



**Christmas Clearing Council**  
of Waukesha County

# CHRISTMAS NOTES

October 2021

We are thrilled about the possibility of welcoming families that are not sponsored back to Toy Shop this year. This event has been a cornerstone of CCC's giving program for nearly 50 years. We will continue to monitor COVID-related information and will follow CDC guidelines on indoor events. Please check our website occasionally for up-to-date information. We hope we can welcome volunteers and families back to St. William Catholic Church in Waukesha for Toy Shop 2021 on Dec. 11.



## NOT QUITE BACK TO NORMAL

Most of us would rather forget how the pandemic of 2020 changed almost everything. The CCC board and staff recognized early in 2020 we wouldn't be able to collect toys or hold our annual Toy Shop in December. How then, would we serve the families who were counting on us? After lots of discussion, we decided families who were not sponsored would receive \$75 in gift cards for each eligible child so parents could shop for their children themselves.



**Lindsay Fischer**  
Board President



We let the Waukesha County community know about our plan – and you responded. Through a comprehensive marketing campaign, an option for online gift card giving, and the generous partnership of Waukesha State Bank, we collected enough gift cards for every unsponsored child. Thank you!

We look forward to the 2021 giving season with great anticipation. This year we unveiled our new website – and we're using technology to make the sponsorship program easier for both clients and sponsors. The new website is also more user-friendly for volunteers. It's in partnership with you, our supporters, that we can make Christmas a magical time for more than 4,000 Waukesha County children whose families are struggling financially. Your giving spirit makes me proud to work alongside such angels.



**Sarah Hein**  
Executive Director

This year, our toy collection barrels will be back at more than 100 sites across the county and we hope circumstances allow us to hold our Toy Shop. We still need gift cards for our teens and we'll need volunteers on Toy Shop day, but we know our community angels will respond.



Kimberly Lawler, left, managing editor of HulaFrog Waukesha-Lake County, presents the Most Loved Local Charity of 2021 award to CCC Executive Director Sarah Hein. HulaFrog is a national network of local websites run by parents who monitor family friendly events and opportunities in their area.

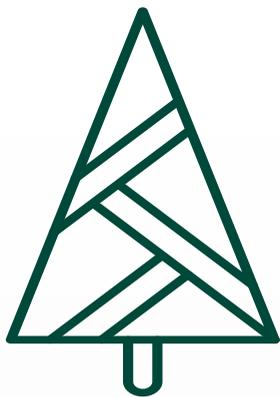


## THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



**Sponsor a child/children:** CCC's sponsorship program is a personal way to share the magic of Christmas. And it's easier than ever. Go to [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org) and fill out the sponsorship form. We'll match you with a family or families.

**Donate gift cards:** Our Toy Shop does not have gifts appropriate for older children, so unsponsored children, ages 12-18, receive gift cards. Most requested cards are for Target and Walmart in \$10, \$15 or \$25 denominations. You can:



- Donate on your own or organize a collection at your work, school, church, neighborhood, service club, etc.
- Buy Target or Walmart gift cards online and they will be shipped directly to us. Go to [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org) and click on the Target or Walmart icon under the "Donate" button.
- Mail cards to CCC, P.O. Box 791, Pewaukee, WI, 53072.
- Drop off gift cards at any Waukesha State Bank drive-through or lobby Nov. 1-Dec. 15.
- Contact us at [info@christmasclearingcouncil.org](mailto:info@christmasclearingcouncil.org) to arrange for a board or staff member to pick them up.

**Donate money:** Send a check to CCC, P.O. Box 791, Pewaukee, WI, 53072, or donate online at [christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://christmasclearingcouncil.org). Click on the PayPal or Venmo icon under "Donate."

**Volunteer:** We love our volunteers but are limited in how many we need. Check our volunteer opportunities at [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org). Click on the "Volunteer button."

**Sign up for Amazon Smile:** Choose CCC as your preferred nonprofit. A percentage of all your Amazon purchases will be donated to CCC.

**Organize an event:** Try a casual day or holiday sweater contest at work. Participants pay an amount you set and you donate the proceeds to CCC. Or come up with your own idea!

**Refer families that need help:** Do you know a family that's struggling? Encourage them to fill out an application at [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org) under the "Apply for Help" button.



# MEET OUR 2021 ANGEL AWARD WINNERS

The Christmas Clearing Council established the annual Angel Awards in 2006 to recognize those in our community who, through special acts of generosity, further the CCC mission of helping families celebrate a more joyful Christmas. Each year, our board of directors selects an outstanding youth (individual or group), public or non-profit organization, individual, and community organization to receive this award. In 2021, we added a Rookie of the Year Award to recognize an outstanding first-time volunteer, sponsor or donor.



## YOUTH AWARD: Catholic Memorial High School National Honor Society

The CMH NHS has been a vital part of CCC's program, sponsoring hundreds of children since 1999. In 2020, despite the challenges of the pandemic, energetic and dedicated students sponsored 30 children and donated \$1,600 in gift cards, which were given to eligible teenagers in our program.



## PUBLIC OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION: Waukesha Fire Department

Members of the Waukesha Fire Department have consistently sponsored children over many years – 171 since 2007. In 2015, firefighters also donated \$500 in gift cards that were shared with teenagers who were not sponsored.



## INDIVIDUAL AWARD: Kara Moore

As the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services liaison to CCC from 2011 to 2020, Kara was an enthusiastic and consistent advocate for the families that rely on CCC to bring joy at Christmas. During 2020, she was instrumental in helping to qualify hundreds of children for CCC aid when the limitations of the pandemic prevented other agencies from doing so.



## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: WAUKESHA SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB

As a consistent CCC supporter, the club has sponsored dozens of children for more than 10 years and has been a loyal funding donor since 2015. The generosity of club members has made a significant difference in the lives of many children whose families are struggling financially.



## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Michelle Nehs

Michelle joined the CCC office volunteer crew in early fall of 2020. She quickly learned how CCC operates and the office procedures that keep our program running smoothly. Her enthusiasm and "can do" attitude were appreciated, and she treated all clients and supporters with respect and a friendly voice every time she answered a phone.

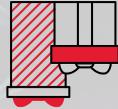


## LET'S CONNECT!

christmasclearingcouncil.org  
 facebook.com/christmasclearingcouncil  
 Instagram: @christmasclearingcouncil  
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 262.771.0909

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Oct. 11** CCC office opens, family sponsorship matching begins
- Nov. 1-Dec. 15** Drop off gift cards at any Waukesha State Bank
- Nov. 15** Client application deadline
- Nov. 19-21** Ingleside Hotel County Christmas Walk; 5-9 p.m. Last tickets sold at 8 p.m. \$7 per person; \$2 from every ticket will be donated to CCC. Buy tickets at <https://www.thecountrychristmas.com/buy-tickets-2/> or at the gate.
- Dec. 8** Last day to apply to sponsor a family
- Dec. 11** Toy Shop
- Dec. 15** Last day for sponsors to deliver gifts



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