



2019 Holiday Food and Gift Basket Final Report

The Holiday Food and Gift Basket (HFGB) recorded another successful year, serving nearly **2,000** people living in our community. Each household referred to the HFGB received a Jewel gift card prior to Thanksgiving and holiday presents delivered to their door in early December.

All referrals came through the Oak Park and River Forest Townships, the local public schools, local churches and social service organizations, including New Moms, Hephzibah Children's Association, and Thrive Counseling Center, among others.

Donor/Sponsor Support

The program was funded, in part, by grants from Oak Park Township and River Forest Township. The annual spring fund appeal, along with additional donations from congregations, businesses, and private donors, ranging from **\$10.00 to \$3,500**, generated about **\$44,000**.

In addition to the financial donations, nearly **300** individuals signed up to fulfill the wish lists of program participants. The actual number of sponsors is greater when you include the hundreds of individuals who sponsored through liaisons at their congregations, their businesses, their children's school, or other organizations.

Congregations Got Involved

Many congregations participated by donating funds, sponsoring families, or volunteering in a variety of capacities. Congregations involved this year include:

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
First United
First United Methodist of Oak Park
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Oak Park Friends Meeting
River Forest United Methodist

St Catherine-St. Lucy Church
St. Christopher Church
St. Edmunds Church
St. Giles Family Mass
Unity of Oak Park

Special thanks to **United Lutheran Church** for graciously allowing HFGB to take over church space for a full week as the gift drop-off and delivery site.

School, Organization, and Business Support

The following partnered with HFGB to sponsor many families and individuals:

Brooks Middle School
Holmes Elementary School
Julian Middle School
Lincoln Elementary School (Oak Park)

Longfellow Elementary School
Metropolitan Capital Bank & Trust
Oak Park River Forest High School

The following provided financial support:

Forest Agency Insurance
Gagliardo Realty
Greenplan Management

Kelty Lawn Care
Kiwanis OPRF
Lynch Dental Center

Many Hands Come Together!

HFGB relies on many individuals and organizations to make the program work, including **Oak Park Township** for providing a generous grant; **River Forest Township** that provides a grant, office space and use of a computer and printer; the **Oak Park Police Department** that helps to deliver gifts and direct traffic on delivery day; and of course, **United Lutheran Church** that provides use of its space.

Several volunteers helped throughout the fall months with sponsor packets, data entry, mailings, as well as organization and distribution of the Jewel gift cards.

Volunteers checked in and organized gifts for nearly 2,000 people the second week of December.

Finally, many individuals delivered gifts to our recipients on Saturday, December 14th.

Thank You Notes

The following messages are from just a few of the many thank you cards we received from this year's recipients.

"Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. It makes my Christmas an extra special day."

"Your thoughtfulness is a gift we will always treasure."

"Thank you again for your gifts, they were truly appreciated."

On behalf of those served by HFGB, thank you for your support.

Patty Henek
HFGB Coordinator

To learn more visit www.communityofcongregations.org/hfgb