Home Free Shelter

Home Free Shelter in Plymouth supports and houses women and children fleeing domestic violence. If you would like to purchase gifts for families sponsored by Home Free, please follow the guidelines below. All gifts should be dropped off (unwrapped) at the church by Dec. 6.

If you have any questions about the gifts for Home Free Shelter, please contact Pastor Valerie at vstrand@spdlc.org.

For families living in the community and receiving services from Home Free Shelter:

- Shop from a specific family's wish list, spending about $50 per person.
- Pray for them through the holiday season.

Find wish lists on the Giving Table in the narthex.

For families living at Home Free Shelter:

Gifts for Women

The bolded items are especially needed. Please, no candles or incense.

- **Sleepwear** (sizes small, medium, large and 2X especially needed), slippers, socks, underwear. All sizes.
- **Winter clothing**, sweat suits, sweaters, jeans, **leggings**, etc., all sizes through 2XL
- Small appliances (toasters, blenders, irons, coffee makers), kitchen utensils, curling irons, **flat irons**, hairdryers, items to start a new household.
- **Body wash, lotion,** cosmetics, jewelry, watches, nail polish, purses, **bath sets, ethnic hair products**.
- **Fun stocking stuffers**—Calendars, pens, playing cards, earbuds, adult coloring books w/pencils or markers, manicure sets, hand sanitizer, slipper socks, journals, puzzle books, lip balm, pampering items, etc.

Gifts for Children

The bolded items are especially needed. Please remember, no violent toys (guns, swords, axes, etc.)

- **Socks**, underwear/boxers (all sizes girls and boys) boys and men's boxers (all sizes), sport bras for girls/teens size 7 and up.
- New clothing (all sizes), especially sweat suits.
- **New tennis shoes, boots, coats and snow pants** (all sizes).

INFANTS: Developmental baby toys, **pull-ups and training underwear,** umbrella strollers, diaper bags (neutral colors), **baby monitors, 8-ounce bottles**, baby care sets, **musical toys** (Laugh & Learn, Baby Einstein, etc) **teethers**/rattles, outfits (size newborn–12 months), pacifiers.

TODDLERS (1-3): toddler toys, **wooden train set**, Duplos or Mega Blocks, chunky cars, **musical toys, learning (ABC/123) toys, leak-proof sippy cups**, ride on or pushing toys, bath toys, bubble bath, **diapers** (size 4 and up)

PRESCHOOL (3-5): learning toys (ABC/123), cars, dolls (especially dolls of color), doll accessories, racetrack sets, play food, booster car seats, sensory toys, **Pull-ups**, Elmo, Bluey, Spiderman

ELEMENTARY (5-10): Electronic learning games, sensory toys, wooden train set-magnetic trains, **Lego sets**, Barbie/Ken Dolls (**especially dolls of color**), Barbie clothing, unisex craft/art kits, fidget spinners, **water bottles**, cars, monster trucks.

PRETEEN/TEENS (11-17): **Headphones/earbuds, board games, sketch pads & water color pencil sets, sportswear/gear (sweatshirts, hats, etc.), water bottles**, fuzzy blankets, Lego sets for older kids, jewelry, purses/bags, YA books, puzzles, journals, art/craft kits, K-Pop toys, make-up sets.

GENERAL: Movie tickets, activity passes for youth (trampoline park, underwater world, McDonalds, Build-a-Bear, etc).



Christmas Care

GIFTS AND PRAYERS 2026

This Christmas season, we hope to touch the lives of 571 individuals with gifts and prayers, 700 children with books and 700 families with holiday meals. We also hope to give food assistance (Cub and Target gift cards) to our neighbors in need. We invite you to join us in this joyous ministry!



St. Philip the Deacon
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gifts for Our Neighbors Living in Shelters

St. Philip the Deacon generously supports local missions that serve our neighbors who are struggling. Our prayers and gifts will help make the lives of 490 shelter residents a little brighter during a difficult time of year.

HOW IT WORKS

- Shopping from a wish list, purchase gifts and place in a gift bag, using the label provided, drop off at church.
- Include some non-perishable treats and a card with your good wishes.
- Pray for your person through the holiday season.

TWO SIGN-UP OPTIONS

1. Online at spdlc.org/register (choose: Christmas Care)
2. In person at the Giving Tables in the narthex

Both options will have wish lists and full instructions available.

WHO WILL RECEIVE THESE GIFTS?

- Mission Lodge of Plymouth (120)
- Anishinabe Wakiagun of Mpls (117)
- Home Free Shelter in Plymouth (30 moms and children)
- Home Free Families, living in the community and receiving services from Home Free Shelter (25 families, approx. 100 moms and children)
- Our Saviour's Housing of Mpls (38)
- Smith Lodge of Plymouth (20)
- Mission Heights of Columbia Heights (14)
- Lutheran Social Services Homes (11)

Completed:

- Hart House for Women in St. Paul (24) Thank you, Miriam and Joy Circles, for sponsoring this shelter!

GIFTS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, DEC. 6.

Mission Nursing Home

Located on Medicine Lake, this skilled-care residence for 70 men greatly appreciates our attention at Christmas time. We are planning a gift bag for each person, most of whom are estranged from their families and unable to live on their own.

To ensure the gift bags, which will contain personal care items, are uniform in size and equitable, our plan is to order the items. The gift bags will also include wall calendars and treats. We warmly welcome your financial contributions to support these gifts.

Our thanks to the Elizabeth Circle who shepherds this ministry!

JOIN THE MNH CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Elizabeth Circle members will also host our Christmas party at MNH on Dec. 10 from 1–3 p.m.

Carolers are welcome to join the party!

Let us know if you would like to sing Christmas carols at the party. Contact Marilyn Larson at mlarson868@gmail.com.



LSS Group Homes

SPD will help provide Christmas Care for three **Lutheran Social Services group homes** for developmentally disabled adults. We will shop from the wish lists of 11 residents of Unity, Smith and Northport, and pray for them through the holiday season.

You will find these lists on the Giving tables in the narthex. Please bring gifts to SPD by Dec. 6.

Book Drive

We are hoping for 700 new books for children of all ages. Non-violent and multi-cultural content is appreciated. These books will be chosen by families as they receive Christmas food baskets.



Holiday Meal Baskets

- In partnership with our friends at Messiah/ Community Bridge in the Phillips neighborhood, we are **donating funds** to purchase groceries for holiday food baskets for families in need. We expect 350 families for Thanksgiving and again for Christmas. Checks should be made out to SPD, with "Food Baskets" on the memo line, or see the panel on the right for information about online giving.
- Members of SPD will match your contribution dollar for dollar up to $25,000, with the hope of providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, supporting the food shelf into the new year, and assisting with other Community Bridge food programs.
- **Volunteers are greatly appreciated! Thanksgiving**—pack food bags the week of Nov. 16 and/or assist with grocery pick up or deliver groceries to homes on Nov. 21. **Christmas**—pack food bags the week of Dec. 14, and assist with pick up and delivery on Saturday, Dec. 19.
- To volunteer, visit the Holiday Food Baskets link at spdlc.org/serve.

Gifts and Prayers

The gifts we give are often the only ones people receive, and are a reminder to the recipients that they are not forgotten.

Not a Shopper?

Prefer not to shop but want to help? Your support by financial gifts is greatly appreciated. We will send out happy shoppers on your behalf with your monetary donations. Make checks to St. Philip the Deacon with a memo line for "Christmasing" or contribute online (see below).

Always Appreciated: Gift Cards!

Throughout the year, but especially during the holidays, St. Philip the Deacon receives regular requests for assistance. It is of tremendous help to us that we have gift cards on hand at these times. Cub and Target gift cards are especially appreciated by families in need for food and essentials.

Make a Contribution Online

To contribute online to any of the ministries described here, go to spdlc.org/giveonline. You'll find options on the form for Food Baskets, Christmasing, or the Angel Fund (to write in a designation.)

Questions?

Please contact Pastor Valerie Strand Patterson at vstrand@spdlc.org or 763–475–7126.

Thank you for sharing your gifts!