

Special Education and Student Services

Bethlehem Central School District

<http://bethlehemschools.org>



November 10, 2016

Dear Community Partner:

For several years, the Bethlehem Central School District has sponsored a Holiday Caring & Sharing Drive that assists needy families who reside in the district with food and gift cards in advance of the winter Holiday Season. Our high school Student Senate plays a significant role in organizing the food drive, with food donations collected at our seven schools. We also rely on our generous community sponsors who contribute and help us pair those donations with gift cards.

Last year, our school community helped more than 100 local families: <http://www.bethlehemschools.org/holiday-sharing-drive/>

We are looking forward to once again providing assistance to our families in need this Holiday Season and hope to do so with your help! Every year, we see a greater demand for assistance at the holidays and with your assistance, we can make the season brighter for more families.

This year, we are asking for **donations of grocery gift cards**, rather than gifts. Parents have truly expressed appreciation in receiving assistance in this way. Many have stated that by having their food needs met they are better able to purchase gifts, of their own choice, for their children. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in providing gift cards in any amount. However, if you would please consider providing gift cards in lower denominations, (e.g. \$10, \$20, and \$25), it would enable us to more easily distribute the gift cards to our families.

We would like to request that your organization bring any gift card donations to the High School Special Education and Student Service's (SESS) office **prior to December 9th**. Having the gift cards by this date would allow us to better plan for an equitable distribution to our families, based upon family size and children's ages.

Thank you for your consideration and for any assistance you can offer in caring for our families in need this holiday season. It is so greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kathy Johnston, Director of SESS

JoAnn Menrath, Nurse Coordinator

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