

Giving From Grafflin Holiday Drive 2009

For the past several years, the Grafflin community has supported the Levy Holiday Drive with many generous and heartfelt donations to children in the Bronx. Due to personal issues, the Levy family is unable to continue their drive this year. In light of this, and the fact that there is so much need in our surrounding local communities, the Giving from Grafflin committee (GFG) has decided to collaborate with the Junior League of Northern Westchester for its 2009 Holiday Sharing Drive. This program provides local families in need with holiday food and gifts. The recipients are referred to the Junior League through social service agencies and other groups providing family services in the Northern Westchester area. Recipients include single-parent families, senior citizens, homeless families, physically challenged individuals, and families struggling with terminal illness.

Giving from Grafflin has committed to sponsoring a minimum of 6 (but hopefully many more) local families. We invite you to participate in this program in one of several ways:

1. Sponsor a family member. This would involve purchasing approximately 5 items from their wish list, which typically might include things such as a winter coat, boots, sheets, kitchen items, clothing and non-perishable food. The approximate cost would be \$75-\$100.
2. Purchase an item for a family member from their wish list. A listing of wish list items (and sign-up sheet) appears on the GFG bulletin board outside the Grafflin office, opposite the entrance to the library. We ask that you also include 2 non-perishable food items for a holiday meal.
3. Donate new large Rubbermaid plastic bins for packaging the families' items.
4. Donate non-perishable food items (such as cereal, healthy snacks, soups, pasta, rice, beans, mashed potatoes, canned fruit and vegetables, baking mixes, baby food, formula). We plan to package the fixings for a holiday meal (plus some extras) for each family. NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE.
5. Sponsor a family. This can be done alone or with a group such as a book club, family members, girl scout or boy scout troop, sports team, , etc.
6. Help deliver items on December 6th or 7th (to the Boys & Girls Club in Mount Kisco).

All items will be collected in the Grafflin lobby, packaged by the Giving from Grafflin Committee, and brought to the Junior League's collection site on December 6th or 7th for distribution to the families.

We hope you will consider supporting this holiday drive which provides needed support and great joy to many who are struggling in our midst. The following excerpt from a thank you note received last year is but one example of what the generosity of donors has meant to the families supported through this effort in the past:

"I am 19 years old and I take care of my two sisters and my own baby. Our mom died of a brain tumor last year and we are trying very hard to keep our family together. I had to quit school but I am working very hard to raise everyone happy and stable. It has been very hard since we lost our mother. Our father is in prison. It is hard to tell you what it meant to us to get the Christmas boxes. We were so sad before they came, and when they came we were so happy. It helped me be a better big sister and a mom to my family. Thanks for thinking of us and for caring about other people. One day when we are older and out of this difficulty, we will help other people."

If you would like to participate in the program, please email Kate Hutchings at kjhutch8@optonline.net.