



October 2, 2024

Dear Bowling Green Community Members,

Can you imagine being unable to provide a joyous holiday for your family? Or perhaps you may even know someone with children who is having difficulty making ends meet on a daily basis, let alone during the holiday season. As staff members in the Bowling Green School District and citizens of Bowling Green, we are painfully aware of families who cannot provide a holiday for their children.

Over the past 17 years, The Dear Santa Society of Bowling Green, Ohio has assisted Bowling Green City School families during the holidays. At this time, we are asking for your generosity in helping us bring the spirit of the Christmas season to our children. Dear Santa Society's mission is to assist families experiencing financial hardship during the holidays. For our students, returning to school with new clothing, a favorite wish fulfilled and products for good hygiene sets the tone for greater self-esteem within the school environment and hopefully results in greater academic achievement.

Due to the community's generosity, we continued to grow in 2023 and help more children and families than ever. Last year alone, monetary donations totaled over \$50,000, along with additional donations of shoes, boots, bikes and coats. We were able to help 179 Bowling Green area children and their families. Our children received 39 bikes, 72 coats, 118 pairs of boots/shoes, 4 beds, as well as diapers for many families and a few family experiences for families.

Additionally, Dear Santa distributed laundry detergent, hams, fruit (donated by FFA), paper products and toiletries. For the fifteenth year, Meijer sponsored Dear Santa. For the third year, we also joined with the Brown Bag Project to provide eggs, milk, and other items to complete their holiday meal. All of our amazing volunteers worked hard to wrap an estimated 1500 gifts on wrapping night.

Please note almost all of the collected monetary donations goes directly to supporting our children. Our only overhead is the post office box fee and postage to solicit funding. Thank you again for supporting The Dear Santa Society's mission in Bowling Green in the hopes of a better tomorrow through the spirit of Christmas giving.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ostrowski and Kisha Nichols
Co-Coordiators

Jim and Dee Szalejko
Founders

Donations are accepted by check to the Dear Santa Society at the address below,

PAYPAL (donate@dearsantasociety.org) or VENMO (@Dear-Santa)

***Pursuant to an IRS determination, The Dear Santa Society is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).**