HOLIDAY WISHES TOOLKIT

Each year VOA Illinois hosts Holiday Wishes, a program that provides gifts, toys, and joy during the holidays to children and families experiencing homelessness and children of the Veterans served by VOA Illinois.

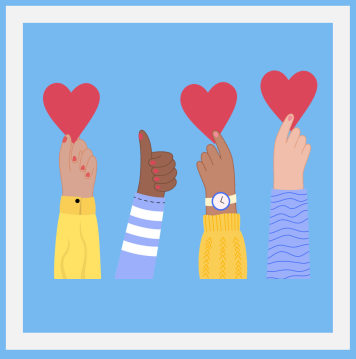
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

CHILDREN'S GIFTS

Make a child's holiday wishes come true by purchasing gifts for the youth we serve! Choose to shop for one child, or buy gifts for multiple! If you are interested in this option, please email Sarah at skowal@voail.org to ensure that you receive a wish list!

ADULT BASKETS

Help us provide gifts to the adults we serve in the form of Gift Baskets! This is a great way to extend the magic of the season and spread joy to Veterans or individuals in crisis. See the list below of supplies to be included in a basket or shop our wishlist!



VOLUNTEER

Are you looking to volunteer with us during this magical season? We will have multiple opportunities for you to join us at the office and help us organize and wrap gifts! For more information, visit our website or send Sarah an email at skowal@voail.org!

OTHER

If you've already had your fill of shopping or are looking to get involved in ways that won't require braving the cold, no problem! You can visit our website to make a donation! We are always thankful for the donations that help our programs run.

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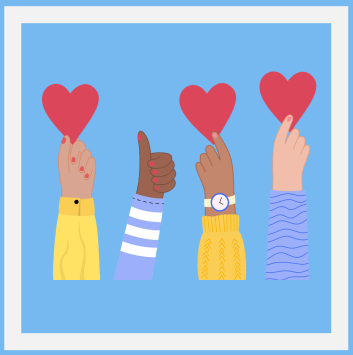
HOLIDAY WISHES TOOLKIT

Make a child's holiday wishes come true by purchasing gifts for the youth we serve! Each child submits three wishes, and we ask that you spend around $25 per gift ($75 per child) and drop off your labeled and unwrapped gifts to VOA Illinois by **December 4th**. Wishes will be sent out in early November and will include all of the information you will need including the correct label for each gift, the child's age, and clothing size!



We are always looking for volunteers to help us sort and wrap gifts! This year, our volunteer week will be from **December 7th - December 11th**. If you are interested in volunteering during this time, contact Sarah at skowal@voail.org, or visit our website for more details.

Adult Gift Basket

- **Winter Gear** - Hat, gloves, hand warmers, warm socks, blanket, etc.
- **Gift Card** - Grocery store or retail (Walmart, Target, CVS)
- **Hygiene Items** - Underwear, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, lotion, etc.
- **Kitchen Items** – Cookware, utensils, garbage bags, sponges, etc.
- **Cleaning Products** – Wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, brooms, etc.
- **Home Goods** - Bedding (queen/full), pillows, towels, washcloths, etc.
- **Festive Gifts** - Coffee mug, festive candies, etc.

Use this list as a guide for creating an adult basket, or consider donating individual items from this list to be included in a basket! If you don't feel like braving the cold, shop our wishlist.

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HOLIDAY WISHES TOOLKIT

2026 Timeline

November: Wishes sent out

November 30: Drop off begins

December 4: Drop off deadline

December 7: Volunteer week begins

December 11: Volunteer week ends

Week of December 14:
Holiday event at Hope Manor Joliet

Week of December 14:
Holiday event at Hope Manor II

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