



## Christmas Shoppe 2019 Info

Urban Family Ministries will host a 7th Annual “Christmas Shoppe” with a very intentional mission. We want to “Give the Gift of Dignity”. Many of the families served through Urban Family Ministries have become accustomed to the “Adopt a family” world. While the intentions are noble, for our families, it enhances dependency and entitlement. The receiving families receive gifts at Christmas time from complete strangers. In this case, the families offer no initiative, no effort or sacrifice to purchase the gifts for their own children. Usually, they don’t even have to wrap the gifts because the generous people who purchased the gifts take the time to wrap and tag the gifts given.

To empower our families, we have ended our “Adopt a family” program and started a Christmas Shoppe. This store is set up completely with donations by people who want to give gifts to a family in need at Christmas. These new items, which have been purchased and dropped off at the Urban Family Ministries office, will then be priced much lower and purchased by families involved in our programs.

The pricing of items range from 10-25% of the ORIGINAL/STICKER price on each item (i.e – a \$12 Candyland board game would be marked at \$1.00 for our families to purchase.) Our families will come to the store at selected times, shop and even be rung up on a real cash register. Once items have been purchased with their own money, they have an opportunity to wrap and tag the gifts in the office before taking them home. Comments we have received over the last 6 years sounded like this....

*“This Christmas store was such a blessing to me and my family because I have 9 kids. It feels so great to be able to do this for my family and can’t wait to see their faces on Christmas morning.”*

*“It was such a blessing to come to the Shoppe! I haven’t been able to work in over 7 years. So this will be the first Christmas in years I can say I got my kids a gift. Thank you so much!”*

*“You guys really follow through with what you say you will do. This will bless so many families. You really are the hands and feet of Jesus.”*

Our families want to be able to purchase gifts for their children with their own money, just like everyone else does. Their ability to do this will begin to erode the dependency and entitlement so many of them don't realize entraps them. They want to be able to enjoy watching their children open up gifts on Christmas morning with great anticipation over something they sacrificed for, but going shopping in the “general” sense of the word isn't possible on their income. This store allows our families to have some pride when their children open the gift specifically chosen to be given to them on Christmas morning. The parents will ensure better care for the gifts given when it is their money purchasing the items. It allows our families to experience the same emotions as other parents when they watch their child open a gift they worked hard to purchase.

We know this program works because we now have families donating new items they have purchased toward our Christmas Shoppe. We also have families who are doing better and haven't needed the Shoppe so they have donated cash for someone else to be able to shop! WHAT a success!!

The result of the change from Adopt a family to Christmas Shoppe will:

1. Bring about restoration of dignity to our families by their purchasing their own gifts.
2. Begin to destroy the cycle of dependency and entitlement.
3. Allow all proceeds to be reinvested in UFM programs that equip and strengthen these and other families in our community.

If you would like to volunteer to help inventory and price items before the store, volunteer to help wrap during the store or purchase items for the store, please call Noelle at 616-560-5767 or email at [ngable@urbanfamilyministries.org](mailto:ngable@urbanfamilyministries.org).

## Kid's Store

Our Kids Shoppe is being held for the 6th year as we decided we wanted the kids to have the opportunity to learn about giving instead of receiving all the time. Our Kid's Store will be held on December 7th starting around 10am with waves of kids arriving every 1 ½ hours until we have completed everyone (usually around 4pm). If you would like to help, you can volunteer on that day to be a shopper helping the kids keep track of who they are buying for and what they are purchasing for who, pass through the register and then help them wrap and tag each item. Once that child is complete, you would help the next one. If you would be interested in purchasing items for the store, we don't sell anything for more than \$1 at this store so the kids have opportunities to purchase items for everyone. Please drop items off at the office before December 1st for the kids store. If you have any questions, please call Noelle at 616-560-5767 or email at [ngable@urbanfamilyministries.org](mailto:ngable@urbanfamilyministries.org).

## Clothing

- \* *Winter hats (adults)*
- \* *Gloves (adults)*
- \* *Coats (kids and teens winter coats, adult fleece zip jackets)*
- \* *Boots (kids and teens)*
- \* *Snow pants (kids and teens)*
- \* *Packs of Underwear (kids and adults)*
- \* *Socks (kids and adults)*
- \* *Slippers (kids and adults)*
- \* *PJ's (kids and teens)*

## Toys & Hobbies

- \* *Art sets*
- \* *Craft kits*
- \* *Remote Control vehicles*
- \* *Baby Dolls (please consider purchasing multi-cultural dolls to closer resemble our families)*
- \* *Handheld electronic games*
- \* *DVD movies (family and animated)*
- \* *Balls – basketballs, volleyballs, footballs, soccer balls*
- \* *Skateboards and Rip sticks*
- \* *Scooters*
- \* *Board games-family based (Chutes and Ladders, Don't Break the Ice, Monopoly, Life, Checkers, etc.)*

## Household

- \* *Pans*
- \* *Dishes (settings of 4)*
- \* *Glass sets*
- \* *Mixing Bowls*
- \* *Utensils*
- \* *Tools (basic household sets)*
- \* *Nail Polish and Make up*
- \* *Bath towels*
- \* *Pillows*
- \* *Twin Sheet sets*
- \* *10 Ride Bus Passes*
- \* *Hair accessories*
- \* *Jewelry*

## Other needed items:

*Tape, Scissors and Wrapping Paper*