

McDowell County



Department of Social Services

PO Box 338
Marion NC 28752
www.mcdowellcountyncdss.org

Bobbie Sigmon, Director
Phone 828-652-3355
Fax 828-652-9167

TO: Community Stakeholders
FROM: McDowell County Department of Social Services
SUBJECT: Christmas for Children in McDowell County Foster Care
DATE: 10/03/2023

Dear Community Stakeholder,

We have approximately 110 children experiencing foster care in McDowell County. To succeed with the goal of every child experiencing foster care having presents to unwrap on Christmas morning. We have established Christmas Stars. The program has been successful in other counties. The intent is to match community donors with every single child in care to help provide every single wish and gift for a child. This program happens through donors in the community. Currently, our social workers are gathering wish lists from all the children experiencing foster care. We have asked that no wish be over \$50.00. Once all wish lists have been imputed, tags will be printed and go out to donors that include the child's age, their clothing/shoe size, and a wish list. Each child will have 3 tags that are sponsored by 3 different donors. Tags will go out to the donors the week of October 23, 2023, and we ask donors. For every child to get sponsored by community donors we need to secure around 330 donors. **We ask that all tags/gifts are returned in the timeframe of November 13th – December 4th at McDowell County DSS between the business hours of 8am-5pm 145 E. Court St. Marion, NC 28752) in order to make sure the gifts are sorted and arrive to the child in time for Christmas.** It is our primary goal to ensure that every gift arrives before Christmas. If needed, we will have staff members available to pick up gifts from you. You may arrange a pickup/drop off date/time with Summer Gilliland 828-803-0514 or Summer.gilliland@mcdowellcountyncdss.org.

Helpful information regarding children's gifts/tags

- Please return child's tag with items
- Please put items in bags, but do not wrap them.
- Please buy new items.

If you do not wish to participate by sponsoring a child, there are other ways to participate. We also need donation of items such as:

- Unwrapped toys for all age groups.
- Gift cards for our teenage population or children that enter foster care after our deadline.
- New clothing of all sizes.
- Gift bags, wrapping paper, and tape for our foster parents to wrap gifts.

We truly thank everyone for anything that they are able to donate towards this community wide cause. If you wish to get a tag or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Summer Gilliland at 828-803-0514 or summer.gilliland@mcdowellcountyncdss.org.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbie Sigmon".

Bobbie Sigmon
Director of McDowell County DSS

PEOPLE FOCUSED & SERVICE DRIVEN