

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2016 FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Nearly four decades ago, a Licking County Job and Family Services (LCJFS) staff member purchased holiday gifts for a handful of children who would have otherwise went without due to their families' limited resources. As word of that employee's generosity spread, the program, known today as Families Helping Families, has grown into an annual project that serves more than 600 Licking County children and receives donations from countless businesses, churches, schools, clubs, families, and other groups.

For many, donating to Families Helping Families has become a holiday tradition. Some donors come back year after year to "pay-it-forward" or to "give back" to a community that has given them so much. Others recall harder times and find joy in being able to help.

Two options are available for those who wish to donate to Families Helping Families. The first option is to sponsor a child (or children). While protecting the confidentiality of families receiving gifts, LCJFS will provide donor's with a child's age, gender, clothing size, and a few holiday wishes. Donors then shop for these items and bring them to LCJFS who will distribute to families later in December. The second option is to provide a monetary donation. These funds will be used to provide gifts for children not matched with a shopping donor.

While primarily a holiday gift program for children, Families Helping Families funds are also used to provide gifts for elderly clients, who are often alone on holidays or to cover certain emergencies involving children or the elderly that arise throughout the year.

Licking County Job and Family sincerely appreciates and humbly thanks the donors and volunteers, whom are too numerous to list, who make the Families Helping Families program possible. A special thank you to the Salvation Army for coordinating the application process.

If interested in donating to Families Helping Families, please contact Jamie Spangler or Misty Edwards, FHF Elves, at 740.670.8714 or LCFHF@jfs.ohio.gov.

John D. Fisher, Director