

PLANNING Ahead

Omaha Home for Boys
Seeking Donations for Area Youth



Omaha Home for Boys (OHB) is holding its annual holiday gift and essentials drive, Project Christmas Joy, and is asking the public to help make the holidays special for area youth, young adults, children and families. Project Christmas Joy is taking place December 1 through 15 with a goal to provide every client at OHB with both necessities and a special gift at Christmas.

Bailey Perry, Self Sufficiency Director at OHB, notes just how impactful the public's support of Project Christmas Joy is, saying, "We try to give every youth in our programs a few gifts at Christmas, and the reality is that for some, it's the first time they've had the opportunity to experience this aspect of the holidays. They are truly grateful for everything they receive."

Some of the most critically-needed items include hygiene items, cleaning products, laundry supplies, kitchen essentials, diapers and wipes. Some of the "wants" of OHB's youth include gift cards (Wal-Mart, TJ MAXX, Kohls, McDonald's, Quik Trip, Burger King, Uber, Auto Zone), body spray, lotion, nail polish, backpacks, wallets, purses, socks and blankets.

Brandy Gustoff, Chief Programs Officer at OHB, spent many holidays with youth in OHB's programs when she was the manager of the transitional living program. Gustoff knows firsthand how much having a special Christmas means to the young adults at OHB.

"When we celebrate the holidays with our young people, it is often times the only Christmas celebration they get to have," said Gustoff. "I can't tell you how many times over the years I've encountered a young adult who literally cried over getting something as simple as a warm blanket or a set of hat and gloves. The gratitude that these kids show for the gifts that they receive continues to amaze me year after year."

Support of Project Christmas Joy that provides needy youth and families in our community with necessities and simple holiday gifts can be offered in a number of ways. Monetary gifts can be given online at OHB.org/joy or items can be purchased via the "Project Christmas Joy" Amazon Wish List and shipped directly to OHB.



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