



Holiday Smiles Toy Drive Toolkit





Our Mission & How to Help



Our Mission

Since 1899, Association House has worked with Chicagoans who seek tools to lead more productive lives. We were one of Chicago's oldest settlement houses, originally providing relief and guidance to new immigrants. Today, we are a vital resource to under-served, multicultural communities, and promote health and wellness, education, and economic empowerment for nearly 3,000 participants throughout Chicagoland through a holistic approach.



Your Support Makes a Big Difference

When you give a gift this holiday season you ensure children and families have a cheerful Christmas. In the spirit of the holidays, we are collecting toys for the children at Association House of Chicago.



Participation is Simple and Rewarding!

- Purchase gifts from our [Amazon Wish List](#)
- [Donate](#) today to support all our children's holiday activities

Amazon Wish List



Donation Form





Community Spotlight



A Spotlight on our Community

Your support this holiday helps so many children, like those in Child Welfare. For nearly 500 children, we protect them from abuse and neglect and work with families to create safe homes. Our licensed staff care for children affected by trauma, helping to keep over 300 youths in their homes with appropriate support – and finding foster or adoptive loving homes for over 150, when necessary.



“That mama’s got to know I’m not here to take her baby away. I’m just here to help; to make life better for both of them.” – Zaida, foster mother.



What is amazing is the level of love, care and energy that goes into “help.” And what does help make possible? Children are nurtured and encouraged to excel. Some are honor students, earn high school diplomas, and others plan for bright futures.



111

Children stabilized

In 2020, Association House found safe, loving homes for 111 children in foster care.





Most Needed Items



Holiday Toy Drive Amazon Wish List available [here](#).

Dolls & Action Figures

- Disney's Frozen, Hello Kitty, Barbie, Minnie Mouse, and cultural dolls
- Superheroes, Ninja Turtles, Anime/Dragonball Z



General Toys

- Kitchen sets, small collectible cars, remote-control cars, Disney-themed toys & sets
- Board games, Lego sets

Arts/Literature

- Crayola products, sketchpads, craft kits, brush/oil sets, coloring books
- Series books, adventure/fairy tale books & comics

Items for Baby

- Large-motor toys, blocks, plush dolls, stacking toys, blankets
- Educational toys: Fisher Price, LeapFrog



Music/Electronics

- Bluetooth headphones, Bluetooth speakers

Fashion

- Fragrance sets, costume jewelry, sport watches/ timepieces

Sports

- Skateboards, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs and gear

Gift Cards (for places in Chicago)

- Clothing stores (Gap, Forever 21, Marshalls)
- General goods (Walmart, Target)
- Restaurants (Subway, Starbucks)
- Music (iTunes)
- GameStop





Tips & Collection Scheduling



A Few Helpful Tips for Organizing a Successful Toy Drive

- Identify and include people in your network: friends, family members, your work team, and neighbors.
- Promote your toy drive. Let people know who you're helping and why it's important. You can create Facebook events, or publicize through social media.
- Keep it fun! Some organizers host holiday gatherings at home or work and invite friends to bring a gift.
- Organizing a drive from work or home? Have a big box ready to collect gifts.
- Drop Offs and Pick Ups for Association House

-**Dates:** Monday, Dec. 6th - Tuesday, Dec. 14th

-**Location:** 1116 N. Kedzie Chicago, IL, 60651

-You can schedule a pickup as long as the location is mutually agreeable and decided early.

- Any questions? Please reach out to coordinate with Drew Williams: dwilliams@associationhouse.org.

