



Priceless Gift Toy Store 2024

God is STILL doing it! Here we are...19 years! Wow! Who could have imagined? Praise God for letting us be His hands and feet to bless the families in Jackson! We served 4,074 kids and 450 grandkids and gave 516 coats! Thank you Lord for each of the 1355 signatures that represent volunteer days worked, and for all the other days that didn't get recorded...We praise God for all the effort that happens in people's homes ALL YEAR LONG to be able to share at Christmas.

Thank you St. Vincent DePaul for your 19 year partnership! Thank you David Kemler for the idea to give your toys away. Thank you David, even though you are now retired 6 years, you continue to be involved in the planning, feeding our volunteers, and front line with every parent. Thank you John Fenn for your continued partnership. Thank you to the staff who sort and load the trucks, to the truck drivers who help unload. Thank you for the weekly trucks over the 11 weeks we collected toys!

Thank you Toys for Tots for your 10 years of sharing toys with us! We praise God for our new partnership these last 2 years. Every child receives 5 points = \$25.00 of new toys chosen by their parent. With your help, and all the churches, businesses, schools and individuals we gave more than \$101,850 in new toys!

We praise God for each of the volunteers who come and "play" day after day to provide Christmas to children they may never meet!

34 people worked 10 or more days. Their total days worked 799. That means 34 people did 59% of the work!

Jerry and Shirley worked a total of 69 days! Jerry helped open or close whenever needed. He drove our truck for trips to the recycler, St Vincent donations, unloading and loading our trailer, running for food or other necessities, driving shoppers home with their treasures and so much more! Shirley helped keep us all happy with THE WORLD'S BEST PEANUTBUTTER FUDGE! Jerry and Shirley are year round help in our ministry. They are regulars at Laundry Angels every Wednesday helping people get to and from the laundromat, and are on call for all the other needs we have. Although "Hercules" fought with health issues this season, we could still find her changing batteries and hanging out.

JoAnn played a huge roll again this year! She started in January cleaning and dressing dolls. She also bound most of the quilts we gave away. Joann had the job of maintaining our

appointment program. She was the voice on our toy store phone and printed all the documents we needed to run smoothly. Tons of batteries came from JoAnn. All the dirty dolls went home with her. Our doll beds all had mattresses, pillows and blankets from her workshop. We had lights in our workroom and beautiful steps in our truck because of Joann's husband. He passed away at the beginning of this year and is greatly missed. On top of all this, she gave 41 days at the toy store. So happy you have been with us these 6 years!

Sally has been a wonderful partner since 2010. She came running when I called! 5 special friends passed away that year. She came to my rescue! 37 times she signed our book this year! Sally loves to sort all the little stuff, and recycle everything she can. Sally has a smile and a giggle that spreads thru a room! We are so blessed to have her ALL IN, from start to the last mop spot. So grateful she is my sister/friend, and so proud to share her with you all. Thank you for bringing St. Paul's Episcopal along with you. Thank you for the meals for our team and St. Paul's 49 volunteer days worked!

Mary and Wendell joined our team/family in 2014. We are so grateful for all 11 years! We had to say goodbye to Wendell this year, but his fingerprints are all over the bookshelves he prepared. Mary is a wonderful team leader! Our book section always looks beautiful! We are so grateful for all the Brookside UMC members who work so hard with Mary! They contributed 90 days!

Phyllis and Linda joined us in 2010. That is 15 years! Phyllis signed in 35 days and Linda 29 for a combined total of 64! Our teen section always looked amazing! We even had make-up to share on our last day! Thank you Kryst Farms and Thrivent for helping parents find gifts for even their teens! Thank you for representing Redeemer Lutheran with all your love and effort.

Rosemary and family found us at Bethany House in 2017 and we can't remember how we did this ministry without them! Rosemary signed in 34 days at the toy store, but also is a huge part of our year-round ministry. Jake and Rosemary write, illustrate and publish our Big Seed books. They are working now on 2025's Red Sunflower story. Rosemary has SKILLS! She designed 2 racks for our vans to carry coats into the community. We were able to give coats to Chalet Terrace, Shahan, East Jackson, Michigan Center and join Calvary Apostolic for their "Cup of Joe and a blanket to go" event. Thank you for all the repairs and puzzle pieces, bags and supplies, love and help.

Rob – poor guy, is married to me, so he was around for all 19 years! Rob is retired now, so he donated 31 of his days to us...officially in the book. I am so grateful for this wonderful man. He is my hero almost every day. He not only allows his crazy wife to do this ministry...but also is willing to pick up whatever loose end that needs attention. He drove and loaded, fixed batteries, brought food. I am so grateful for my one of a kind husband, and so proud of him to be willing to help in a million ways. His favorite line from Frozen 2, one of his favorite movies "Here I am, what do you need?"

Jean signed in 29 days this year! We know her better as “Jeanie”. Jeanie found us at Makerspace in 2021. This is her 4th year with us. Jeanie is an amazing woman. She has overcome so many obstacles in life, but her heart is to keep going with God’s strength and wonder working power. Jeanie loves to share the miracles God has done for her. She looks for kind things to say to her coworkers. You might find her sweeping, or wrapping, or cleaning and most of the time with a smile. Jeanie represents Encounter Church.

Cindie joined us 29 days this year. She found us last year! Praise God! She is a retired teacher and a caregiving Grandma, but found the time and energy to com “play” with us! Cindie catches on to the plan quickly so you might see her pricing the new toys, or reorganizing a messy section, or putting away baskets of toys, wrapping sweatshirts and pjs, helping in the new room...whatever she did – it was done with excellence! Cindie is also a beautiful seamstress. Several of the quilts we gave away came from her.

Kathy signed in 27 days. She found us at Makerspace in 2015. Dennis signed in 11 days and joined the party in 2017. We are so grateful for their help making us beautiful. They hang all our signs, and hung our lights. Kathy works on all our jewelry and watches. They represent Skiff Lake Bible Church. We praise God for all the tables donated last year. We are so blessed by their kindness and encouragement. Dawn also from Skiff Lake washed and mended a mountain of stuffed animals for us!

Becky signed in 25 days. She retired from nursing this year and we are so grateful to have her! Becky’s passion was to make book buddies. She did help in other ways...even visited a Kids’ Explosion Party. Becky drove our coat vans and helped give coats away....but her heart always took her back to the stuffed animals and books. Thank you Becky, we had Book Buddies right up to our last day. She is part of the Brookside UMC team and we are so glad to “play” together.

Noreen has worked from home on hats and mittens for several years, but this year she came down to see what all the fuss was about! She signed in 25 days! Noreen helped to organize the coats, hats, scarfs, and mittens. She helped keep them all by size and matched hats and gloves with each coat. She and Carrie worked to make some purses and pillows. Noreen also helped keep up with the mending at the toy store. We are so grateful for all Noreen’s efforts. She even brought her husband Tim 2 days!

Laura B. signed in 25 days. Laura started helping in our community gardens and has been a great 2nd shift addition to our team for many years. She helped in the new room, pulled toys out of the St. Vincent basement, priced toys, cleaned toys, and swept floors, all the while engaging in conversation! She is a delight to “play” next to.

Kelly signed in 25 days. She brought us PJ’s at Makerspace in 2020. She and her sister had been giving kids pajamas for many years. Kelly heard about us, and has been a wonderful

partner since. She also likes to sew. Many of the quilts we gave were from her. Kelly had been prepping at home this year. She had knee surgery and was not sure how much she would be at the store. Praise God! She is recovering and doing great. Kelly invited her friend from Ann Arbor area and they helped to collect pajamas too. Kelly is connected to First United Methodist. Joe Finley and team came to help 2 days! Praise God!

Cyndie signed in 24 days. Pam signed in 19 days. Cyndie and Pam are quite a team. They have been preparing for this Christmas for a long time. They have been wrapping beautiful gift sets at home. When at the toy store, you will find them keeping all the puzzles and gift sets wrapped. Cyndie feed the team 3 days, and Pam helped at least 1 of those. We praise God for these 2 friends that make such a great team blessing us and the kids in Jackson.

Sandy H. signed in for 23 days. She has been a great part of our team/family! Sandy brings her church, Sandstone Congregational along! They helped on our first day again this year! Thank you for feeding our volunteers. Sandy helps clean and sort toys, and is willing to help anywhere needed! Sandstone has allowed us to host our celebration dinners in their fellowship hall. Sandy is David's right hand lady!

Annie signed in 18 days. She has been a part all 19 years. Annie loves to serve wherever she can. She and her friend Janet who signed in 7 days helped wrap more than 2,000 Bibles! Annie loves to share our printed information all over town. She also helps package the seeds for our Big Seed Party every year.

Mary K signed in 15 days. She loves to help sort the tiny things. We are so honored to have this prayer warrior working with us! Mary is in Jackson often volunteering with Right to Life. We are so grateful Sally has help in her corner!

Sandy G. signed in 15 days. She joined us in 2017 when we were at Bethany House. This year you could find her sorting and wrapping books with Mary. We know Sandy already helps at the Animal Shelter, and we are grateful for all the friends she brought to help us!

Michelle Gleason signed in 14 days and Justin 4 days. Michelle has been a part of this ministry since the start! I got to be her Mom! She also serves as our Board Secretary. Michelle helped set up the appointment program we now use! You can find her most Thursdays serving in whatever capacity is needed next. I am so grateful for all her help. She helps set up our qr codes for quick access to parents. Justin is a GREAT cook and feed our team on the last 2 Thursday nights. He also helped feed Rob and I those last 2 weeks. Justin and his friend Alex helped get all the shelves to fit on the truck again this year! We are SO GRATEFUL for all the love and support you give to our community!

Tammy signed in 14 days, but like so many others, that is only the tip of the iceberg! Tammy loves to sew and is really good at it! She created many of the quilts we gave away. She started helping in 2009. We took a truck of toys to Flavor Fruit Farms to clean and sort. OK, it was a goofy idea...but Tammy has been busy every since! She recruited her Girl Scouts to dress Barbies. They completed more than 800! Tammy has made bean bags for us for several years. She and Dianne helped keep up with all the mending this year! Dianne even replaced several zippers in the coats we gave away! You can find Tammy and Dianne working most Tuesdays and Thursdays at our office on Wilkins St.

Tracy signed in 14 days. She joined us in 2018 at Makerspace. She cleaned and sorted toys, and when the store was open helped A LOT in the new room. Tracy is busy as a physical therapy assistant, teaches cataract drum classes, and always brings an upbeat attitude!

Ralph H. signed in 13 days, and Nancy signed in 6. They both have been a great help and support to our ministry since we started. Ralph has put together and taken apart all the shelves from the start. He knows just how to make it all work 1 more year! Ralph comes with his diet coke more often then he signs in. He is good at packing up the back stock. That is his favorite. Nancy is a wonderful cook, and sometimes we get to eat her Raspberry Pie! They worship at Westwinds, and helped bring more than 200 coats for our coat giveaway! Praise God!

Laurie S. signed in 13 days. She is a blessing wherever she serves. You may have seen her sorting the stuffed animals, or filling the new room, or pricing toys, or wrapping books. She jumped in wherever was most needed! We are so blessed to have her help!

CJ signed in 12 days. That number doesn't start to tell her story! She has been helping since 2015. CJ works for Your Hometown USA. They are a print shop. Our first encounter with CJ was an invitation for free advertising on their placemats. CJ fell in love! She fills her storage space all year long with gift ideas for teens, and everybody else! CJ's team made regular deliveries with print and toys. She hosts an annual Eucher party and all the proceeds go to our toy store. She also works with Thrivent and encouraged the community to bring sports equipment to the toy store. Jackson Community Foundation saw her advertisement and added \$500.00 to the effort! Thank you for your shelves, your chairs, your print, your love and all your help!

Sidney and Jackson Area Career Center team signed in 12 days. Thank you Sidney and team for all the weekly visits! You cleaned SO MANY of our big and bulky toys! They take up so much room, your help is so appreciated! Thank you to all who donated the cookies this team runs on! You helped unload and load the shelves on our truck! Sidney also has a Hockey team that wanted to help. Their date happened to line up with a sudden Bike Union move! Praise God for all the trucks, moms and dads, and hockey guys who moved most of the items in 1

Saturday! Thank you to Sidney's Career Center team who helped finish up that move! We were out and all cleaned up by the deadline!

Mike signed in 10 days, but the truth is, he helps year round. Mike is a big part of our Laundry Angels ministry. He helps drive people to and from the laundromat and has been known to help make our laundry soap! Mike is a BIG PART of our Kids Explosion team. He helps drive our team from place to place, and helps us love the kids! Mike is always willing to drive our volunteers' home at the toy store, run errands, and keep the conversation uplifting. Mike is a HUGE part of our First Fruit Grocery team. He picks up the meat from Prime Cuts each month, and helps distribute the food to downtown and Cement City!

Diane Tracy only signed in 1 day....but she came to help at least 15 days! Diane has been helping since 2018. She is great at finding homes for the used toys on the shelves, keeping everything looking nice! Diane is a HUGE part of our Laundry Angel ministry. She doesn't mind folding clothes! Before she came along, I only promised your cloths would be clean, and "fluffed and puffed". That means – if you sent them in inside out, they would probably be returned to you the same way! Diane does so much better! I am so grateful to be next to this prayer warrior year round! Diane also makes most of the Laundry soap we use and give away. She represents Queens and a team came to help and feed us 2 days! Thank you!

Don signed in for 8 days. Again this year he helped us sort out all the track. Don enjoyed cleaning, sorting, and repairing toys. He has a superpower getting stains out of our large stuffed animals! Don has been helping Terry at The Armory Bike Union. It is so good to see him again this year.

Sabra joined us new this year. She found time to help us 8 days! She also graduated from college and is a single Mom! We are so proud of her! She has a superpower of organization! She and her daughter arranged our purses, then we turned her loose on the sports section. Each time she came in to help, you could see where she had been! Sabra helped with the Bike Union move, and is hoping to help with the setup of the new place. We are so glad you joined our team!

Brianna is new to the toy store this year! We hired her to help add parents who don't have appointments. She and Michelle handled the registration and recording on our system. Brianna is our new Kid's Pastor in our Kids' Explosion Ministry. We are so very blessed to have her leading our team! She brings not only youth and energy, but a passion for God and excellence in all she does.

Thank you to Ruthann who continues to provide hat and scarf sets. Thank you to Sandy L. who puts together gift sets at home. Thank you to Grandma who donated more than 100 dollies ready to give. Thank you to the grandma who brought all the mitten sets.

We are so very grateful that you have been a part of our team/family. Thank you for all the ways you have helped this year! We have volunteer opportunities year round, so please never be bored or lonely! Come play with us!

Thank you to the individuals who provided a meal for our volunteers. Dave Kemler 7 days
Cyndy Moody 3 days, Pam Perez 1 day, Karen Harren 3 days, Alieen Lutz 1 day, Kelly Bury 1 day, Mark 2 days, Tammy Farler 2 days, Justin Gleason 2 days, Rosemary Gorczyca 1 meal and Cindie Sayles 3 days.

Thank you to the groups who helped this year:

St Vincent DePaul – 11+ truckloads of toys to recycle

Toys for Tots – new toys for our kids

Jackson Christian School – 30 volunteers

Lifespan – 23 days worked

Spring Arbor University – 18 days worked

Abundant Life – 22 volunteers and 1 meal for volunteers

Sidney's Hockey Team – 25 volunteers

St. Paul's Episcopal – 49 days worked, 2 meals for volunteers and \$1,000

Queens - 25 days worked and 2 meals for volunteers

Westwinds – 51 volunteer days and 200+Coats and 5 meals for volunteers

Brookside UMC – 90 Volunteer days

Jackson Free Methodist – 122 volunteer days and 1 meal for volunteers

Western Honors – 20 days volunteered

Western Quest – 30 volunteer days

Rise Above – 10 volunteers

Consumers – 8 volunteers, 1,000 energy saving gift bags, and \$2,500

Jackson Area Career Center – 56 volunteer days

Sandstone Congregational Church – 34 days volunteered, 1 meal for volunteers and hosting our celebration party. \$1,000

First UMC – 31 days volunteered

Meijer – 8 volunteers

YAC – Jackson Community Foundation – 18 volunteers and \$500 for sports gifts

Parkside – 20 volunteers and a car full of new toys

Granger – 2 roll-off dumpsters

Hurst Foundation - \$5,000

Bailey's Construction – Moving our trailer and storing it

Latocki Advertising – creating all our print and our web presence

Jackson Magazine – great photos and article

Kryst Farms – 5,000 rolls of gift wrap, 2 vans FULL of candy canes, make-up for teen gifts

Jackson Quilt Guild – Stockings and Quilts

Ruth's Quilters – 57 Twin size quilted quilts

Thrivent – Teen gifts and Sports gifts

CJ's Clark Lake Euchre Club & Your Hometown USA – Placemats, toy collections & cash

St Johns Lutheran –

The Gorczaca Family – Bags and Supplies

Girl Scouts – Barbie dressing and volunteers

Westwood Mall – affordable lease

Auction Site – help selling giftwrap

Dance studio – new toys