



LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY
Compassion Place
MINISTRIES



Miracle of Christmas 2018
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I adopt a family through Miracle of Christmas (MoC)?

Simply contact our Director of Community Ministry, Heather Rosenkoetter at 410-636-0123, or hrosenkoetter@compassionplace.org to sign up to sponsor (adopt) a family or families this year!

How will I be matched up with a family or families?

In the fall, our center coordinators begin registering clients for the MoC ministry. We then do our best to match up these families with sponsoring congregations, schools, and families. Sponsors can request specific traits such as family size, specific age ranges of children or adults, number of total families adopted, or total number of people adopted. Each sponsor is given information on the age, gender, sizes, and specific requests of each family member (but no names).

What is provided through the MoC ministry?

A family is given gifts (usually one full outfit of clothing and an additional gift item for each member of the family) and food for a Christmas dinner (including a turkey), plus food for 2-3 additional days.

As a sponsor, would I be responsible for providing all of the above mentioned items?

Sponsors may choose whether they would like to provide *gifts only*, *food only*, or *gifts and food* for their adopted family. You may also choose to donate a turkey. We provide the boxes for you, to provide uniformity when we distribute the gifts to the families.

Should I wrap the gifts for my adopted family?

No. Please do not wrap the gifts you place in the box. Many of the parents like to preview the gifts that will be given to the children. Also, wrapped gifts take up more room in the distribution boxes, and we have a limited number of boxes each year. If you wish, you may include a small package of wrapping paper or gift bags in the box, so that the family can wrap the gifts before Christmas.

Can I still help, even if I don't sponsor a family?

Yes! There are many other ways to support MoC!

Christmas cookies: As part of the Miracle of Christmas, LMS Compassion Place also distributes Christmas cookies throughout the month of December to our Compassion Center visitors, and includes Christmas cookies in each family's MoC gift boxes. We seek donations of homemade or store-bought cookies to be included in the cookie packing.

General Gifts or Food: We also collect general donations of food and new gifts (with tags or in original packaging). We use these to fill the boxes of families who are not adopted by someone. All donations are gladly accepted, but we are especially in need of socks and underwear for adults, and gifts for teens and men.

Important Dates On Back!

Volunteer to fill boxes for unsponsored families: If you are 18 or over and would like to volunteer to fill Christmas boxes for families who are not sponsored, please contact our Director of Volunteers, Kim Naumann (410-636-0123 or knaumann@lutheranmissionsociety.org) to sign up. Both packing events take place at LMS Compassion Place Headquarters, 601 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225.

Food Packing Day	Monday, December 10, 9:00 am
Gift Packing Day	Monday, December 17, 9:00 am

When are donated items needed?

While we gladly accept donations of food and new gift items year-round, to be used for MoC 2018, we must receive the following items at LMS Compassion Place Headquarters (601 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225) by the corresponding dates:

Christmas Cookies	Thursday, December 6
Gifts and/or Food for Sponsored Families	Friday, December 7
General Food Donations	Friday, December 7
General Gift Donations	Friday, December 14

Why so early?

We realize that these dates are early in December and may not always be convenient or fit well with your family or organization's calendar. We ask for your donations this early for several reasons. First and foremost, it takes a good deal of coordination, time and effort to make sure that over 400 filled boxes get to the correct families in 9 different Compassion Centers, spanning from Cambridge, Maryland on the eastern shore to York, Pennsylvania. Secondly, we need time to fill many of those boxes. For families who are not sponsored (or "adopted") by a family or group, our volunteers fill Christmas boxes with items that have been given as general donations.

How are the boxes distributed to the recipients?

All the filled boxes will be distributed to families after a special chapel service at each Compassion Center, which usually takes place the week before Christmas.

How many of your families are adopted?

Over 80% of our families were sponsored last year by families or other organizations such as schools, churches, or businesses. Being "adopted" can make a big difference for a family, because it means that items were purchased specifically for them in the correct sizes, and particular needs can be met. Please help us meet our goal of 90% sponsorship in 2018!

Who are the families that you help?

Many recipients are regular clients who come to our centers on a monthly basis for free clothing and/or food. Some have been referred to us by other agencies. Others are new "walk-in" clients looking for assistance. But regardless of their history with LMS Compassion Place, each MoC family has been interviewed by one of our Center Coordinators or other staff. Our staff takes time to sit with each one to discuss their needs and pray with them.

