

## Frequently Asked Questions - Holiday 2024

### **Is there a way to purchase gifts on-line and have them sent directly to Emmaus?**

YES! Emmaus has created a wish list registry at Target.com. Instead of assigning specific families to donors, all wish list items from our families will be found on our registry at Target. Donors will be able to go to the registry and make their purchases and have them sent directly to Emmaus. No need to go to a store or drop off the items. You will also have the option to purchase Target gift cards. All gifts must be received by December 14, 2024.

### **Is it ok to donate money to Emmaus instead of buying gifts?**

Yes. Emmaus sponsors our annual "Tree of Love" campaign to raise critically needed funds that support our programs throughout the year. The Tree of Love will be on display in front of the Emmaus Family House located at 150 How Street in Haverhill. Contributing to the "Tree of Love" is a great way to acknowledge and/or remember those who mean a lot to you. Each \$10 gift will symbolically light one candle on the tree. Gifts can be made in honor or memory of your friends and loved ones. If you wish to make contributions in lieu of giving holiday gifts, Emmaus will provide you with acknowledgement cards to give to your family members and friends. NOTE: If you wish to receive acknowledgement cards, donations must be received by December 18th to ensure delivery of the cards by 12/24/24. Please send an email to [donate@emmausinc.org](mailto:donate@emmausinc.org) if you wish to receive more information about the "Tree of Love" campaign or visit [www.emmausinc.org](http://www.emmausinc.org).

### **Can we meet the family/individual we purchase gifts for?**

As an agency that serves families who are coping with complex issues, it is our responsibility by law to protect the identity of the families we serve. In the interest of client and donor confidentiality, we do not allow sponsors to meet our families. Also, we like to let parents experience the joy of giving gifts to their children and the opportunity to honor their own family traditions.

### **Should we wrap the gifts?**

You may use gift bags/tissue paper but we ask that you do not wrap the gifts. Please tag each gift and specify the item/gender/size.

### **How much should we get for individuals?**

We ask that you purchase gifts whose values generally do not exceed \$25.

### **Can I just send in gift cards?**

Yes! In fact, we prefer gift cards in denominations of up to \$25 per card. They are particularly helpful so that needed items can be purchased up to the last minute. Suggested stores: Target, Market Basket, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, CVS, Marshalls.

### **Can I conduct a used coat/winter item drive?**

Emmaus will not be accepting any used coats this year. If you would like to purchase a new coat for one of our clients, please see our Holiday Gift Registry at [target.com](http://target.com) to see a list of our current needs. Items can be purchased and sent directly to Emmaus from the registry website.

**Are my donations tax deductible?**

Emmaus is happy to acknowledge donations for tax purposes. However, current IRS regulations prohibit us from including a monetary value of the donation on our acknowledgement letter. We will provide a description of your donation on our letter, but in order for you to receive tax credit for your donation; you should retain receipts for the items or gift cards you purchase. These receipts, attached to the acknowledgement letter that we will send to you after the holiday, can be submitted to your tax preparer. In a nutshell, if you are planning to submit your donation for tax credit, be sure to save your receipts!

**Will your recipients be notified who donated their gifts?**

Yes! We appreciate the support from our community during the holiday season and encourage our residents to learn more about our donors. You may identify yourself by including your church, group or organization's name; however, we ask that you please do not provide your personal information or advertise for your church, group or organization.

**Are there specific Holiday Donation Drop-Off dates that we should be aware of?**

Yes. Listed below is a preferred Holiday Donation Drop-Off schedule. If you cannot make one of the following dates and times, please contact the Development Team at 978.241-3429 to discuss other options.

December 1 – 12: Monday – Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. & Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

December 13: Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

December 14: Saturday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Please note that we do accept donations Monday, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. from Dec. 16 - Dec. 23.

Gift Cards for the holidays can also be mailed or delivered to:

Emmaus The D'Youville Center for Social Justice  
ATTN: Development  
PO Box 568  
Haverhill, MA 01831

Perishable food, including fresh and frozen turkeys will also be accepted at 101 Winter Street, Haverhill, MA on any of the dates listed above.