



**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**  
*of suffolk county*

*Fall/Winter Holiday  
Resources  
2023*

## Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)

### Holiday Meals

Many locations throughout ABCD's network of neighborhood sites offer holiday meal assistance in the form of food baskets, turkeys, and food supplies that low-income families need to cook and serve holiday meals in their homes. They make food baskets, turkeys, and other holiday meal supplies available for pickup at many neighborhood sites.

### Coat Drive

ABCD helps families in need with warm clothing for the harsh winter months.

### Toy Drive

The ABCD Toy Drive aims to bring some extra joy to neighbors in need during the holiday season.

Connect with your local ABCD site to learn more about accessing these resources:  
<https://bostonabcd.org/#locations>

- 19 Corinth Street Roslindale MA, 02131  
617-327-1152
- Boston Hispanic Center  
178 Tremont Street Boston MA, 02111  
617-357-6000 or 617-348-6263 Ext: 251
- Jamaica Plain APAC  
30 Bickford St Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
617-522-4830
- 535 River Street Mattapan, MA, 02126  
617-298-2045
- North End/West End NSC  
One Michelangelo Street Boston, MA, 02113  
617-523-8125
- Parker Hill/Fenway NSC  
714 Parker Street, Boston MA, 02120  
617-445-6000
- South Boston Action Center h  
424 West Broadway South Boston, MA, 02127  
617-269-5160

## Massachusetts-Salvation Army-Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance

### Sign-Up online:

<https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/massachusetts/boston-holiday-help/>

You are also welcome to schedule an appointment in person to register for Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution and Christmas assistance.

To find a location near you: <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/eastern-territory/location-search/>

The cut-off date to register for Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution is November 18, 2023.  
The cut-off date to register for Christmas Castle is December 18, 2023.

### Items needed for verification:

- Birth Certificate of each child up to 14 years old in your household.
- Financial need (MassHealth Card, WIC, SSI, current pay stub, etc.).
- Photo ID for each adult living in the household.
- Proof of residence (current home, gas, cable, utility bill, etc.).
- Proof of guardianship if not a parent.

Please call 508-746-1559 for additional information or email:  
[MASHoliday@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:MASHoliday@use.salvationarmy.org)

### Salvation Army-Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance

Must sign up in person. Call for more information:  
258 Chestnut Street Chelsea MA, 02150  
617-884-0260

### Requirements:

- Birth Certificate of children newborn – 12 years old
- Proof of Address (Just for residents of Chelsea, Revere, Charlestown, Everett, and Winthrop)
- ID of the applicant

### Dates:

- Monday, October 16 10am-2pm
- Tuesday, October 17 12pm-4pm
- Wednesday, October 18 12pm-4pm
- Wednesday, November 13 10am-2pm

### Christmas in the City – Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance

Families currently living in a homeless shelter in the Boston area may be able to get gifts for their children through their shelter via the Christmas in the City: Delivered program. CITC: Delivered is working with several congregate shelters to provide presents around the holidays. Check with your shelter manager to see if CITC: Delivered is working with your shelter this year. Shelter managers are welcome to contact them at [info@christmasinthecity.org](mailto:info@christmasinthecity.org) for more information. Please note, for 2023, there will not be a party at the convention center. Christmas in the City will NOT be providing Thanksgiving assistance this year.

For those in need, but not experiencing homelessness: Jake's Toy Mania provides gifts for Boston-area families for children 16 and under. You must register in advance, in person. Dates and locations for registration have not yet been finalized. Please check their website for updated info.

<https://christmasinthecity.org/how-to-get-help/>

### **USPS – Writing to Santa Program**

USPS offers the Operation Santa Program to pair letters from kids and families with generous people who fulfill their holiday wishes.

This program provides a connection to gift and clothing donations.

Children can write their wish list to send to Santa starting November 28<sup>th</sup>. Letters to USPS Operation Santa must be postmarked no later than December 12. Anyone can write a letter, but please note that the program relies on the generosity of others and cannot guarantee a gift. Visit the website for more information and instructions on how to send letters.

Learn How: <https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com/getinvolved>

### **My Brother's Keeper - Christmas Assistance**

#### **General Information:**

- All services are free.
- Assistance is provided by delivery only — no pick-ups at the facility.
- The Christmas Assistance Program serves families all over eastern Massachusetts including Boston and Cape Cod. It does not serve Framingham or locations west.
- All requests are processed by phone. The program cannot accept e-mail requests or requests made in-person at the facility due to staffing limitations.
- The Christmas Assistance Line is often busy because it serves families from so many communities.
- The program will ask for the names, birthdates, clothing size, and gift ideas for each person in your family living at your home.
- My Brother's Keeper only accepts requests from parents in need. It does not accept second-hand requests from family, friends, or advocates. (For example, "I'm calling for a friend who needs help.")
- Gift ideas are suggestions only- My Brother's Keeper does not guarantee to provide specific gifts.
- My Brother's Keeper cannot give out high-end electronic items like iPods, cell phones, or game systems.
- Gifts are delivered directly to homes sometime between December 1st – 24th. Program volunteers call ahead to schedule delivery appointments. To help with scheduling, intake staff will always ask for two telephone numbers when processing requests.

#### **Christmas Assistance Line:**

Phone: 508-238-2562

September – December

Call for up-to-date days and hours of operation.

Learn more: <https://www.mybrotherskeeper.org/christmas/>

### Globe Santa – Christmas Assistance

How to request gifts for your family:

If your family could use assistance this holiday season, follow the instructions below so Globe Santa can help. <https://globesanta.org/aboutreq.aspx>

Globe Santa does not accept family letters without a holiday gift verification form. Families who have children 12 years old or younger and live in Globe Santa's delivery **area** (follow link: <https://globesanta.org/aboutreq.aspx> and click on the map) can submit a holiday gift verification form from the **Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)** or another approved agency.

Follow these steps to request holiday gifts for children:

1. Tell your story. Write a letter to Globe Santa describing your situation or telling them why you are seeking holiday gifts for your children. You will not include a wish list or gift ideas.
2. Finish your forms. **Complete and sign your Holiday Gift Verification Form from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)** or another approved agency.
3. Check envelope contents. Before you send your request, confirm your family letter and verification form are included in the envelope. Letters received without a verification form cannot be processed!
4. **Mail your request.** Send your letter and completed verification form to the following address **by November 5th**:

Globe Santa  
39B Teed Drive  
Randolph, MA 02368-4201

### About DTA Holiday Gift Verification Forms

- Families who receive DTA assistance, who live in the coverage area, and who have children 12 years old or younger can submit to Globe Santa a Holiday Gift Verification Form. If you have not received your verification form, contact the DTA at (877) 382-2363.
- Your Holiday Gift Verification Form must include your current address and a complete list of the eligible children in your household.

If the Holiday Gift Verification Form is not correct, you can notify DTA in one of the following ways:

**1. Best way:** Update your information using DTA Connect. Print the screen from DTA Connect that shows your updated address or additional children. Mail this printed page along with your completed Holiday Gift Verification Form that includes your Globe Santa letter on the back. Mail your holiday gift verification form and letters to:

Globe Santa  
39B Teed Drive

Randolph, MA 02368-4201

**2. Another way:** Visit your local DTA office to update your information and request a new Holiday Gift Verification Form. Mail this updated Holiday Gift Verification Form, along with your Globe Santa letter on the back.

Please call Globe Santa at 617-929-2002 if you have any questions.

Mail your holiday gift verification form and letters to:

Globe Santa  
39B Teed Drive  
Randolph, MA 02368-4201

### Toys for Tots

<https://boston-ma.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/request-toys.aspx>

\*\*\*INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES\*\*\*: Since Toys for Tots serves families all across Massachusetts, they provide toys exclusively to churches, qualified charitable organizations, and social service agencies. If you are an individual family, please contact a Social Services Agency, Church, or Non-Profit Organization (ABCD, DCYF, YMCA, William E. Carter American Legion Post No. 16, Drive Boston, Community Center, etc.) in your immediate area and register with them and request toys that have been issued from their program.

### Catholic Charities – Holiday Assistance

275 W Broadway, Boston, MA 02127

617-506-6628

<https://www.ccab.org/basic-needs/>

Assistance includes:

- Guidance for financial assistance provided.
- Turkey distribution (one week sign up Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-Oct 24<sup>th</sup>)
- Families are encouraged to call for more information and support with winter clothing and holiday meals support.

### Family Resource Center - Everett – Holiday Assistance

548 Broadway Everett, MA 02149

781-581-4750

Holiday Event (TBD mid-December)

<https://www.facebook.com/EliotchsFRC/>

Assistance includes:

- Turkey distribution
- Christmas event TBD (follow on Facebook)
- Guidance for financial assistance
- Families are encouraged to call for more information and support with winter clothing, food pantry information, and baby resources.
- Families are encouraged to call in early December for holiday gift assistance.

### Family Boston-Suffolk County Family Resource Center – Holiday Assistance

56 Dimock Street Lower-Level Roxbury, MA 02119

617-469-8501

<https://thehome.org/frc>

Assistance includes:

- Turkey distribution
- Guidance for financial assistance
- Families are encouraged to call for more information and support with baby resources, winter clothing and holiday gift assistance.

### Harbor Area Family Resource Center – Holiday Assistance

95 4th Street

Chelsea, MA 02150

617-694-3004

<https://thehome.org/frc>

- Families are encouraged to call for more information and support with baby resources, winter clothing and holiday gift assistance.
- Guidance for financial assistance is also provided.

### The Kennedy Center Community Resource Center (CRC) Christmas Resource

15 Tufts Street Charlestown

617-241-8866 EXT. 1352

The CRC staff provides a wide range of antipoverty and social services on both a scheduled and drop-in basis. Services are offered for **Charlestown residents only**.

- Winter coat drives for both adults and children
- Annual Holiday Gift Drive that provides seasonal gifts to over 700 children 18 years old and under from low-income families. families can sign up in person or online starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- Holiday Event (TBD in December)  
<https://www.kennedycenter.org/communityservices/>

### South End Neighborhood Service Center

554 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA, 02118

Call (617) 267-7400

<https://bostonabcd.org/location/southend-nsc/>

During the Christmas season, holidays, and year-round, the agency may have baby clothing, diapers, food, and more. There are also free toys for children from low-income families as well as Thanksgiving turkeys and free Christmas food for the entire family.

- For Thanksgiving Turkey Assistance sign-up over the phone starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- For Christmas assistance signing up over the phone will begin in November 2023.

**Community Connections**

113 Hawthorne St, Chelsea, MA 02150  
Questions call: 617-889-7100  
<https://chelseacc.org/>

Assistance includes:

- Winter coat assistance
- Christmas Event TBD

**The First Congregational Church of Revere**

230 Beach St, Revere, Ma 02151, USA  
Questions call: 781-284-4158

Assistance includes:

- Food Pantry  
Schedule: Wednesday's 6:15pm-8pm (must call to sign up)
- **During a family's visit to the pantry, they will receive more information about registering for turkey distribution and gifts for children 14 years and younger.**

**Additional Suggestions**

<p><b>Are you staying in a Shelter with your Family?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are staying with your family in a shelter, please contact your case manager for holiday assistance.</li><li>• The shelter you may be staying in may be able to support you by providing winter coats for you and your family, and additional holiday assistance like meals and gifts for children.</li></ul>	<p><b>Do you have a DCF Social Worker?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have a DCF social worker working with you and your family, please reach out to your social worker so they can help support your family with holiday or winter coat assistance.</li></ul>
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**Other Resources for Free Toys for Kids this Holiday Season:**

- Local churches can be valuable resources and many help families in need during the holidays.
- Local Buy Nothing Facebook groups and Freecycle are often suitable places to find free second-hand toys.
- Your child's Primary Care Provider may be able to provide information on whether their office, hospital, or clinic has a holiday toy event for their patients.



- If your child/youth is receiving Behavioral in-home therapy, Behavioral outpatient therapy, or if an Intensive Care Coordinator or Family Partner is working with you and your family, these providers are also often a major source of support for holiday assistance.

**Holiday Food Assistance:**

- Families can connect with their clinic and ask if they have a food pantry or holiday meal assistance.
- More clinics are now opening food pantries in their facilities for patients.

<p><b><u>Suffolk County Food Bank-The Greater Boston Food Bank</u></b> 70 S Bay Ave, Boston, MA 02118 Phone: <b>1-617-427-5200</b> <a href="https://www.gbfb.org/">https://www.gbfb.org/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Meal Programs</li><li>• Food Pantry Locator</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Emergency Food Assistance Hotline - Project Bread Food Source Hotline</u></b> If you or your family is facing hunger call <b>1-800-645-8333</b> <a href="https://www.projectbread.org/">https://www.projectbread.org/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statewide information and referral source</li><li>• Will support in referring individuals/families to emergency food sources</li><li>• Will screen for SNAP eligibility and help with applications for SNAP</li></ul> <p>160 different languages</p>
<p><b><u>Massachusetts 211</u></b> Call Mass 211: 211 or 877-211-6277 to receive information on (emergency food, food pantries, help applying for WIC, help paying for food, Hot meals, SNAP/EBT/Food Stamps, WIC offices) <a href="https://www.helpsteps.com/#/services/286296-food">https://www.helpsteps.com/#/services/286296-food</a></p>
<p><b><u>Abundance Boston App</u></b> Phone application that supports Boston residents easily locate accessible, free or low-cost, local food resources. <a href="https://www.abundanceboston.com/">https://www.abundanceboston.com/</a></p>

**Meal Delivery Programs:**

<p><b><u>Meals on Wheels</u></b> Meals on Wheels is a meal delivery program for seniors. To determine if you are eligible and sign up, contact your local elder services agency or senior center. More information: <a href="https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/">https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/</a> To find your local elder service agency or senior center: <a href="https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/signup/aboutmealsonwheels/find-programs?filter=02215">https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/signup/aboutmealsonwheels/find-programs?filter=02215</a></p>
<p><b><u>Community Servings</u></b> 179 Amory Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Phone: 617-522-7777 The program is designed to help people improve their health through home-delivered, nutritionally appropriate food. To determine eligibility, individuals must</p>

submit a completed intake packet, including a medical certification form completed by their doctor or nurse. Once paperwork has been submitted, the program will contact the individual and their doctor, nurse, or case worker directly for further clarification in order to make the best eligibility assessment.  
<https://www.servings.org/>

**Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens:**

<p><b>Findhelp</b> Website includes food resources and additional resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.findhelp.org/">https://www.findhelp.org/</a></li></ul>
<p><b>Benefits Explorer</b> Website includes Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities and additional church food pantry locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://benefitexplorer.com/food-pantry/massachusetts/suffolk-county">https://benefitexplorer.com/food-pantry/massachusetts/suffolk-county</a></li></ul>
<p><b>Food Pantries</b> Website listing Food Pantries, Food Banks, and Soup Kitchens in your area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.foodpantries.org/st/massachusetts">https://www.foodpantries.org/st/massachusetts</a></li></ul>
<p><b>VitalCXNS</b> A compilation of trusted food resources is updated weekly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.vitalcxns.org/food">https://www.vitalcxns.org/food</a></li></ul>
<p><b>Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB)</b> The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) partners with agencies, including food pantries, community meal programs, and other food assistance providers. Look up local food resources here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.gbfb.org/need-food/">https://www.gbfb.org/need-food/</a></li></ul>
<p><b>Community Fridges</b> Website includes a map with locations of community fridges in and around Boston:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://boston.eater.com/maps/community-fridges-boston">https://boston.eater.com/maps/community-fridges-boston</a></li></ul>

**Free Community Holiday Events:**

**Annual Children's Holiday Gift Distribution and Tree Lighting**

Location: Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building  
2300 Washington Street Boston, MA 02119

Date/Time: Saturday, December 2, 2023, 1pm-6pm

- The event will include Free Holiday Gifts for the children of Roxbury along with refreshments, live entertainment, face painting and the lighting of the holiday tree.
- Families must register online: Deadline November 19, 2023  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-childrens-holiday-gift-distribution-and-tree-lighting-tickets-732301331997?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>