
2026 Holiday Resources Guide

Washington County, Ohio

TOYS & GIFTS

Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley – Secret Christmas Program

- ✳ **What They Do:** Serving youth (13+ yrs.) and adults with intellectual, cognitive, or developmental disabilities who live in the Mid-Ohio Valley and have demonstrated financial need with little or no other support.
- ✳ **How to Apply:** Applications are open now! Go to <https://thearcmov.org/programs-services/#secretchristmas> then click, Wishlist application.
- ✳ **Important:** Check with The Arc for the current 2026 application deadline and eligibility requirements.
- ✳ **Contact:** Alexis Ullmann – 304-422-3151 ext. 114
- ✳ **Email:** info@thearcmov.org
- ✳ **Website:** thearcmov.org

AMVETS Post 1788 – Helping Veteran Families During the Holidays

AMVETS Post 1788 assists veteran families during the holiday season with food, Christmas presents, and other essentials.

See AMVETS under Holiday Meals & Food Boxes for additional information.

First Baptist Church – New Matamoras

- ✳ **What They Do:** Provides Christmas gifts for children who qualify and live within the Frontier School District.
- ✳ **How to Connect:** Contact the church directly for eligibility requirements, registration information, and 2026 dates.
- ✳ **Contact:** 740-865-2167
- ✳ **Address:** 400 Broadway Ave., New Matamoras, OH 45757

Mid-Ohio Valley Toys for Tots

- ✳ **What They Do:** Provides new, unwrapped toys for children approximately 6 months–13 years old.
- ✳ **How to Apply:** Applications will be available on their Facebook page starting November 1st.
- ✳ **Important Information:** Toys for Tots updates their FB regularly. All correspondence and reminders after signing up to receive toys will be over email.
- ✳ **Pickup:** Local campaign pickup is in Mineral Wells, WV.
- ✳ **Contact:** movtoysfortots@toysfortots.org | 304-401-3159
- ✳ **2026:** Keep updated on their Facebook for announced closing date.

Salvation Army – Angel Tree Program

- ✳ **What They Do:** Provides Christmas gifts for children and youth through the Angel Tree program. Gifts may include toys, clothing, and other requested items.
- ✳ **How to Apply:** Families must complete the Salvation Army's holiday registration process. You must call them directly to schedule an appointment in order to be added to the program. Appointments are only open from October 1st- 15th so make sure to call to get an appointment scheduled as soon as possible!
- ✳ **Contact:** 740-373-4043
- ✳ **Address:** 136 Front St., Marietta, OH
- ✳ **Additional Information:** The Salvation Army also provides food baskets, clothing, winter gear, and other holiday assistance.

Blessing Birds – School Santa Shop

- ✳ **What They Do:** Blessing Birds works with local elementary students to help children participate in school-based Christmas activities, including Santa Shop. Children are able to choose gifts for family members so they can experience the joy of giving during the holidays.
- ✳ **Additional Information:** Blessing Birds is a local nonprofit serving children and families throughout Washington County.
- ✳ **Call your school district to find out if Blessing Birds helps students at your school!**

Shop with a Cop – Washington County Sheriff's Office

Local elementary schools can nominate families for the Washington County Sheriff's Office **Shop with a Cop** program.

Students are paired with deputies to shop for gifts for their families. The program is designed to provide holiday assistance while creating positive experiences between children and law enforcement.

Online / Regional Gift Resources

Charlie's Guys

- * **What They Do:** Provides gifts and experiences for children who have experienced the loss of a parent or sibling.
- * **Mission:** To provide bereaved children with gifts, experiences, and connection to make them feel loved on their grief journey.
- * **How to Apply:** Families or referring professionals can submit a referral/application through the organization's website.
- * **Website:** charliesguys.org/holiday-program
- * **Additional Information:** This program serves children experiencing grief and may be especially helpful for families who have experienced a recent loss.

USPS Operation Santa

USPS Operation Santa gives children and families the opportunity to send letters to Santa. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations can then adopt letters and purchase gifts to help fulfill holiday wishes.

For families/letter writers:

- * Letters may be mailed beginning **September 14, 2026**.
- * Letters should be addressed to:

Santa Claus
123 Elf Road
North Pole, 88888

- * Letters must be postmarked by **December 5, 2026** to be eligible for possible adoption.
- * There is no guarantee that every letter will be adopted.

Website: uspsoperationsanta.com

HOLIDAY MEALS & FOOD BOXES

For year-round food pantries and additional food resources, please see the NWD or FCFC Community Resource Guide or other Washington County agency resource guide.

AMVETS Post 1788 – Helping Veteran Families During the Holidays

AMVETS Post 1788 helps veteran families during the holiday season with food, Christmas presents, and other essentials.

They often partner with local organizations, businesses, veterans' groups, and community sponsors to provide holiday assistance.

How to Connect: Veterans or veteran families needing assistance should contact AMVETS Post 1788 directly.

Website: ohamvets.org/post-1788

Caring Connection – Through Marietta Community Foundation

- ✧ **What They Do:** Provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes to families experiencing crisis.
- ✧ **How to Apply:** Contact Caring Connection or the Marietta Community Foundation for current holiday information.
- ✧ **Contact:** 740-376-9903
- ✧ **Email:** carconn20@gmail.com
- ✧ **Address:** 411 Scammel St., Marietta, OH
- ✧ **Website:** mcfohio.org

Belpre Area Ministries

Belpre Area Ministries provides holiday food assistance to residents in the Belpre and Little Hocking area.

- ✧ **What They Do:** Food pantry assistance and holiday food support, depending on availability.
- ✧ **Service Area:** Primarily Belpre and Little Hocking.
- ✧ **Contact:** 740-423-2069
- ✧ **Address:** 2310 Washington Blvd., Belpre, OH 45714
- ✧ **Hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- ✧ **Website:** belpreareaministries.com

Beverly-Waterford Food Pantry / St. Bernard's

- ✧ **What They Do:** Local food pantry serving the Beverly-Waterford area. Holiday food needs and donations may be available during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.
- ✧ **How to Connect:** Call ahead to ask about holiday food boxes, turkey/meal assistance, and registration requirements.
- ✧ **Contact:** 740-984-4651
- ✧ **Location:** St. Bernard Catholic Church, Beverly, OH

Christmas Day Feast – Marietta

A community Christmas meal providing free Christmas Day meals to individuals and families in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

- ✳ **Date:** Christmas Day – December 25
- ✳ **Location:** Knights of Columbus Hall, 312 Franklin St., Marietta
- ✳ **Services may include:** Dine-in meal and carry out Christmas Dinner.
- ✳ **Reservations/Contact:** 740-760-0277
- ✳ **2026:** *“Our main focus is on having people of all walks of life come to the Feast, enjoy the live Christmas music (the Puls Family String trio traditional Christmas favorites), dine on some traditional foods in a very “nice” decorated setting, and to simply not have to sit at home alone on the day we observe as the birth of Jesus Christ. We offer free transportation. We serve Veterans, elderly shut ins, people who may have suffered an injury or job loss, some who are going through a divorce or a death in the family, empty nesters, families who (for myriad reasons) celebrate the day early or later than the 25th and find themselves free and alone and able to come join us. Some come in suits and dresses, some in their work boots and camo shirts. This is much more than a meal; it is a Feast.” – Bruce Haas*

Greater Marietta Community Food Pantry

- ✳ **What They Do:** Provides regular food assistance and may have additional holiday food items available around Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- ✳ **Contact:** 740-373-5741
- ✳ **Address:** 400 Harmar St., Marietta, OH
- ✳ **Website:** gmcommunityfoodpantry.org

Lowell Area Mission Basket (L.A.M.B.)

- ✳ **What They Do:** Local food pantry serving Lowell, Coal Run, and Highland Ridge areas. May provide additional holiday food assistance depending on donations and availability.
- ✳ **Address:** 309 Walnut St., Lowell, OH 45744
- ✳ **Phone:** 740-896-3266

***Holiday Meal Reminder

Don't forget to check with your local food pantry!

*Another great resource in the Newport area is the Newport Community Food Pantry! They are a great place to ask about resources for that area.

245 Greene Street, Newport, OH, United States, Ohio

(740) 473-2900

Many food pantries receive additional donations during November and December and may have turkeys, hams, holiday meal ingredients, baking items, or other food specifically intended to help families prepare a holiday meal. Availability varies, so call your local pantry early.

WINTER CLOTHING & COATS

This section focuses on holiday/winter clothing needs. For full clothing resources, please review NWD, FCFC, or other Washington County Community Resource Guide.

Coats for Kids

- ✧ **What They Do:** Provides new or gently used winter coats and may have other winter items such as gloves, hats, and boots.
- ✧ **Location:** Dime Bank Building – 138 Putnam St., Marietta
- ✧ **2026 Schedule:** Every Tuesday and Thursday in November as well as the first week of December on those days. Will not be open on Thanksgiving.
- ✧ **Contact:** 740-373-3756

Salvation Army – Marietta

The Salvation Army provides year-round clothing assistance and specifically identifies clothing and winter gear as part of its local services.

- ✧ **What They May Provide:** Gently used clothing, coats, winter gear, and clothing needs connected with holiday assistance programs.
- ✧ **Contact:** 740-373-4043
- ✧ **Address:** 136 Front St., Marietta, OH
- ✧ **Additional Information:** Clothing availability changes frequently, so families should contact the Salvation Army directly.

Belpre Area Ministries

Belpre Area Ministries operates a thrift store and provides clothing assistance to individuals and families in need.

- ✧ **What They Offer:** Clothing and other donated items through the thrift store.
- ✧ **Service Area:** Primarily Belpre and Little Hocking, although neighboring residents are not necessarily turned away.
- ✧ **Address:** 2310 Washington Blvd., Belpre, OH 45714
- ✧ **Phone:** 740-423-2069
- ✧ **Hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Gospel Mission Food Pantry

- ✳ **What They May Provide:** Used clothing, shoes, and coats depending on current donations.
- ✳ **Contact:** 740-350-4417
- ✳ **Location:** Marietta, OH

Other Winter Clothing Options

During November and December, local churches, schools, civic organizations, and community groups may hold **coat drives, winter clothing giveaways, or clothing distributions.**

Families should also check with their local food pantry, church, school, and community organization for seasonal clothing donations.

Winter items to ask about may include:

- ✳ Coats
- ✳ Boots
- ✳ Hats
- ✳ Gloves
- ✳ Scarves
- ✳ Warm socks
- ✳ Children's snow pants
- ✳ Blankets
- ✳ Other cold-weather necessities

VOLUNTEER & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Many local holiday programs depend on community members, businesses, churches, and organizations to donate time, money, gifts, food, or supplies.

If your organization is looking for a way to help a local family this holiday season, consider contacting one of the programs below.

USPS Operation Santa

Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations can participate by adopting letters written to Santa.

2026 Important Dates

- ✳ **September 14:** Children and families may begin mailing letters to Santa.
- ✳ **November 2:** Adopter registration and identity verification begins.
- ✳ **November 16:** Letter adoption begins.
- ✳ **December 5:** Last day for letters to be postmarked.

- ✳ **December 12:** Last day to adopt letters.

How It Works

1. Create an account and complete identity verification.
2. Beginning November 16, browse letters available for adoption.
3. Choose a letter or family of letters.
4. Purchase gifts based on the wishes expressed in the letter.
5. Ship the gift according to USPS Operation Santa guidelines.

Adopters may participate individually or as a group.

Website: uspsoperationsanta.com

Mid-Ohio Valley Toys for Tots

Community members can help by:

- ✳ Donating new, unwrapped toys.
- ✳ Hosting a toy collection box.
- ✳ Supporting local fundraisers.
- ✳ Helping spread information about the program.
- ✳ Contacting the local campaign about volunteer and organizational support opportunities.

Local Coordinator: Cliff Hecker

Phone: 304-401-3159

Email: movtoysfortots@toysfortots.org

Salvation Army – Marietta

Holiday volunteer opportunities may include:

- ✳ Angel Tree support
- ✳ Gift sorting and distribution
- ✳ Red Kettle bell ringing
- ✳ Holiday assistance
- ✳ Clothing and food program support
- ✳ Other seasonal activities

*** The Salvation Army has a high need for volunteers and paid workers. If you or someone you know is looking to volunteer or that needs work, please contact Major Todd Hughes. AT the same phone number.

Contact: 740-373-4043

Christmas Day Feast

The Christmas Day Feast relies heavily on community volunteers.

Potential volunteer needs may include:

- ✳ Food preparation
- ✳ Preparing and serving meals
- ✳ Delivery drivers

- ✳ Meal delivery assistance
- ✳ Setup
- ✳ Cleanup
- ✳ Other Christmas Day support

Contact: 740-760-0277

Coats for Kids

- ✳ Connect with Coats for Kids on fb and Instagram for up-to-date volunteer opportunities!
- ✳ They also qualify to report hours to JFS to fulfill volunteer hours requirement for eligible services that require them.

LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

This section is intended to highlight free or family-friendly holiday activities throughout Washington County. Event details can change, so check with the organizer before attending.

MARIETTA

Merry-Etta Christmas Tree Lighting

November 21, 2026

- ✳ Armory Lawn
- ✳ Community Christmas tree lighting
- ✳ Family-friendly holiday activities

Merry-Etta Lighted Christmas Parade

November 28, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Marietta

A community Christmas parade featuring illuminated floats and holiday decorations.

Holiday Tree Walk – East Muskingum Park

Opening/Lighting: November 29, 2026

A seasonal display of decorated Christmas trees along the riverfront. Trees are decorated by local businesses, organizations, families, and community groups.

The Holiday Tree Walk remains on display throughout the holiday season.

Santa House – East Muskingum Park

November 29, 2026 – 6:00–8:00 p.m.

December 12, 2026 – 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Free Santa visits in the gazebo at East Muskingum Park.

Families can take their own photos with Santa. Hot cocoa and cookies are also provided.

Victorian Christmas Tours – The Castle

December 2026

Holiday tours at The Castle featuring the historic home decorated for Christmas.

2026 dates: December 10, 17 & 19 listed on the Washington County CVB calendar.

Lafayette Hotel Christmas Tree Walk

2026 Date has not been verified. Keep an eye out on fb for the dates because this display is wonderful!

The Lafayette Hotel has hosted a holiday Christmas tree display/walk-through that would make a great addition to the guide.

BELPRE

Belpre Holiday Lights

December 1–31, 2026

Location: Civitan Park

A community holiday lights display throughout the month of December.

BEVERLY

Beverly Christmas Parade

November 29, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Community Christmas parade in Beverly.

WATERFORD

Waterford Christmas Parade & Christmas Market

December 12, 2026

- * Christmas Market
- * Christmas parade
- * Free children's crafts
- * Free face painting
- * Free photos with Santa
- * Food trucks
- * Vendors
- * Homemade sweets
- * Music and other activities

Parade: Approximately 5:30–6:00 p.m., beginning near Moon School and traveling through Waterford to the Christmas Market/Waterford Jr. High area.

LOWELL

Christmas Through Lowell

November 20–22, 2026

The 34th Annual Christmas Through Lowell features homes and businesses throughout historic Lowell decorated for the holiday season, along with artists, crafters, Christmas decorations, food, shopping, and other activities.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

NEW MATAMORAS

Christmas in Matamoras – Annual Community Celebration

2026 Date: TBD

The annual celebration has historically included:

- ✳ Christmas activities at the library
- ✳ Children's crafts
- ✳ Santa/Mrs. Claus activities
- ✳ Community Christmas parade
- ✳ Holiday decorations
- ✳ Local churches and organizations participating

2026 details: TBD – check with the Village of Matamoras, New Matamoras Public Library, and local community organizations.

BARLOW

Barlow Holiday Events

2026 Details: TBD

Check with the Barlow Branch of the Washington County Public Library and local community organizations for Christmas programs, children's activities, Santa visits, and other holiday events.



LIBRARY HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Washington County Public Library system has branches in **Marietta, Belpre, Beverly, New Matamoras, Barlow, and Lafayette.**

Holiday programming is often announced closer to November and December and may include:

- Children's Christmas crafts, Holiday story times, Santa visits, Ornament-making, Family activities, Holiday movies, Winter reading programs, Community gatherings

2026 Holiday Programs – Please continue to check calendar on the library website for holiday events to be announced!

Library System Website: wcplib.info

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FAMILIES

Holiday programs and assistance programs often have limited supplies, appointment requirements, application deadlines, or changing schedules.

Call ahead whenever possible and check current information before traveling.

If you do not see a resource that fits your situation, contact your local school, food pantry, church, or community organization. They may know about additional holiday assistance that has not yet been publicly advertised.