

Conducting a CLF Toy Drive

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in conducting a toy drive for Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF)! CLF is a state-wide, non-profit agency dedicated to providing information, financial assistance, and emotional support to families facing leukemia and related blood disorders. We currently have two programs for which donated, new toys are needed:

- **Holiday Toys** Living with a serious illness puts a significant strain on a family's finances, time, and emotions. To combat some of these stresses and make the December holidays brighter, CLF distributes gift packages to child patients and their siblings, and to the children of adult patients. The majority of toys donated are used in this program.
- **Clinic Toys** Children with leukemia and related diseases often endure lengthy hospital stays and painful treatment procedures. To boost spirits, CLF provides small, indoor toys for distribution to child patients at hospitals and clinics throughout the state.

Both programs assist children of all ages – infants through teens. Keep reading to learn how you can help CLF make a difference...

Toy Drive Ideas

Toy and gift donations from generous people throughout the state keep CLF's Holiday Toys and Clinic Toys programs running. Once you're interested in contributing to these programs, you then need to decide on a strategy for collecting toys and gifts to donate. Several ideas are listed below:

- Host a party for your friends and neighbors. On your invitation, note that admission will only be granted to party-goers bearing one new toy.
- Encourage your employer to stay community-focused by conducting a toy drive to benefit families facing difficult times. Work with your supervisor to negotiate some sort of "incentive" for co-workers to bring a new toy into work – perhaps a free casual day, a pizza party, or a coupon for an extra hour of personal time.
- Ask a local business – like a grocery store, hair salon, or restaurant – to place a box for toy donations at their facility for a couple of weeks. See if toy donors could be placed in a raffle to receive a free or discounted service from the business.
- Divide your church, school, or community group into "committees" to collect gifts for different age groups (infant to 1 year olds, 2-4 year olds, 5-7 year olds, 8-12 year olds, and teenagers).
- Make a pact with friends and family members to each buy one additional gift for a child or teenager when doing your own holiday shopping.

Toy Collection

Once you've organized and publicized your toy drive, the donations will start. Be sure to designate a safe, clean, dry place as your collection point. The toys you collect should be left in their original wrappers/boxes and shipped or brought to the CLF office (5455 Corporate Drive, Suite 306, Troy, MI 48098). Contact CLF at (800) 825-2536 to discuss alternate drop-off options.

Please note: For sanitary/medical purposes, all donated toys must be new and not gift-wrapped. CLF cannot accept used/open toys or toys that are over 10 years old.

Tax Deductibility

The IRS generally permits a donor to deduct the "fair market value" of property contributed to a qualified nonprofit organization. The donor is responsible for determining the fair market value of any contributed property (toys).

Monetary donations to the Holiday Toys program for the purchase of new toys may be encouraged as an alternative way to contribute. Checks should be made payable to Children's Leukemia Foundation. CLF is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID#38-1682300.

Donation receipt letters for tax purposes will be provided to donors who submit his/her name and address to CLF.

If donors have questions about the deductibility of their contribution, please encourage donors to consult their personal tax advisor.

Conclusion

The success of a toy drive, as with any event, depends on solid planning. Setting realistic goals is important, but remember, any toy given – even just one – makes a difference! CLF is grateful for your efforts!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call CLF toll-free at (800) 825-2536.

On behalf of all of the families we serve, thank you for your interest, support, and hard work! We know that you will find your toy drive a rewarding experience. Enjoy!

"We want to thank you very much for helping our family every year. Since our daughter got sick, we don't really have the time and money to spend on Christmas gifts or any other activity for our children. The Holiday Toys program is a very important part of the holiday for our children. It makes them feel like someone really cares about them, even though we, the parents, don't have the money to buy for them. Thanks again!"

- The parent of a child patient & Holiday Toys recipient