

October 2010

Providing holiday memories  
For more than 35 years...

### OGC Tips

- Place gifts into clear plastic bags for transportation, it reduces damage, and makes sorting easier.
- Use the child's hobbies & personality on the Wish List to give you gift ideas... everyone loves surprises!
- Follow listed sizes; some children have physical afflictions that require a bigger size.
- When shopping for many children, decide what you will purchase before going to the store, then arrange a shopping list by department.

### 2010 Program Dates

- October - CFSM begins distributing Wish Lists to donors
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 - Gift Collection
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - "Spirit of Good Cheer" flight



Operation Good  
Cheer is on  
Facebook.

Child and Family Services  
of Michigan, Inc.  
2157 University Park Drive  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-6226  
www.c fsm.org

# Operation Good Cheer

## "Making Christmas wishes come true"



### Pentastar Aviation - 2009

Gifts are sorted for their delivery to the agencies. More than 15,000 gifts are brought to Pentastar Aviation on Friday.

### Ready for Santa?

The children and agencies have been busy sending their Wish Lists to Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., since August. To coordinate this massive event we began contacting agencies in the spring and by July more than 42 agencies had already verified their participation. We are currently

receiving Wish Lists daily. The agencies and children cannot wait for the holidays because of the generosity our donors and volunteers demonstrate annually.

To prepare for this burst of enthusiasm, information on becoming a donor or volunteer has been posted on several volunteer websites and non-profit news boards. The response from VolunteerMatch in particular has been incredible. By gaining additional donors each year, Operation Good Cheer will continue to make sure every child who submits a Wish List has a Christmas to remember.

### Teens have Wishes too.

Each year more than half of all the children enrolled in Operation Good Cheer are over the age of 15. With almost 5,000 children taking part each year, that's over 2,500 that are 16, 17, or 18 years old. Despite misconceptions, these children were placed in care due to abuse and neglect, but unfortunately many stayed in care until adulthood because no permanent home could be found.

When a child is first removed from their family, the goal of an agency is reunification. Parents are required to meet expectations and goals set by case workers to be reunited with their children. While a healthy, happy home with their biological family is the best outcome for any child, too often this method is not successful. During this process valuable time is lost in which a permanent home could have been found for the child. As children become

older they also become harder to place in a permanent home. After age 12, agencies will begin focusing on living skills for the youth's life after care. Once a child reaches 18, they age out of care and are removed from placement. A youth who has aged out of care receives no further assistance from the state.

CFSM realizes the excitement felt in bringing Christmas to a 5 year old who still sees miracles in holidays. But the 5 year old will age, and without an adoptive home your gifts are all these teens have to hope for throughout the year. We ask that anyone willing to sponsor older children to please contact our office. They have spent their lives being moved from one home to another. The Christmas you provide has the most substantial impact on these nomadic youth.

### Funding





Child and Family Services of MI, Inc., would like to thank the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company Charitable Fund/West Bend Mutual Community Foundation for a grant of \$1,000; Auto-Owners Insurance Company for a contribution of \$1,000 and Junior League of Lansing for a grant of \$300. This additional funding will assist Operation Good Cheer and the children we represent.

# Operation Good Cheer

"Making Christmas wishes come true"

Since 1971, it has been donors like you that have continued to make Operation Good Cheer a success! Through your endless generosity and support, thousands of children have had their Christmas wishes come true on Christmas morning. As Operation Good Cheer continues to make lasting holiday memories for children removed from their homes, your help is needed to spread the word and give others like you an opportunity to make the holidays a little better for Michigan's children. Even if you are unable to take part this year, you can still support the program by filling out the information below with anyone you know (family, friends, or neighbors) who might be interested in sponsoring a child this Christmas. Each person will receive a onetime informational packet about Operation Good Cheer and the Children's Entitlement Fund, along with information on how they can participate. Every person is essential to helping the children of Operation Good Cheer have a Merry Christmas, so any assistance you can provide is appreciated.

## *Why help Operation Good Cheer?*

-  Your generosity benefits one specific child who will thank you personally for the gifts and the joy they bring.
-  The children of Operation Good Cheer have been removed from their homes, usually due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and now reside in foster care, group homes, and residential treatment facilities across the state.
-  All gifts and donations to the program are tax deductible.
-  This program relies entirely on volunteers like you; it is your generosity that has kept it going year after year!

Individual/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return forms to:** Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc.  
2157 University Park Drive  
Okemos, MI 48864

**Or you may fax to:** 517-349-0969

- Additional information can be submitted on a separate sheet of paper as well.