



GELS FAMILY SPONSOR INFORMATION



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

-  The Christmas Angels Program is designed to provide gifts for children (newborn to 17) of Johnson County residents who would otherwise not have a Christmas. Families must income qualify to be eligible for the program.
-  There are two ways families can receive assistance through the Christmas Angels Program. After families complete an application, they are either matched to a sponsor or traditionally invited to shop at the Angel Tree Store.
-  Christmas Angels is not intended to supplement other Christmas assistance that families may receive through family members, organizations such as The Salvation Army, or a local church that has their own program. United Way of Johnson County works with other programs to avoid duplication where we can, but if you determine that you are matched to a family who is already receiving assistance, the United Way will match you to another family.
-  We ask that you provide at least one toy/gift items and one outfit (example: shirt and pants or shoes and pants) for each child. The recommendation is to spend between \$100 and \$150 per child (older children may be slightly more expensive). We would encourage your consideration of sponsoring more children/families rather than excessive spending on a single family. We have discouraged gift requests from families for items such as gaming systems, cell phones, tablets, etc. We have allowed requests for gift cards for older children as they can be difficult to shop for.
-  Once you have completed the on-line Family Sponsor form, you should receive a confirmation email to let you know we have received your form and are working to match you with a family/families. If you don't receive an e-mail within 48 hours, please contact us at lbrown@uwjc.org to verify we have received your form. Once matched, you will be emailed with the information. Sponsor forms received after November 18, 2025, will be matched as quickly as possible. Please indicate on your Family Sponsorship Form if December 1, 2025, will work for you, or if you need your matches prior to that date. Please note, we will not be matching applications until after October 28, 2025.
-  If you are sponsoring multiple children through your church or business, we ask that you please ensure that children receive an equitable amount of money spent compared to other children within their family. In the past, we have had some children within a family receive one or two small items while a sibling receives six or seven items.
-  Faith-based organizations sponsoring families must agree that families who they sponsor are not obligated to attend any church service as a condition of receiving Christmas assistance. You may require the families to pick up their gifts from your building, and you may invite them to participate in a service, but participation cannot be required. United Way of Johnson County is a non-profit, non-denominational organization and we have no expectation that families who receive assistance participate in a faith-based service. If your organization does have this requirement, we would be happy to discuss other ways to partner for Christmas.

 When you receive your family/ies, **please contact the parent/legal guardian to verify specific needs and clarify details as soon as possible.** This lets the family know they are being helped. If you wish to block your calls, dial *67 before you call your family/ies. Explain that you are calling as a part of the United Way of Johnson County Christmas Angels Program and you were matched to their family as a sponsor for Christmas assistance.

 When talking with your matched family, you may want to clarify sizes, find out more information on the children's interests/hobbies, or a special wish of each child. Some sponsors also like to purchase modest gifts for the adults in the family in addition to the children or provide food or a grocery gift card, but this is optional. If you provide a gift card to be used toward food, please write FOOD on the card so the family knows the intended purpose.

 You will need to arrange for the place and time for delivery or pick up of the gifts which should be **no later than December 15, 2025**. This allows time for United Way of Johnson County staff to assist you if issues arise with contacting the family after your initial conversations.

 We ask that if you are normally an anonymous sponsor you would consider one of the options below. We would be happy to talk through ideas with you, but some thoughts are:

- Not being anonymous at all this year and contacting the family directly to discuss any questions on the application and to set up direct delivery or pick up of gifts with the family/families this year.
- Contacting the family/families yourself, but not identifying that you are the sponsor. Instead, you can state that you are a volunteer with the United Way Christmas Angels program. You can tell the family/families this both if you need to call them to clarify information on their shopping list and to set up gift delivery.
- Remain anonymous and have Christmas Angels contact the family to clarify shopping lists but contact the family directly as a Christmas Angels volunteer to arrange for gift drop off or delivery. (If you choose this option please call us at 317-494-6241 and we will contact the family for questions you might have before shopping. Please allow us at least 72 hours to complete this request.)

 If you remain fully anonymous, gifts must be delivered to a United Way drop off point between December 15th or December 16th, 2025. We will be having designated drop-off times which will be staffed by volunteers. You will receive an e-mail in the week of December 1st that will give you the opportunity to sign up for a specific time to drop off your gifts to the United Way office. We will not be able to accept any gifts outside of the above time frame.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact United Way (317-494-6241 or lbrown@uwjc.org).

Your generous assistance through time and donations to help those less fortunate is very much needed and appreciated.