

NEWS RELEASE
October 2021
Goodfellows Gear Up for Annual Campaign

The Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion is pleased to announce that in spite of the lingering effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, the organization is busy preparing for their 71st annual distribution of items to needy individuals and families in our area.

During last years preparation, after carefully considering the effects of Covid-19, the board decided to distribute items over a 2 day period to best facilitate social distancing procedures. This years event will follow the same format. In reviewing last years changes, the decision was made to continue using many of the new procedures implemented last year. Our goal of serving those in need in our community has not changed, only some of our procedures.

Wednesday December 15th will be set aside for families with children while Thursday December 16th will be for single individuals and those households without children. Recipients may pick up their items between Noon and 5pm on the appropriate day.

As our distribution area now includes residents of both the Clintonville and Marion School Districts, our efforts to serve the less fortunate residing in those areas continue to grow. The response from the Clintonville and Marion communities last year was outstanding, with churches, civic organizations, businesses, and individuals all contributing both financially as well as with donations of blankets, hats, gloves, coats, boots, toys, and other items. Volunteers from both communities joined in helping prepare for the distribution of items collected to the less fortunate.

Last year however, while encouraging these same groups to contribute, we respectfully asked that they *refrain from collecting any canned or boxed food items* as recipients will NOT be receiving boxes of food items as in the past. Moving forward, this will be our policy in 2021 as well. Recipients will receive two food vouchers redeemable at Tadych's Econo Foods in Clintonville instead of one as has been the practice in years past. One voucher will be good through December and the other will be good through January. Any incidental food items collected will be turned over to the local food pantry.

We continue to encourage the collection of toys, gift cards, and personal care items. As always, cash contributions are most appreciated, allowing out team of great volunteers to use those donations in the most effective way possible. We pride ourselves on getting the most bang for our buck!

Founded in the early 1950's by Franks Sinkewicz, former officer at FWD Corporation, the Goodfellows program has provided countless items to the less fortunate over the years, helping to make their holiday season a bit brighter. Over the years, dozens of local residents have generously volunteered their time in making each year's event a success. Last year we received a much appreciated note from the grandson of Goodfellows founder Frank Sinkewicz which read:

“My grandfather was Frank Sinkewicz (founder of Goodfellows). I recall going on some of the rural deliveries of Christmas baskets. It was an eye opening experience for me that I will never forget. Thanks for keeping a great thing going! Keep up your good work!”

Funding for the Goodfellows comes from a variety of sources with the majority of funding coming from cash donations from generous local businesses, civic groups, and individuals as well as some funding through the local United Way campaign. Additional funding is also provided through grants from charitable foundations with business ties to the Clintonville/Marion community, among them Alliant Energy, Theda Care, and Kwik Trip.

As a 501c3 charitable organization, your contribution is tax deductible. Anyone wishing to donate may mail their contribution to:

Clintonville Goodfellows
P.O. Box 135
Clintonville, WI 54929

Monetary donations can also be made by visiting our Facebook page “Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion” and using the donate feature located there.

From November 1-15, volunteers begin the process of collecting the names of potential recipients. Individuals and families identified as such, are then contacted by Goodfellows members to verify their application. Shortly thereafter, recipients are selected and notified of their inclusion in the program for that year.

In mid December, the process of sorting and purchasing toys and gathering all other items collected throughout the community begins, culminating with the distribution of everything collected usually around a week before Christmas. This years two day distribution will occur on Wednesday and Thursday December 15 & 16 at Memory Lanes and Banquet Hall in Clintonville from Noon until 5pm each day.

On distribution day each family receives two vouchers redeemable at Tadych's Econo Foods in Clintonville, allowing them to purchase fresh items and groceries from a list of approved products. The amount of the vouchers, one good through December 2021 and the other good through January 2022, varies each year, depending on donations received,

The Goodfellows have touched lives in our area for over 70 years. Every dollar donated makes a difference and the number of people assisted each year bear that out.

In 2020 the Goodfellows helped 268 Households comprised of 930 people, a considerable increase from the previous year. Consider these words from one of last years recipients:

“I just want to say thank you so very much for helping my family this Christmas. I know this is a crazy time and you guys had to completely revamp how you did things, but the volunteers were all so nice and my kids will be so happy. Me and my husband are so grateful and the food vouchers will help us so much. I cannot even put into words how thankful we are.”

The Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion appreciate the great support the community has shown each and every Holiday season. To all of our donors and friends we wish a Happy Holiday season and a New Year filled with prosperity!