



Dear Santa FAQs

1. What is Dear Santa?

The Center often serves those with less financial resources and those who struggle to provide the basics of food, clothing and shelter for their families. For more than 20 years, the Center has provided holiday gifts for children up to 18 years of age through the Dear Santa program. Children in need who are served by the Center, along with any other children in their household, receive donated gifts. Many of the children's wish lists consist of items to meet their basic needs. Last year, the Center provided gifts and holiday parties to more than 2,200 East Tennessee clients in need. This was made possible by individuals and organizations in the community who participate as sponsors of the Dear Santa program.

2. How do I sign up to sponsor a child?

Sign up to be a sponsor online at mcnabbfoundation.org/DearSanta.

3. Can I sponsor more than one child?

Yes, you can sponsor more than one child. Children in the same family will be assigned together.

4. When and how are wish lists distributed?

Wish lists are distributed by email in late October/early November. If you signed up to be a sponsor and have not received a wish list by November 3, please reach out to Amy Cattran at amy.cattran@mcnabb.org, copying Margaret Lon-Britton at Margaret.Lon-Britton@mcnabb.org.

5. When are gifts due back?

Gifts are due back in early December (exact dates will be specified in the sponsor memo) and must be dropped off at one of (2) locations:

Knox and surrounding counties:

*John Tarleton Administration Building (Building A)
2455 Sutherland Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37919*

OR

Hamilton and surrounding counties:

McNabb Center Administration Building
6049 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Please place items in black trash bags when possible. Label bags 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc. if there are multiple bags for one child. Gifts must be unwrapped so that the families can see what they are receiving for their children, and so they can have their own holiday traditions.

6. I don't live in Knox or Hamilton County – can I drop off somewhere else?

No, these are the only two drop off locations at this time.

7. Why are gifts due back so early?

Gifts are not given directly to any clients or their family members. Our deadlines are in early December to allow time for all gifts to be processed and then distributed to case managers. Case managers then deliver gifts to individual families.

8. How much should I spend?

There is no minimum amount required to participate, but the average sponsor spends \$150-\$200 per child. We require sponsors to donate at least four items from the child's wish list.

9. Can I give gently used gifts?

No, please make sure all Dear Santa gifts are new.

10. Should I wrap my gifts?

No, all gifts should be donated unwrapped. You are welcome to donate wrapping paper/bows/etc. along with your gifts.

11. Whom should I contact if I have questions?

Amy Cattran, Community Relations Coordinator
amy.cattran@mcnabb.org
(865) 637-9711 ext. 1155

**Amy will be out of the office on leave from November 2023 – January 2024. In her absence, please contact Margaret Lon-Britton at margaret.lon-britton@mcnabb.org or (865) 637-9711 ext. 8827.*