

Holiday Gift Giving Program



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Holiday Gift Giving Program?

The Annual Holiday Gift Giving Program provides assistance to eligible Bristol youth and families during the holiday season. In 2021, the program supported over 430 youth up to 18 years of age from over 180 families in Bristol with the help of 70 local sponsors and hundreds of individual donations. The City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) partners with individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and community members to sponsor, donate, and support local youth in need of support this holiday season.

How can I contribute?

There are a number of ways community members may contribute to the Holiday Gift Giving Program:

- **Sponsor a Child or Family**
 - Individuals and groups are invited to sponsor local youth and families in need of assistance. Sponsors are provided a profile on participating youth that includes age, gender, clothing size, and special interests for shopping guidance.
- **Attend the "Stuff-A-Cruiser" Toy Drive in partnership with the Bristol Police Department**
 - Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 10 AM to 2 PM | Bristol Walmart (1400 Farmington Ave.)
 - The City of Bristol Police Department (BPD) will be stationed outside of Walmart for "Stuff-A-Cruiser" with the goal of filling Police cruisers with new and unwrapped toys to benefit the program.
- **Help us collect toys at Collection Drop Boxes around Bristol**
 - Drop off a new and unwrapped toy at any one of the ongoing collection sites located amongst Bristol's local businesses
- **Volunteer to help organize and wrap donated toys**
 - Saturday, December 3, 2022 | 10 AM - 2 PM | Location TBA
 - BPRYCS is looking for volunteers to help organize and wrap toy donations prior to recipient pick up and distribution.

Who receives the donations?

- Donations collected during the Holiday Gift Giving Program are distributed to income eligible families living in the BPRYCS service area, who complete and meet the requirements noted in the Assistance Application.

Can I deliver presents directly to the children I sponsor?

- Unfortunately, in an effort to preserve participant privacy, we do not allow donors and/or sponsors to deliver directly to program recipients.

I don't really want to go shopping, can I still donate?

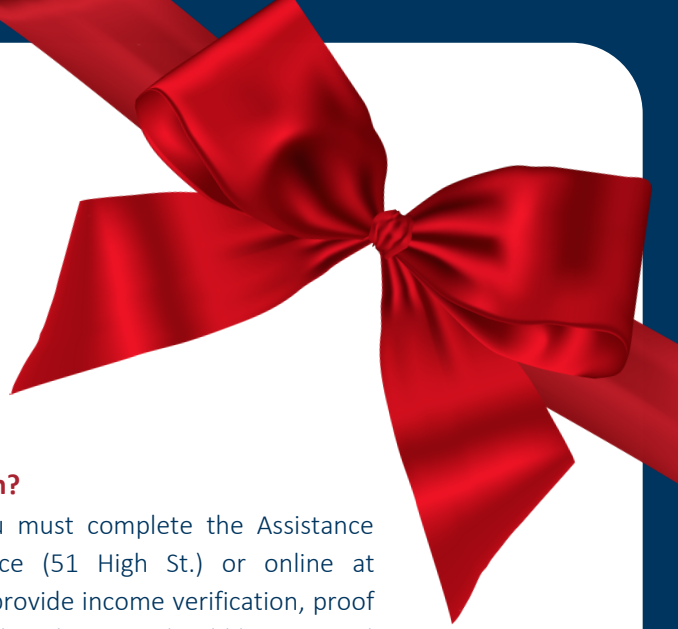
- Gift Cards are a great way to donate to local youth/teens as it allows them to make their own shopping decisions, empowers them to be independent and offers great flexibility.
- Cash/check donations in any amount are also accepted and can be designated to the Holiday Giving Program to supplement donations and serve more youth. Please be sure to indicate your designation of the gift with your mailed donation. Checks can be made payable to: Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

What address should I use when mailing gift cards or cash donations?

Bristol Parks, Recreation, youth and Community Services
ATTN: Holiday Program
51 High Street
Bristol, CT 06010



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How do I apply for assistance through the Holiday Gift Giving Program?

- To receive assistance through the Holiday Gift Giving Program you must complete the Assistance Application. Applications are available at the BPRYCS Main Office (51 High St.) or online at www.BristolRec.com. As part of the application, you will be asked to provide income verification, proof of address, and a Birth Certificate for participating children. Completed applications should be returned to the BPRYCS Main Office (51 High St.). BPRYCS will then contact other local agencies providing support this holiday season to avoid duplication - we appreciate your understanding.
- **What if I can't find the Birth Certificate for my child?**
 - You can provide a Baptismal Certificate or School Verification or other document which identifies child's birth date and you as their parent or guardian. This could be a letter from the school or from church or from the health system.
- **What can be used as income verification?**
 - Applicants may provide pay stubs from wages and or a statement of benefits received from unemployment, social security, child support, DSS, or verification from a referring agency.
- **What can be used as proof of address?**
 - The easiest way to provide proof of address is with a piece of postmarked mail. However, applicants may provide proof of address via Property Tax Receipt, Utility Bills, Lease Agreement or mortgage statement, Insurance Card, Voter Registration Card, Education Enrollment Papers, Bank or credit card statement, or insurance policy or bill.

Are there any gift restrictions?

- If you are donating to "Stuff-A-Cruiser" and/or the Collection Drop Boxes, we ask that toys be new and unwrapped so that they can be matched to the appropriate recipient. If you are sponsoring a child or family, we ask that gifts be wrapped and ready for recipient distribution.

How long does the program run for?

- The Holiday Gift Giving Program launches on "Giving Tuesday", November, 1, 2022 and runs through December 23, 2022.
 - **November**
 - 11/1 - Giving Tuesday
 - Assistance Applications Open
 - Collection Drop Boxes Available around Bristol
 - BPRYCS - Community Call to Action
 - 11/19 - "Stuff-A-Cruiser" with the Bristol Police Dept.
 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Bristol Walmart (1400 Farmington Ave.)
 - **December**
 - 12/03 - Volunteer Wrapping Event
 - Location and Timing to be Announced
 - 12/05 - Assistance Applications Close
 - 12/06 - Recipient Distribution Begins
 - 12/13 - Donation Drop Boxes Collected
 - 12/19 - Community Day
 - All Donations Dropped Off at BPRYCS in preparation for Final Distribution
 - 12/22 - 12/23 - Recipient Distribution Ends and all Donations Picked Up