions. For any other questions, please contact DSS Director Samantha Hurd 252-232-6040 or DSS Administrative Officer Heather Corbell 252-232-6042 or contact us via email at Operation.Santa@currituckcountync.gov

This year we are not accepting donations of toys due to an abundant reserve supply.