



What is Making Spirits Bright?

Making Spirits Bright (MSB) is an all-volunteer, referral-based, adopt-a-family program, which provides holiday joy to deserving families in need located in the greater Rochester region. We have assisted nearly 600 families since 2014.

What makes MSB different from other Adopt-a-Family programs?

We believe everyone deserves joy around the holidays, not just the kids. As such, our program differs in a couple of ways:

- 1) We provide far more than just gifts. We also assist with winter gear, household necessities, personal care items, cleaning supplies and various other items to lessen a family's burden.
- 2) We provide for all members living in each household, no matter their age. This includes kids, parents, guardians, grandparents, and sometimes even pets! As such, our families' lists are far more extensive than those in other programs.

Who does MSB help?

Most MSB families live in Rochester and Webster, however our reach has extended throughout the greater Rochester region. Due to capacity, we only support families living in Monroe County.

What's the process for finding families?

We work with schools and social service organizations to identify, and refer, the families we assist each year. These organizations know the families and their needs best, which helps ensure MSB is making as meaningful an impact as possible.

Once referred, families complete informational forms, which provides us with sizing info, along with their biggest needs and wants. MSB then relies on the community to help fulfill their lists.

How can the community help?

MSB is an equity-based organization. Whether you have a large budget, small budget, or no budget at all, we invite everyone to make an impact with us during the holiday season.

There are several ways to help:

1) Adopt a family

MSB welcomes groups, organizations and families to adopt a family's list in full. You choose the size of family you wish to adopt. A typical list includes 8-9 items per family member, ranging from winter gear, bedding, household necessities, and, of course, gifts. The typical cost of adopting one person's list ranges from \$300-400.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A SAMPLE FAMILY'S LIST](#)

**** All purchased items must be new, unwrapped & in original packaging, unless otherwise noted.***

MSB also collects the following for all families that need them:

- Toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Holiday tree/decorations

**** These items are not the responsibility of those adopting our families. They are items collected through outside drives and are donated to families on their behalf.***

2) Adopt one person

You have the ability to just adopt one person, rather than an entire family. You can be specific with age range and gender identity, if you have a preference. We cannot guarantee exact matches to these requests, but we try our best to accommodate, whenever possible.

**** If you adopt a family OR a person's list, the expectation is that everything on it is purchased.***

3) Purchase from our Community List

Each year we provide a Community List of needs and wants for a number of our families (available mid-to-late November). This provides everyone an opportunity to purchase items, no matter their budget. You can choose to purchase item(s) for one person or multiple items for multiple people. There is no limit to the number of items you can purchase from this list.

4) Organize a Supply Drive

As mentioned previously, we provide a great deal of additional items to the families we serve. As such, we look to our community to run donation drives on our behalf. Interested in hosting one at work, church, school or with a different group? Here's a [Supply Drive](#) link, which contains all the 'extras' we offer to any family that needs them.

**** All collection drives must be approved by MSB prior to implementation.***

5) Make a monetary donation

Don't have time to shop? Want to provide help where it's needed most? Make a monetary donation and MSB will put it to good use on your behalf. Whether it's buying winter gear, gifts or supplies to ensure needs are met, all donated money directly supports our families.

Contributions can be made securely here: <https://paypal.me/goodnessinitiative>

6) Wrap gifts with us

MSB invites groups and community members (age 13 & up) to help wrap gifts at our donation center located in the far-left corner of Baytowne Plaza in Webster. A schedule and signup form will be made available toward the end of November with time slots through mid-December.

Do you accept used items?

No. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to provide quality-control on used items, no matter their condition. All items must be new and in the box, or with tags. Occasionally there are exceptions, but these instances will always be noted as such.

When are items due? And where do we drop them off?

All UNWRAPPED items are due no later than Wed., December 4 at any of the following locations:

- [Making Spirits Bright](#) - Far-left corner of [Baytowne Plaza](#) (old Spirit Halloween location)
- [839 Bridle Ln. Webster](#) - Contactless 24/7 drop-off location. Leave items in bin on porch.
- [Mad Hatter Restaurant & Bakery](#) - 176 S. Goodman St., Rochester

**** Please check business websites to confirm store hours prior to drop-off.***

How do you deliver everything?

Webster residents are given the opportunity for a fire truck delivery, thanks to the assistance of the Webster Fire & Police Departments. MSB also utilizes their volunteer bank to assist with deliveries. This opportunity is only offered to those who have a long-standing relationship with

the organization.

Find us on social

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you'd like to be added to our email list, [subscribe here](#).

Additional Questions?

If you have other questions that haven't been covered above, please email us at: thegoodnessinitiative@gmail.com. Thank you!