

# Macomb Charitable Foundation

Serving underprivileged CHILDREN in and around our community.

November 2021

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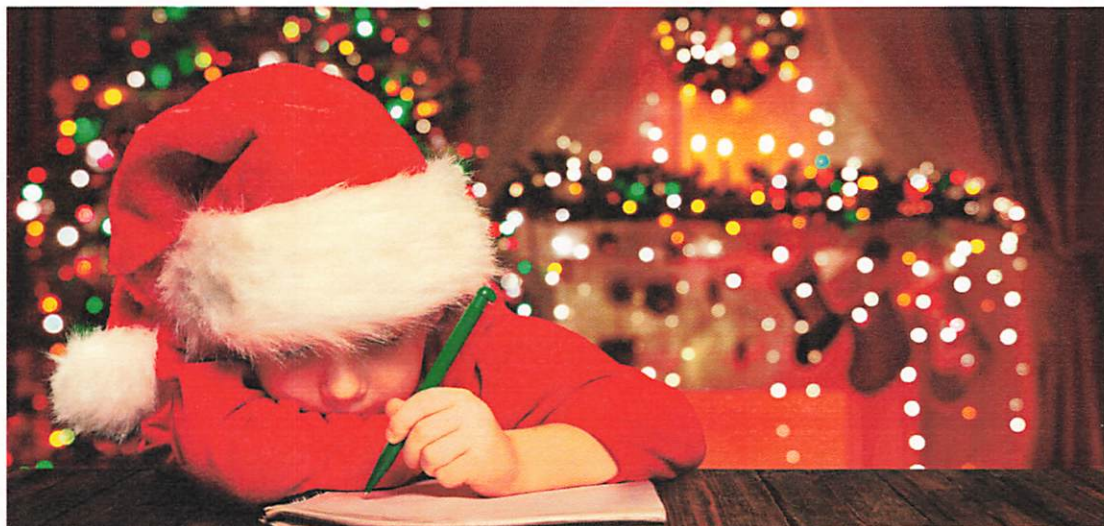
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Visit our Web Page:  
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foundation.org](http://www.macombcharitablefoundation.org)

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## Not everyone can go "Home for the Holidays"

Hundreds and hundreds of Macomb County children will be spending Christmas somewhere other than "home" this year. Many will be sleeping in area shelters. Some will be in motel rooms or on the couch or floor of a friend or relative. All of *these children have the same wants and needs as our own children do.* Having a secure home and their own bed are high on their lists of wants.

We can't buy them all a home. We can't change some of the horrific stories they've lived. But we can provide them with some basic necessities and love this Christmas!

Here's a quick synopsis of how our popular Christmas program works: Children who are identified as homeless or living below poverty level are referred to Macomb Charitable via the local school district, clergy or another social service agency. The family fills out an application and completes a "Dear Santa" letter for each child. We then check with partnering agencies in the county to make sure the family has not applied for Christmas assistance elsewhere. Once cleared, the child's list is then given to our volunteers who call and double check sizes, wants and needs with each family. When all requests have been double checked, a sponsor shops for the child. Gifts are individually wrapped, bagged and returned to MCF. Pickup or delivery of the gifts is then scheduled.

There is something about the chilly Christmas season that inspires us to give warmly from the heart. This newsletter will feature notes from many of the young children in our community that Macomb Charitable has been able to assist. There are children in every school district who have so much more to worry about than homework. They often do not know where they will be spending the night, or with whom. Something as simple as a new pair of shoes can help the self esteem of a child who is homeless.

Our prayer is that once you read about some of the children we've helped, your heart will be led to support our Christmas program with a financial gift. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

**SPOT**

**LIGHT**

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Macomb Charitable Foundation would like to acknowledge the consistent support shown to "our kids" by area churches.

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Macomb makes blankets and/or pillows for all 500 of the children we sponsor each year. These gifts from the heart are eagerly received and loved!

St. Isidore Catholic church in Macomb allows us to host our events in their facility. This past year we hosted a Drive Thru Food Collection that benefited area pantries. We also held our Back to School event in their parking lot, inviting 150 of our kids to a BIG GIVE for back to school items.

For well over 20 years the families attending St. Peter Lutheran School in Macomb have adopted and prayed for some of "our kids" for Christmas. They supply each child with necessities. Clothing, shoes, boots, hygiene products, food and more. They make Christmas happen for kids whose parents cannot.

St. Kieran Catholic Church in Shelby Township as well as St. Michael's Catholic Church in Sterling Heights bless us with financial contributions that allow us to make huge life changes for the kids we serve.

Shepherds Gate in Shelby Township invites several of our homeless children to attend (at no cost) their yearly Spring Hill Summer Camp. They provide transportation when needed. This is a blessing for kids who would otherwise be spending their days in a small motel room or shelter.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The biggest fundraiser that Macomb Charitable hosts is our bi-annual **Starry Starry Night** event! This popular sell-out event is scheduled to take place on November 12, 2021 at The Mirage! Our Balloon Draw is a huge part of the evening and always sells out. We need to acquire 500 Balloon Draw items with a value of \$25.00 or more. **Can you help us?** Gift cards and Christmas themed décor are popular Balloon Draw items. This is a "ladies-night-out" event, so donations that are women friendly would be great! If your heart is led to help in this way we would appreciate it immensely!

Gifts can be dropped off at Cracklewood Golf Club, 18215 24 Mile Road, Macomb 48042, during business hours prior to November 10th. Pick up can be arranged by calling the charity office at: 586-232-3473

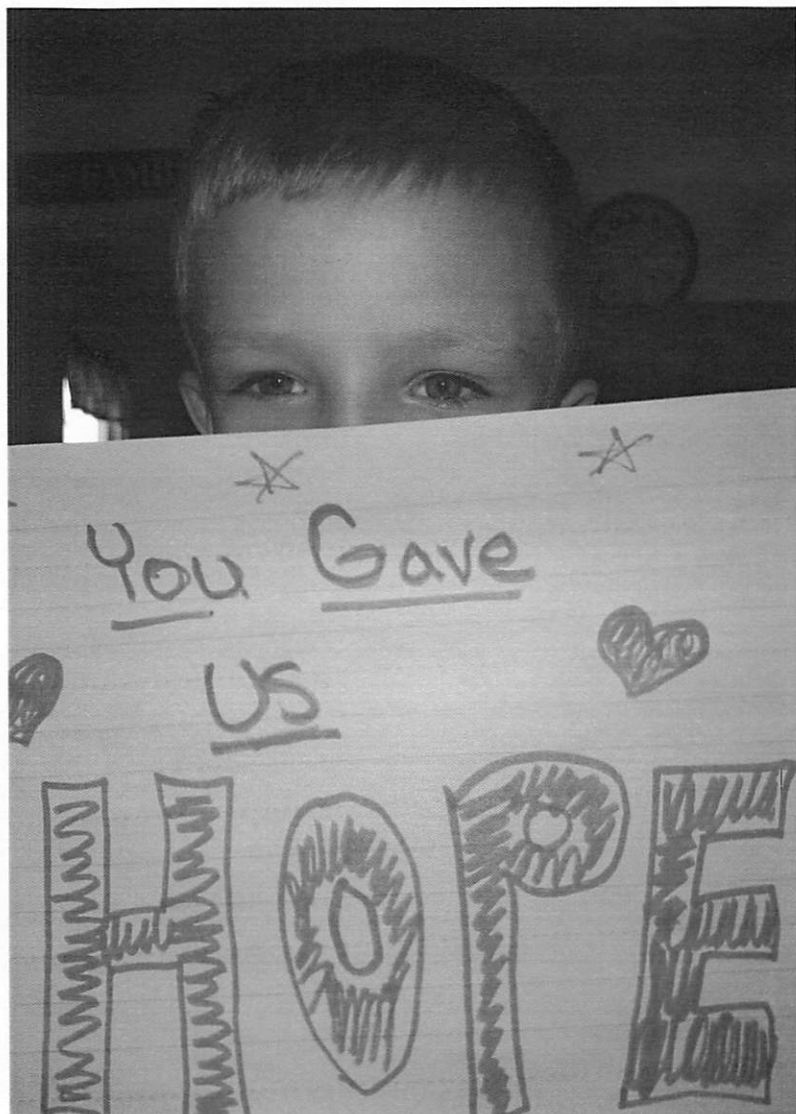
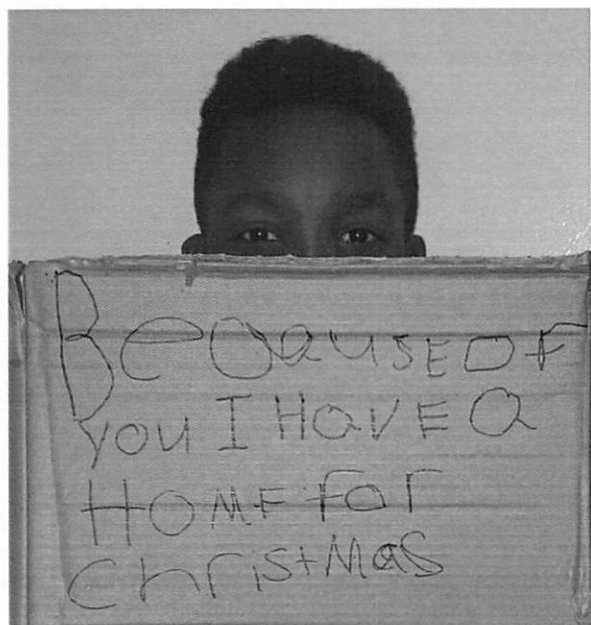
Starry  
Starry Night  
2021



Dear Santa's Helper,

It's been a very tough year for my family and I because..... My Dad has been in and out of rehab and is possibly going to jail, for many years so my mom has to work and support us all by herself.

Thank you for helping us with all that you can.



Dear Santa's Helper,

It's been a very tough year for me and my family because.....

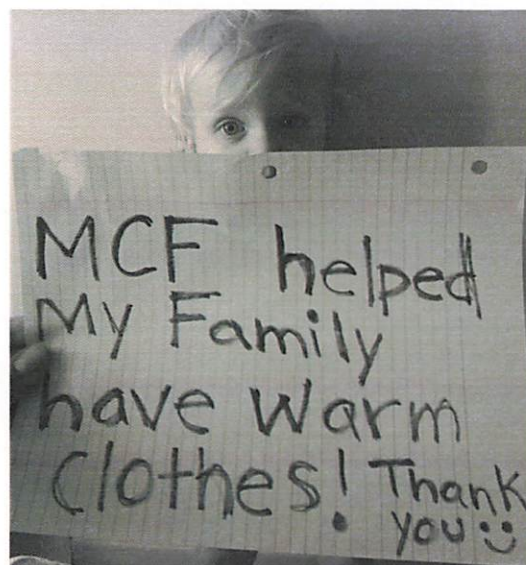
without any transportation I was <sup>living</sup> in and out of hotels, ~~and~~ shelters and my grandma's house separated from my family. My family and I were forced out of our grandmas house and had no where to go.

Thank you for always being there for me and my family.

Dear Santa's Helper,

It's been a very tough year for my family and I because.....

We had to move to a shelter from our house to be in a safe place, BC stuff happened to my mom that wasn't nice.



# Making the magic happen at Christmas!

Nancy Lalonde, Kathy Kropf, Alice Mueller, Emily Poley, Lyndsay Queentry, Maria Guracech, Natalee Kowalski, Denise Richards, Tracie Gillespie and Iris Harvila spend countless hours each Fall speaking with 150 of the families that MCF assists at Christmas. These families consist of 500 homeless or poverty level children who each submit to us a "Dear Santa" wish list. These gals call each family to double check sizes and wishes. Then they type up a list for each child that is given to a sponsor who blesses the family at Christmas. Once the typists have completed their work, **Tracy Kowalski** types, prints and sends labels to our sponsors. It's a huge job made easier because of their willingness to help. Thank you ladies, you are appreciated!

Under the direction of Board Member **Julie Standlick**, we have a group of volunteers who pick up Christmas donations from various sites. We can always count on: **Julie Wright and Family, Bill Turner, Gary Zepke, Bud Milton, Jon Guracech and James Guracech** to lend a hand! For several years now they have been our Santa's helpers, collecting donations for our kids! Thanks to all!

Not every family has a vehicle to pick up gifts. Those living in motels and shelters sometimes must depend on the kindness of strangers to deliver their gifts. Special thanks to MCF supporters **Kent Semlow and Ed Egnatoski** who have provided this service in memory of Sandy Semlow for several years now!

**Cracklewood Golf Club** for consistently letting us host our Christmas event in their facility. **Kevin Nicholl, Paul Penzien, Dale Lamore, Bud Milton and Mike Price** for doing the heavy lifting and for fielding requests and donations. You make our community better!

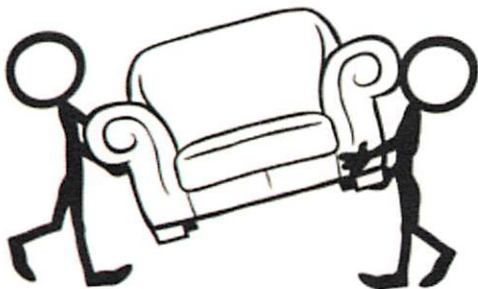
Those volunteers, too numerous to name, who make our annual (39 years) Christmas Program work seamlessly! We have volunteers that adopt a child, who make calls, mail applications, stuff letters, pray and visit. There are those who help unload vehicles, those who knit, sew, shop, organize, sort and wrap. We have teams of volunteers who help on drop-off day and pick-up day. Then there are those who organize toy drives, collect hygiene products, make blankets etc. You are all a valuable part of **TEAM MCF!**

## Volunteers wanted..

When one of our families is fortunate enough to secure housing, we bless them with gently used furniture. Kevin Calahan has been our point person for several years. He does an amazing job! We are looking for a few able bodied people to help Kevin about 4 hours per month.

### Can you help?

Please call Kevin today  
for more information: 586-850-1205



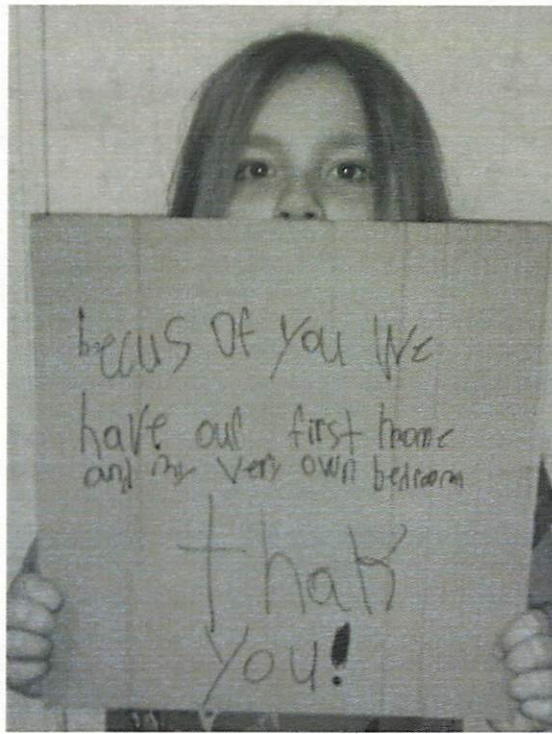
## Hosting a Holiday Party?

If you are hosting a Christmas get-together and are looking to support a charity while you do so, Macomb Charitable would appreciate your help.

Asking guests to support a local charity by bringing a gift card for food, clothing or hygiene products would be a blessing to the children we serve.

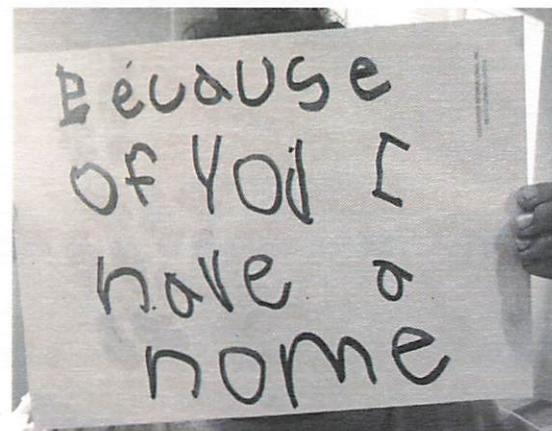
We use these cards all year long to help a child in need.





**No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.**

—AESOP



# Who We Are and What We Do!

The Macomb Charitable Foundation is a group of volunteers who seek out and assist homeless and poverty-stricken children in our community.

We are all volunteer, no one gets paid. This means that 100% of the profit realized from any fundraising event will be used to make a difference in the life of a child.

We assist with things that other agencies cannot. We pay for tutoring, after-school activities, band instruments, field trips, athletic fees, etc. We believe that keeping a child active and involved in their school means less time they will be spending on the street. We are contacted by Social Service agencies, teachers, principals, and churches to assist children in need. We put in countless hours raising money, making home visits, mentoring, advising and returning calls.

## **Homeless children in Macomb County?**

You bet. Hundreds of them. We believe that what we do makes a difference.

With your prayers and financial support, we remind these children that they have not been forgotten.



# Giving back to the community...

## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

Thrivent has a rich history of giving back to the community!  
We have been blessed by the generosity of Thrivent and their members.

If you are a Thrivent member, it's EASY to help!

You can go to [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) and sign into your account. There are two ways to help:

1. Direct your **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** (costs you nothing) to MCF.
2. Thrivent has a program called **THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS**.

You can request a gift card valued up to \$250.00 to use for one of our events.

This can be used to purchase food for families, prizes or décor for an event, shoes for our shoe program, clothes for back to school, backpacks etc.

You will need to turn in a receipt after blessing our kids with this gift.

Visit [THRIVENT.com](http://THRIVENT.com) today to start helping!

**Dear Santa's Helper,**

**It's been a very tough year for me and my family because.....**

I had to stay in a shelter  
away ~~from~~ from my family,  
something ~~happening~~, I witnessed  
stay in ~~the~~ hotels, we had to  
very little ~~three~~ money, we have  
best friends ~~and~~ and one of my  
died.

Hungry :-  
Homeless :-  
Lost :- and  
Feeling alone! :-

Macomb Charitable  
are the angels who  
made our Family whole!  
you Fed us, clothed us,  
you Found us and we  
no longer feel alone!



Macomb Charitable  
Foundation

Sponsor-A-Child

Please consider helping  
a Homeless Child have  
a Merry Christmas!

There are hundreds of Homeless Children in Macomb County.  
They each have a **NAME** and a **STORY**.  
Your financial donation will help us  
provide them with a **Blessed Christmas**.

DONOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MCF  
A tax deductible receipt will be sent.

The Macomb Charitable Foundation  
P.O. Box 217, Washington, MI. 48094  
586-232-3473 ~ [macombcharitablefoundation.org](http://macombcharitablefoundation.org)