



Dear Santa FAQs

1. What is Dear Santa?

The Center often serves clients with less financial resources and those who struggle to provide the basics of food, clothing and shelter for their families. For more than 30 years, the Center has provided holiday gifts for children up to 18 years of age through the Dear Santa program. 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 3,100 East Tennessee clients in need. This was made possible by individuals and organizations in the community who participate as volunteers or sponsors of the Dear Santa program.

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

Sign up to be a sponsor online [here](#)

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 October. If you signed up to be a sponsor and have not received a wish list by November 1, please reach out to Amy Fellhoelter at amy.fellhoelter@mcnabb.org

5. When are gifts due back?

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

Knox and surrounding counties:

John Tarleton Administration Building (Building A) Located in the Gym

2455 Sutherland Ave.

Knoxville, TN 37919

OR

Hamilton and surrounding counties:

*McNabb Center Administration Building
6049 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421*

Please place new items in black trash bags if possible. Label bags 1 of 2, 2 of 2, if there are multiple bags for one child. Gifts must be unwrapped so families know what gifts have been bought for their children and it allows families to celebrate the season in their own fashion.

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

No, unfortunately we only have these two drop off locations at this time.

7. Why are gifts due back so early?

Our deadlines are in early December to allow time for all gifts to be processed and then distributed to case managers. Case managers will deliver gifts to individual clients and families.

8. How much should I spend?

There is no minimum amount required to participate, but the average sponsor spends \$175-\$200 per child. We ask sponsors to donate at least four items from the child's wish list if possible.

9. Can I give gently used gifts or gift cards?

No, please make sure all Dear Santa gifts are new. We do not accept gift cards as presents.

10. Should I wrap my gifts?

No, all gifts should be donated unwrapped. You can donate wrapping paper or bows.

11. If I don't sponsor a child, what are other ways I can help?

The McNabb Center also shops for gifts for children. You can help our staff **Elf Shop** at Target . We shop for hundreds of children and we need your help to do it. All gifts are purchased by the Center when Elf Shopping. We will have multiple opportunities. We also need volunteers to work at our **North Pole** during the first two weeks of December. Volunteers can receive gifts and restock our toy shop at the North Pole.

12. Whom should I contact if I have questions?

Amy Fellhoelter, Community Relations Coordinator, (865) 637-9711 ext. 1155
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