



**Christmas Clearing Council**  
of Waukesha County

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



It takes hundreds of generous volunteers to organize and run our annual one-day Toy Shop. In 2022, we were honored to welcome this dedicated group of Hydrite employees, who sorted thousands of stocking stuffer gifts and created 700 stocking stuffer grab bags for kids ages 2-11 years.



## GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS BECOME LONGTIME DONORS

It was many years ago, but Patricia Bauer vividly remembers being a single mom with a young son – and two jobs. She worked hard to support herself and her child – but there still wasn't money left over for Christmas. She doesn't recall the details, but she got connected to Christmas Clearing Council. "CCC helped me make a nice Christmas for my son," she said.

She later married Gary, expanded the family and became financially stable. But she never forgot those early years of struggle. "When we got into a position where we could help, we started donating," she said. As of 2022, the Bauers are one of 10 confirmed donors who have been supporting CCC for 25 years or longer. There likely are others; many of them anonymous and some who pre-date reliable records.

Patricia and Gary also taught their children the value of philanthropy. "I told the kids that part of the money we had saved for their Christmas presents would be donated," Patricia said. Her first son, who passed away six years ago at age 45, learned well. He, too, became a donor, even sharing part of his Social Security disability checks.

The couple continues to give. "Kids deserve a good Christmas," Patricia said. "We are happy to help now."





“ —  
*Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.*  
 — ”  
 - Ruth Carter Stapleton - Sister of former President Jimmy Carter

Our community continues to shine. In 2022, more than 4,700 Waukesha County children woke up Christmas morning feeling the light and love you shared by volunteering, sponsoring kids, holding toy drives, attending events, and donating gift cards and money. The excitement of Christmas lives in all of us - the young and the young at heart. We hope you savored a moment Christmas morning thinking about the children you helped and experienced the same joy they did. Thank you for your support. We look forward to a magical 75th season of giving in 2023.

**Sarah Hein**  
 Executive Director



Over seven decades, CCC has prompted thousands of person-to-person relationships that have made Christmas memorable for our volunteers, donors and clients. The unique connections between those who sponsor kids and the recipient families have warmed many a generous heart. Those who volunteer at our one-day Toy Shop, guiding parents as they choose gifts for their kids, often say the experience makes their own Christmas much more special. We are so grateful to all those who help share the true magic of Christmas.

**Lindsay Fischer**  
 President, CCC Board of Directors

Whether you were a sponsor, a donor or a volunteer, we hope you'll be back for Christmas 2023. Here are some key dates to note:

- July 16** Jingle Bell Jog and Walk at The Ingleside Hotel
- Sept. 5\*** Applications for 2023 Christmas assistance and sponsor signup are available at [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org).
- Oct. 9** CCC office opens; sponsorship matching begins
- Nov. 15\*** Deadline to apply for Christmas assistance is at 11:59 p.m.
- Dec. 3** Deadline to sponsor a family is at 11:59 p.m.
- Dec. 13** Deadline for gifts to be delivered to sponsored families; last day to donate toys at drop-off sites.
- Dec. 16** Toy Shop
- Dec. 19** CCC office closes at noon for the season

\* Please share these dates with anyone you think might benefit from our services.

**SAVE  
 THE  
 DATE**

# SAVE THE DATES



THE  
 INGLESIDE  
 HOTEL

## FUN IN THE SUMMER & FUN IN THE WINTER

We are so grateful to the owners and staff at The Ingleside Hotel for five years of supporting Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County and our mission of helping children share the magic of Christmas.

### SUMMER



## JULY 16, 2023 JINGLE BELL RUN AND WALK

5K run, 2-mile walk, 1-mile child fun run.  
 Sign up today:  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Pewaukee/JingleBellJogWI>

### WINTER

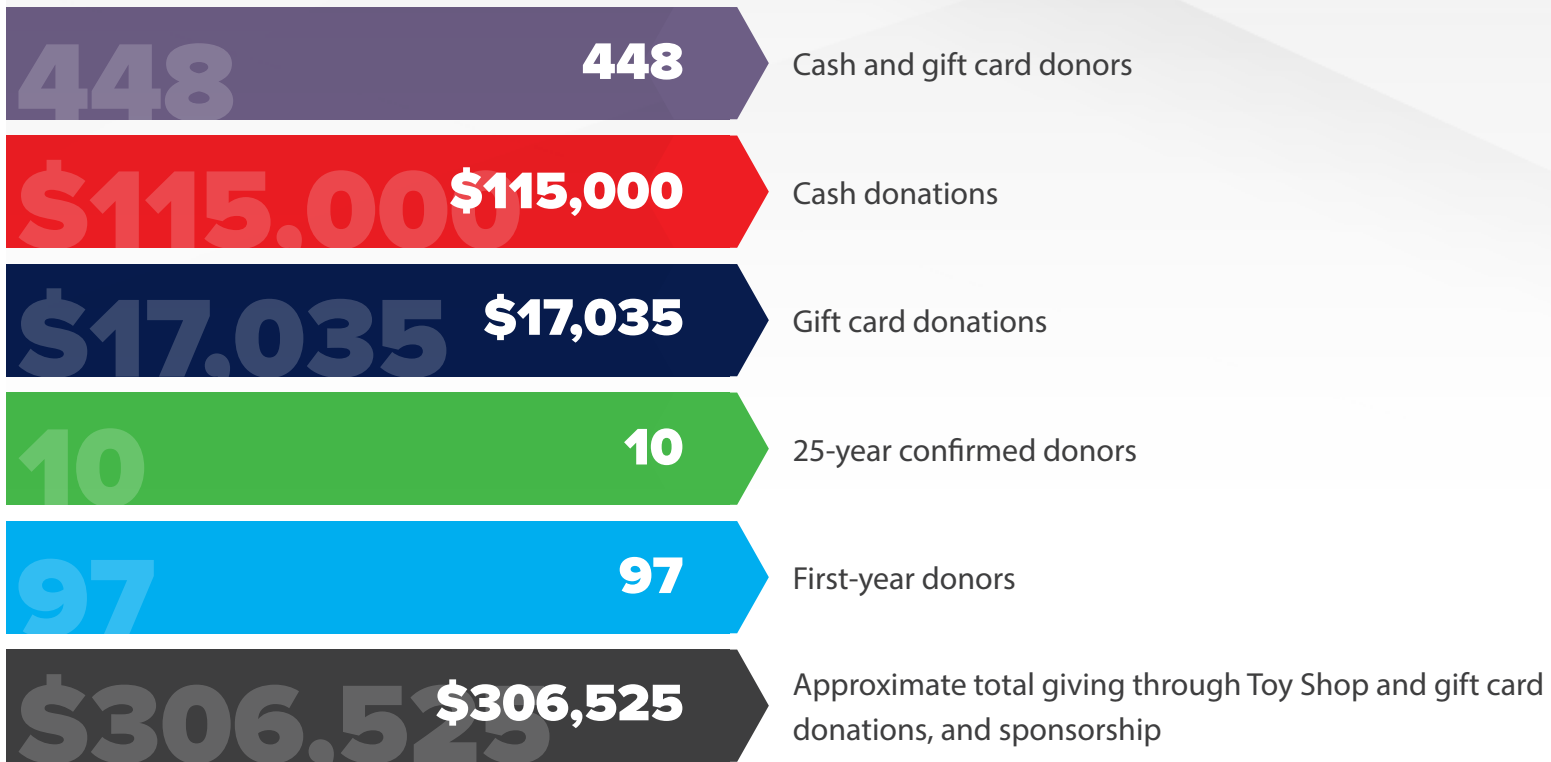


## NOVEMBER 15-17, 2023 ILLUMINATED WALK THROUGH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS, 5-9 P.M.

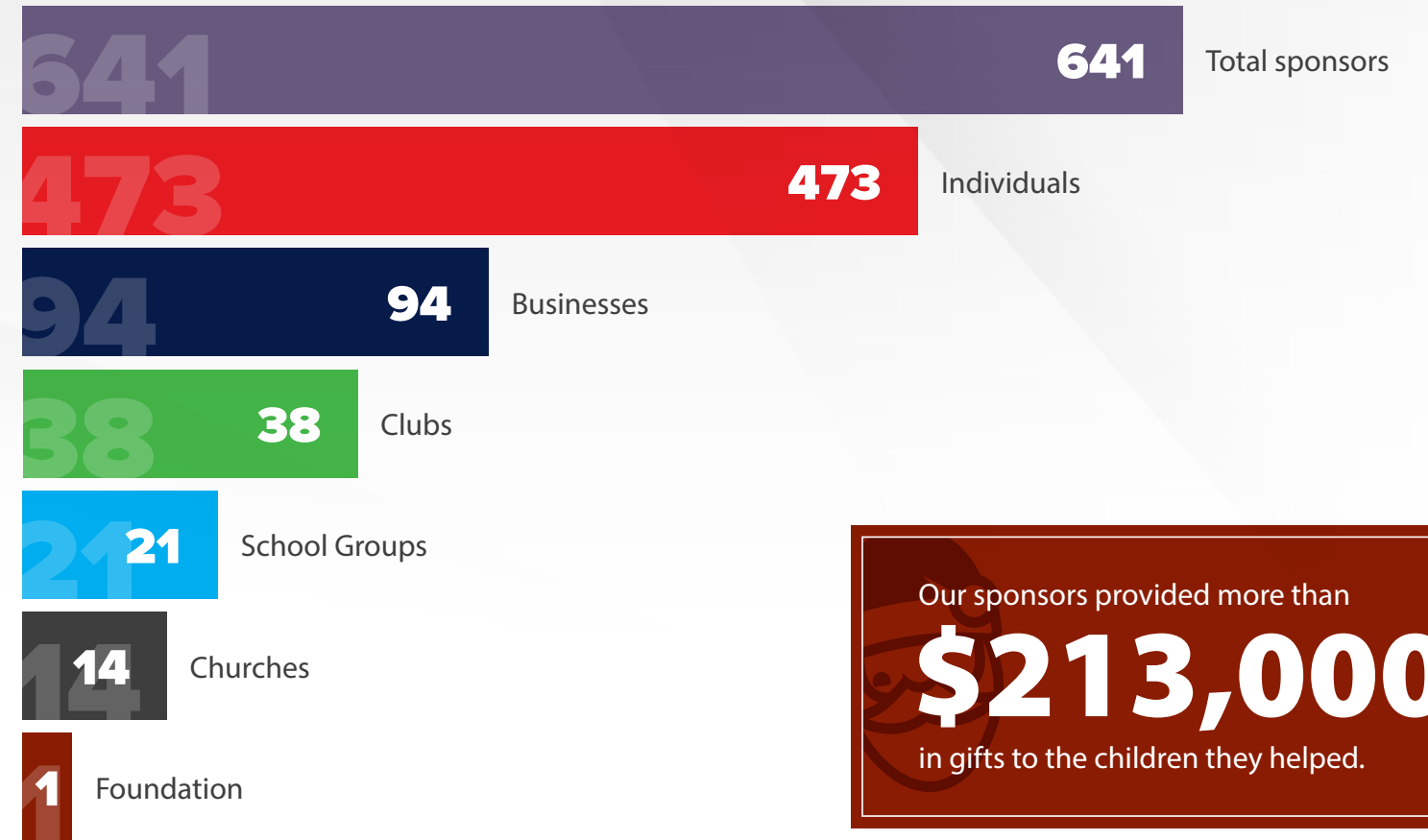
See Southeastern Wisconsin's most spectacular Christmas lights display up close as you walk the one-mile route. \$2 from each ticket sold during this weekend will go directly to Christmas Clearing Council. Watch for more information this fall on how to purchase tickets.

# 2022 AT A GLANCE

## DONORS



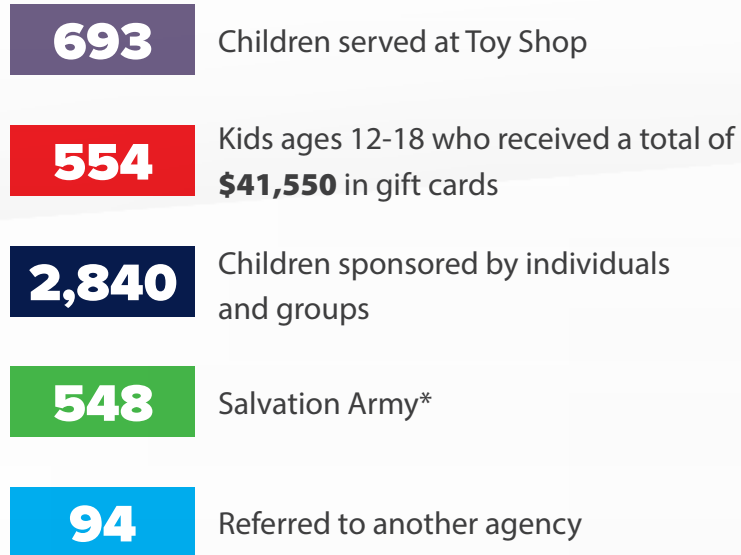
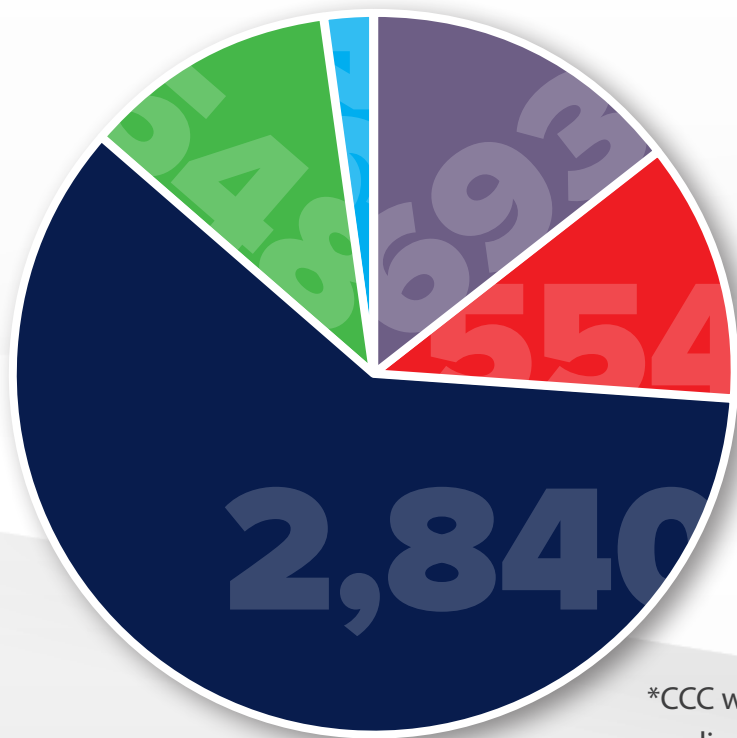
## SPONSORS



Our sponsors provided more than  
**\$213,000**  
 in gifts to the children they helped.

## COORDINATED GIVING

TO 4,729 CHILDREN



\*CCC works with the Waukesha Salvation Army to process its applications and ensure there is no duplication of services.

## FUN FACTS





# ANGELS AMONG US

Each year, we like to share stories of some of the many angels who help make Christmas brighter for thousands of kids in Waukesha County.



**LA CASA**  
de Esperanza, Inc.

## AGENCY LA CASA DE ESPERANZA

For many years, La Casa de Esperanza in Waukesha has been a valuable partner to CCC. Staff at the agency help spread the word about how CCC can provide a happy Christmas to children in families that are struggling financially. They answer questions the CCC staff has about assisting Spanish-speaking families. Volunteers provide translating services during the season and help Spanish-speaking parents choose gifts for their children at our one-day Toy Shop.

“We are honored to work with Christmas Clearing Council to share the magic of Christmas with children,” said Shari Campbell, La Casa’s president and CEO. “They bring so much joy to families in our community.”

## DONOR THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

If you happened to be at The Chocolate Factory in Oconomowoc last Dec. 12, you might have seen some of the beautiful Irish Thunder Clydesdales in the parking lot. And if the size of the gentle horses didn’t intimidate you, you might have had your photo taken with one of them. The appearance of the animals was the idea of Valera Smokvin, who owns the restaurant and seven other Chocolate Factory eateries in Wisconsin. The event was a fundraiser

for CCC. “We put a big pot in the restaurant, with a sign that said proceeds would go to Christmas Clearing Council,” Valera said.

When the day was over, visitors had contributed almost \$600. “We also donated 50 percent of our sales that day,” Valera said. He had donated money to CCC before, but this year wanted to contribute much-needed items for Toy Shop. With advice from CCC staff, he decided on waterproof gloves and mittens. Still, he was short of the \$4,000 he needed to buy the 300 pairs he hoped to. So, the business donated the rest.

“I have three kids myself,” Valera said. “Christmas is a special time of the year. We wanted to help make it special for other kids, too.”



## INDIVIDUAL LINDSEY LANDOWSKI

Even as a young child, Lindsey learned the importance of helping those less fortunate. “As I have grown up and started forming my own ideas, I realize that helping others is more important than ever,” she said. “CCC is a great cause that allows me to help others and feel like I am truly making a difference.”

Lindsey has sorted and organized toys for CCC’s Toy Shop, hosted a toy drive at Swallow School in 2016, helped on Toy Shop day, and volunteered in the CCC office after school in 2021 and 2022. Now a junior at Arrowhead High School, she has also been a Girl Scout, a middle school Student Council member, a member of her high school’s Interact Club, and a volunteer for Milwaukee Street Angels, and Cecelia Place assisted living facility.

In 2022, Lindsey sponsored a child through CCC with her own money. “My sponsorship experience went great,” she said. “I always loved shopping for the kids when my family has sponsored. I got matched with a little girl and shopping for her was so much fun. The mom was amazing, too. I could tell they really appreciated the help. It made me feel so good in my heart to know that I helped – and I got to meet the little girl. It was a great experience that I will definitely continue.”



These members of the Latino Student Union at Waukesha North High School provided much-needed assistance on toy drop-off evening at St. William Catholic Church in Waukesha. They carried many barrels of toys from the drop-off point outside to the school gym. They also helped sort and organize toys and other gifts.

## WAYS TO HELP ALL YEAR

### DONATE CASH

See how to help on our website.

### DONATE GIFT CARDS

\$10, \$15 or \$25 from Walmart, Target or Amazon.

### SPONSOR

Starting in September you can choose how many children to help.

### VOLUNTEER

Check our website starting Oct. 15.

### SHARE

our contact information with someone who could benefit from our services.





**Christmas Clearing Council**  
of Waukesha County

Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha  
P.O. Box 791  
Pewaukee, WI 53072



Many thanks to these Christmas angels and their quilting group from First United Methodist Church in Waukesha. The talented and energetic women donated 37 handmade quilts to Toy Shop. Every one of them is now in a new home.



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[www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org)  
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