

November 2024

THANK YOU, PEORIA!

This month, the entire Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service staff attended the 49th Annual Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Luncheon and Business Excellence awards. We were joined by over 500 other business and organizations at the Peoria Civic Center to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal while reflecting on the gratitude we collectively have for the Peoria Area community and our commitment to serving it.

After enjoying our meal and a powerful speech from keynote speaker Dr. Jamel Wright, we settled in for the presenting of the Business Excellence awards. We are beyond proud to announce that we were presented with the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Small Business Award. This award is presented to a small business that demonstrates innovation, stability, commitment to the Peoria community, and ability to overcome challenges.

Accepting this award means so much to our organization and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff. We will continue to relentlessly provide for our children and our community and do the work that we are called to do. Thank you to the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce for this award!



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MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

In November we...

- Handed out **over 250** turkeys at our Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway
- Had **over 85** students register for our Thanksgiving Day Camp
- Had **2** individuals pass the U.S. Citizenship Test

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Drumming Concert: *12/20 – 4PM*

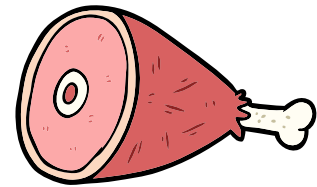
Join us for a drumming showcase from our K-8 STEAMS Academy After-school students. See what they've been hard at work learning in drum class this semester!

OSF Care-A-Van Mobile Health Clinic: *12/4 & 12/19 – 9AM-12PM*

The OSF mobile clinic will be parked outside our building to provide free walk-in health screenings, immunizations, and to assist in healthcare planning.

Christmas Ham Giveaway: *12/22 – 1-2:30PM*

We will be hosting a Christmas Ham Giveaway to provide hams to families in need. Limit 1 ham per household. Must bring valid form of Illinois ID. First come, first served while supplies last.



TURKEY GIVEAWAY 2024: Giving Thanks



In this month of gratitude, we gave thanks to our community during our annual Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway. With the generous support of donors, volunteers, Peoria Friendship House staff, and our Board of Directors, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals and share in the joy of giving with the community.

We handed out over 250 turkeys at the event, as well as as stuffing, gravy, potatoes, corn, and other nonperishable Thanksgiving food items to ensure that all families had the opportunity to enjoy a complete Thanksgiving meal.

This was our 5th year hosting the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway, and we were once again supported by OSF and PAAR (Peoria Area Association of Realtors). Mission Partners of OSF collected donations at various OSF HealthCare locations, raised \$2,355 through jeans days and online contributions and filled food bins in order to provide the items for the turkey giveaway.

We would once again like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible. There is so much joy to be found in giving back to our community!

S.T.E.A.M.S Corner:

Thanksgiving Camp 2024

At the end of November we hosted an all day Thanksgiving STEAMS Camp during Peoria Public School's Thanksgiving Break. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, we were able to provide a hearty, homemade Thanksgiving meal for every student in attendance.

On this day, our students reflected on what they are grateful for in their lives, while our staff reflected on how grateful we are for our STEAMS Academy students!



Each of our students is a blessing and it is a joy to share in gratitude with them. We are so grateful that we get to watch these students learn and grow each and everyday!



STUDENT HELPER SPOTLIGHT



Te'Leah M.

This month's Student Helper Spotlight goes to Te'Leah! Te'Leah comes in each day with a hug for every staff member, as well as a willingness to adapt to whatever help is needed on a given day. This month, Te'Leah was also given a student spotlight award at Richwoods High School for striving to make a difference in the classroom. Congrats, Te'Leah. We appreciate you!

Olympia Angel Tree

Give the Gift of Giving



The Olympia Angel Tree is back! We are once again partnering with Darlene Violet with Shared Blessings to host an Angel Tree at Olympia Sports Bar and Grill. Anyone is welcome to be an "angel" and support a Peoria Friendship House child this holiday season. Stop by Olympia Sports Bar & Grill to choose the ornament of a child you would like to provide a Christmas gift for. Please return gifts to Olympia by December 10 to ensure timely delivery. Our goal is to provide a gift for every student in our STEAMS After-school Academy. Remember, when you give, you give hope!

Stuff-A-Bus 2024

Day of Stuffing



On November 22 we celebrated the 2024 Stuff-A-Bus Day of Stuffing at Kroger on Lake Ave. The Day of Stuffing is held to encourage a boost in donations for the 37th annual Stuff-A-Bus Campaign by CityLink that benefits our food pantry at the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service.

This year, we were joined by CityLink, the Peoria Fire Department, 973 River Country Radio, Richwoods High School JROTC, ATU Local 416 and Central Illinois Ghostbusters, all

of whom volunteered their time to pass out grocery lists and collect donations from shoppers. We were also treated to a fantastic performance by Manual High School's drumline to increase excitement for the event!

Several businesses and organizations that hosted Stuff-A-Bus food drives at their offices were also invited to drop off their donations on this day.

All donations were loaded onto the Stuff-A-Bus CityLink bus to go towards our goal of collecting 12 tons of food!

800 Club

Campaign Kick-Off

On November 21 we kicked off our 800 Club Campaign with a watch party at Lariat Steakhouse. We were joined by friends, families, and ministry partners to cheer on the Bradley basketball game and discuss the Peoria Friendship House 800 Club, where our goal is to be supported by 800 people each giving \$800 for 800 NE Madison Ave! Thank you to everyone who came out to support us at this event. If you are interested in joining us on our mission, please contact us or visit our website at <https://www.friendship.house/800-club>.



Thank you for to our sponsors for supporting the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service!

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