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Thank you!

## That's A Wrap!

This month we wrapped up our 37th annual Stuff-A-Bus food drive campaign in partnership with Peoria CityLink. The campaign ran from October 18th through December 3rd, and in that time we collected over 10 tons, or 20,000 pounds, of food donations. These donations will go towards servicing our food pantry, which provides an average of 400 meals weekly to those in need in the Peoria community.

The Stuff-A-Bus campaign ended with a press conference in collaboration with CityLink, where we were joined by the Peoria Rivermen and Peoria Mustangs hockey teams to help unload the 10 tons of food donations from the Stuff-A-Bus CityLink bus. In the weeks following the campaign we were joined by various volunteer groups and organizations who assisted in sorting and packaging the food donations. Thank you to everyone who dedicated their time and energy to this project!

We would also like to extend a tremendous thank you to CityLink and Kroger for making the Stuff-A-Bus campaign possible. Together we can create lasting change in Peoria!



## MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

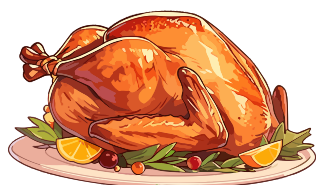
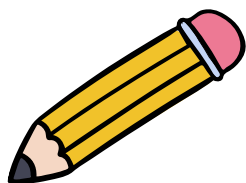
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### In December...

- Over **170** students received Christmas gifts from our annual Olympia Angel Tree
- Over **100** hams were given out during our Holiday Ham Giveaway
- We ended our Stuff-A-Bus campaign with over **10 tons** of food donations



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **OSF Care-A-Van Health Clinic:** 1/1 & 1/16 – 9AM-12PM

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

## **Winter Break S.T.E.A.M.S Camp:** 1/2, 1/3, 1/6 – 8AM-5PM

We will be hosting an all-day camp for students K-8. Registration required. Please visit our website to register at [friendship.house](http://friendship.house).

## **S.T.E.A.M.S Academy After-school Program:** 1/7 – 2:30-5:30PM

Our S.T.E.A.M.S After-school program will resume following Winter Break. If you would like to register for the new year please visit our website at [friendship.house](http://friendship.house).

## Ham Giveaway Children's Coat Drive



In celebrating the gift of giving this holiday season we hosted our fourth annual Holiday Ham Giveaway at the Peoria Friendship House. In partnership with Justin and Julie May at Bremer Jewelry, we were able to provide holiday hams, turkeys, and meals for over 100 families in the Peoria community. In addition to meals, we handed out stockings stuffed with various hygiene and personal care products.

During and after our Holiday Ham Giveaway event, we were joined by Ms. Cheyenne and Eula for their

Caring for the Community Giveaway, where they served a hot, home-cooked meal and provided free haircuts, coats, shoes, and clothes to anyone in need. We love seeing this outpouring of generosity from community members during the Christmas season!





# S.T.E.A.M.S Corner

## Welcome to Whoville!

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we celebrated the Peoria Friendship House way... with a S.T.E.A.M.S Academy holiday party, of course! For this year's Christmas party we took a trip to Whoville and received a special visit from Mr. Grinch, whose heart grew three sizes as he helped Santa hand



out Christmas gifts to each and every one of our S.T.E.A.M.S students! Thanks to our Olympia Angel Tree we were able to provide gifts for over 170 children, including all of our S.T.E.A.M.S Academy students, as well as the children of our Latino Outreach clients. It is our goal during the holiday season to ensure that every child feels special and is able to enjoy the

magic of Christmas! Thank you to Darlene with Shared Blessings for once again hosting and sponsoring our Angel Tree!

In addition to receiving gifts from Santa and Mr. Grinch, our students enjoyed pizza and wings, cupcakes, holiday games, and lots of Christmas cheer! We wish many blessings upon our students and their families as they celebrate Christmas and the New Year!



# Thank You!

As the year comes to a close we would like to once again extend a thank you to our many generous sponsors for supporting our mission of empowering families by providing hope and a path to prosperity. We owe our successes of 2024 to each and every one of you! We wish you a holiday season full of many blessings.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

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

*Andrew and Jennifer Paulson, Anthem Financial, Baldovin Co., BAsE2 Group, Benjamin Edwards & Co., Bremer Jewelry, Caterpillar, City of Peoria, Community Foundation of Central Illinois, Darin LaHood for Congress, David, Vaughan Investments, Doug Shannon – Financial Advisor, Glen Oak Christian Church, Greg and Jodi Piene, Illinois Department of Human Services, J.C. Dillon, Inc., Jones Bros Jewelers, Kids First Community, MH CPA PLLC, Morton Community Bank, Peoria Metro New Car Dealers Association, Pour Bros Craft Taproom, Prairie Home Alliance, Rammos Plastic Surgery and MedSpa, RLI, Shared Blessings, Slowhand Craft BBQ, St. Paul Church, Tom and Dianne Bayes, Tom Henrichs – CFP® & Benjamin F. Edwards Financial Advisor, United Way, WestPoint Financial Group, Yezek & Sons, LLC*

*December 2024*