



**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**  
*of suffolk county*

Updated: 10/28/2024

# Fall/Winter Holiday Resources 2024

## Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)

### Holiday Meals

Many locations throughout ABCD's network of neighborhood sites offer holiday meal assistance in the form of food baskets, turkeys, and food supplies that low-income families need to cook and serve holiday meals in their homes. They make food baskets, turkeys, and other holiday meal supplies available for pickup at many neighborhood sites.

### Coat Drive

ABCD helps families in need with warm clothing for the harsh winter months.

### Toy Drive

The ABCD Toy Drive aims to bring some extra joy to neighbors in need during the holiday season.

Connect with your local ABCD site to learn more about accessing these resources:

<https://bostonabcd.org/#locations>

- 19 Corinth Street Roslindale MA, 02131- 617-327-1152
- Boston Hispanic Center - 178 Tremont Street Boston MA, 0211 - 617-357-6000 or 617-348-6263 Ext: 251
- Jamaica Plain APAC - 30 Bickford St Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 - 617-522-4830
- 535 River Street Mattapan, MA, 02126 - 617-298-2045
- North End/West End NSC - One Michelangelo Street Boston, MA, 02113 - 617-523-8125
- Parker Hill/Fenway NSC - 714 Parker Street, Boston MA, 02120 - 617-445-6000
- South Boston Action Center - 424 West Broadway South Boston, MA, 02127 - 617-269-5160

## Massachusetts-Salvation Army-Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance

**Sign-Up online:** <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/massachusetts/boston-holiday-help/>

Registration opens October 28, 2024, for Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

Qualifying households of three or more, with at least one child under the age of sixteen in their household, are encouraged to register to receive a Thanksgiving dinner.

Registration opens November 11, 2024, for Christmas Castle

Qualifying families with children aged sixteen and under are invited to register for a scheduled time to receive a food gift card and gifts for each child in the household.

Your registration will be confirmed once you complete the verification process.

### Items needed for verification:

- Birth Certificate of each child in your household.
- Financial need (MassHealth Card, WIC, SSI, current pay stub, etc.)
- Photo ID for each adult living in the household.
- Proof of residence (current home, gas, cable, utility bill, etc.)

*\*ALL clients **must** provide child's birth certificate, proof of residency, photo ID, proof of financial need.*

### Important: How to verify your information

Email: [MASHoliday@usa.salvationarmy.org](mailto:MASHoliday@usa.salvationarmy.org) or contact your local Salvation Army Corps.

## The Salvation Army of Chelsea - Christmas Assistance

Unfortunately, registration has ended. Please check their Facebook page for any additional updates: <https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmychelseaeastboston/>  
For more information call 617-884-0260  
258 Chestnut Street Chelsea MA, 02150

### **Christmas in the City 2024 – Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance**

They will be hosting several small-in-scale parties for those living in shelters they are currently partnering with. There is no application process for these events, which are run through the shelters. Please check with your shelter manager to see whether they are working with Christmas in the City this year. Those in shelters that are not currently partnering with them are welcome to register for Jake's Toy Mania.

**Jake's Toy Mania** - Provides gifts for Boston-area families in need, but not experiencing homelessness with children sixteen and under.

**You must register in advance, and in person.**

Sign-up Location: 34 BROMFIELD STREET in Boston (Downtown Crossing). Sign-ups will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11AM-6PM on these dates: November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>.

**December 8<sup>th</sup> is the final date on which you can sign up for Jakes's Toy Mania.**

Learn more: <https://christmasinthecity.org/how-to-get-help/>

### **USPS - Writing to Santa Program**

USPS offers the Operation Santa Program to pair letters from kids and families with generous people who fulfill their holiday wishes.

This program provides a connection to gift and clothing donations.

Children can write their wish list to send to Santa starting September 16<sup>th</sup>. Letters to USPS Operation Santa must be postmarked no later than December 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone can write a letter, but please note that the program relies on the generosity of others and cannot guarantee a gift. Visit the website for more information and instructions on how to send letters.

**Learn How:** <https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com/getinvolved>

### **My Brother's Keeper - Christmas Assistance**

#### **General Information:**

- All services are free.
- Assistance is provided by delivery only — no pick-ups at our facility.
- Our Christmas Assistance Program serves families all over eastern Massachusetts including Boston and Cape Cod. We do not go to Framingham or points west.
- All requests are processed by phone. We cannot accept e-mail requests or requests made in-person at our facility due to staffing limitations.
- Our Christmas Assistance Line is busy because we serve families from so many communities.
- We will ask for the names, birthdates, clothing size, and gift ideas for each person in your family living at your home.
- My Brother's Keeper only accepts requests from parents in need. We do not accept second-hand requests from family, friends, or advocates. (For example, "I'm calling for a friend who needs help.")

- Gift ideas are suggestions only- we do not guarantee to provide specific gifts.
- My Brother's Keeper cannot give out high-end electronic items like iPods, cell phones, or game systems.
- Gifts are delivered directly to homes sometime between December 1st – 24th. Our volunteers call ahead to schedule delivery appointments. To help with scheduling, our intake staff will always ask for two telephone numbers when processing requests.

#### **Christmas Assistance Line:**

Phone: 508-238-2562

September – December

Call for up-to-date days and hours of operation.

**Learn more:** <https://www.mybrotherskeeper.org/christmas/>

#### **Globe Santa – Christmas Assistance**

How to request gifts for your family:

If your family could use assistance this holiday season, follow the instructions below so Globe Santa can help: <https://globesanta.org/aboutreq.aspx>

Globe Santa does not accept family letters without a holiday gift verification form.

Families who have children 12 years old or younger and live in Globe Santa's delivery area can submit a holiday gift verification form from the **Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)** or another approved agency.

Follow these steps to request holiday gifts for children:

1. Tell us your story. Write a letter to Globe Santa describing your situation or telling us why you are seeking holiday gifts for your children. Do not include a wish list or gift ideas.
2. Finish your forms. **Complete and sign your Holiday Gift Verification Form from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)** or another approved agency.
3. Check the envelop contents. Before you send your request, confirm your family letter and verification form are included in the envelope. Letters received without a verification form cannot be processed!
4. **Mail your request.** Send your letter and completed verification form to the following address **by November 1<sup>st</sup>**:

Globe Santa

39B Teed Drive

Randolph, MA 02368-4201

#### **About DTA Holiday Gift Verification Forms**

- DTA families who live in our coverage area and have children 12 years old or younger can submit to Globe Santa a Holiday Gift Verification Form. If you have not received your verification form, contact the DTA at (877) 382-2363.
- Your Holiday Gift Verification Form must include your current address and a complete list of the eligible children in your household.

If the Holiday Gift Verification Form is not correct, you must notify DTA in one of the following ways:

1. Best way: Update your information using DTA Connect. Print the screen from DTA Connect that shows your updated address or additional children. Mail this

printed page along with your completed Holiday Gift Verification Form that includes your letter on the back.

2. Another way: Visit your local DTA office to update your information and request a new Holiday Gift Verification Form. Mail this updated Holiday Gift Verification Form that includes your letter on back.

Please call Globe Santa at 617-929-2002 if you have any questions.

Mail your holiday gift verification form and letter to:

Globe Santa

39B Teed Drive

Randolph, MA 02368-4201

### **Toys for Tots**

<https://boston-ma.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/request-toys.aspx>

**Individual Families:** Due to the size of the area Toys for Tots serves, they provide toys exclusively to churches, qualified charitable organizations, and social service agencies. If you are an individual family, please contact a Social Services Agency, Church, or Non-Profit Organization (ABCD, DCYF, YMCA, William E. Carter American Legion Post No. 16, Drive Boston, Community Center, etc.) in your immediate area and register with them to request toys that have been issued from their program.

### **Catholic Charities – Holiday Assistance**

275 W Broadway, Boston, MA 02127

Phone: 617-506-6628

<https://www.ccab.org/basic-needs/>

Families unable to afford meals for Thanksgiving or other holidays may receive food packages for their household. Call your local Catholic Charities food pantry location for more information.

### **Family Resource Center - Everett – Holiday Assistance**

548 Broadway Everett, MA 02149

Phone: 781-581-4750

Holiday Event (TBD mid-December)

<https://www.facebook.com/EliotchsFRC/>

### **Family Boston-Suffolk County Family Resource Center – Holiday Assistance**

56 Dimock Street Lower-Level Roxbury, MA 02119

Phone: 617-469-8501

<https://thehome.org/frc>

### **Harbor Area Family Resource Center – Holiday Assistance**

95 4th Street Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: 617-694-3004

<https://thehome.org/frc>

### **The Kennedy Center Community Resource Center (CRC) - Christmas Resource**

15 Tufts Street Charlestown

Phone: 617-241-8866 x1352

The CRC staff provides a wide range of anti-poverty and social services on both a scheduled and drop-in basis. Services are offered for **Charlestown residents only**.

- Winter coat drives for both adults and children.
- Annual Holiday Gift Drive that provides seasonal gifts for over seven hundred children, 18 and under from low-income families. (families can sign up online starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024)

Holiday Event (TBD in December)

<https://www.kennedycenter.org/communityservices/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KennedyFSC/posts/951967796962261>

### **South End Neighborhood Service Center**

554 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA, 02118

Phone: 617-267-7400

<https://bostonabcd.org/location/southend-nsc/>

During the Christmas season, holidays, and year-round the agency may have baby clothing, diapers, food, and more. There is also free gender-specific toys for children from low-income families as well as Thanksgiving turkeys and free Christmas food for the entire family.

- For Thanksgiving Turkey Assistance sign-up over the phone is now open.
- For Christmas assistance signing up over the phone will begin in November 2024.

### **Community Connections**

113 Hawthorne St, Chelsea, MA 02150

Questions call: 617-889-7100.

<https://chelseacc.org/what-we-do/>

- Community Connections provides Winter Coat support in the city of Chelsea, MA.
- If you are staying with your family in a shelter, please contact your case manager. The shelter you may be staying in may be able to support you by providing winter coats for you and your family, and support with additional holiday assistance.
- If you have a DCF social worker working with you and your family, please reach out to your social worker who can provide immediate support with holiday and/or winter coat assistance.

### **Other Resources for Free Toys for Kids this Holiday Season:**

- Local churches can be valuable resources to tap into. Many help families in need during the holidays.
- Local Buy Nothing Facebook groups and Freecycle are suitable places to find free second-hand toys.
- You can connect with your child's PCP and learn if their hospital or clinic has a holiday toy event for their patients.
- If your child/youth is receiving Behavioral in-home therapy, Behavioral outpatient therapy or if an Intensive Care Coordinator or Family Partner is working with you and your family, they are also a major source of support for holiday assistance.
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