

STORY OF THE HOLIDAY GIVING TREE



Please help us to Undecorate Marquette's most Beautiful Christmas Tree, the Holiday Giving Tree. The Holiday Giving Tree is sponsored by the Marquette University Volunteers and everyone is invited to help 'Undecorate' Marquette's Most Beautiful Christmas Tree ... The Holiday Giving Tree!!! (This is a big undertaking in the community and takes quite a few man hours to coordinate it properly and thus we have to start very early.)

What makes it beautiful is not twinkling lights or glittering tinsel. The Giving Tree actually becomes more beautiful as you undecorate it. Here's why: Each year, many area families and individuals find themselves unable to purchase gifts for themselves and their loved ones. They work hard on the job but their monthly income barely meets their bills. They may have a disability and live on Medicaid with as little as \$10/week for all personal necessities and their list could include underwear and toiletries. Or, you lost your spouse and outlived your other relatives so there is no one to buy you a gift. There are many other reasons. Last year approximately 15,000 people requested gifts. This year, very likely another 1500 additional people dealing with disabilities, struggling with mental illness, poverty, homelessness, and families unable to provide gifts for their children will be added to that amount. We would like to minimally request the same amount of names we had last year (650) but to do that, we need everyone's help. We know times are tough for many and last year we had a hard time at the end distributing the last of the names. With a university the size of Marquette, we should be able to comfortably handle those 650 and more.

You can brighten someone's holiday by requesting ornament tag(s) with a name on it from the Giving Tree. The tag tells you if a gift is needed for an adult, child or teen and it will suggest a gift you can purchase – the value being \$15-\$25. You should purchase only ONE item from the list.

I am encouraging everyone's participation in this program. If you took names in the past and purchased all the gifts on the list, I am encouraging you to take more names and purchase only 1 gift item. Or if this program is new to you; please consider helping those that need.

After you've done your shopping, you bring the gift with the tag securely attached to various designated locations across campus no later December 4, 2015 or earlier (we have to have time to sort the gifts and arrange for pick-up). Sometimes they ask for a gift in a gift bag, sometimes they ask that it be wrapped and sometimes they do not want any wrapping so that they can wrap them all alike so it looks like Santa did it. We only ask that if you take a name, you purchase the gift and return it by the designated date to us. If you change your mind, we ask that you send the tags back immediately or someone will be without a gift.

We also welcome donations of new gifts items or a toy or we would be happy to purchase items for individual names if that would be easier for you. You are welcome to send any of

these over to Lalumiere 340 (Attn: Kathy Hawkins) starting now. We can already begin to wrap them and get them all together. We would also welcome monetary donations to purchase gifts. The sooner we get these, the better idea we will have of what we can accomplish together.

The drop off sites will be located throughout campus and when I send you your Giving Tree Tags, they will include the drop off locations and return information. They were be sent out as soon as they are received which is usually in early to mid-November.

Please fill out the bottom of this form and return it to Kathy Hawkins, Social & Cultural Sciences, Lalumiere Hall 340 by Oct. 16. We need to request the amount of names from the Volunteer Center that we feel we can work with. We do not know for sure if we will receive adults, teens, children, the disabled or a combination thereof. If you have any questions I can be reached at 85500 (414 288 6444 fax) or Kathleen.hawkins@marquette.edu.



Name: _____

Dept. _____

Location: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Yes, I will participate in the Holiday Giving Tree

_____ Number of names requested

(ALL NAMES WILL BE SENT TO YOU CAMPUS MAIL AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED)

_____ I am donating money or gift items instead.

_____ I want to help with wrapping/sorting, etc.