

ILYA HISTORY

HOLIDAY GIVING

[Names of young adults are changed to letter for anonymity.]

2006 Coordinators: Olga Beskrone, Betty Wier, Marge Myermann, and Caryl Carlson (from UU Society of Mill Creek)

In touch with agencies: Olga was in touch with NET Independent Living Coordinators --Sue and Pam—to obtain Wish Lists from young adults. (West End Neighborhood House young adults were involved in another program so we did not ask for their wishes.)

“Advertise”: In November there was an explanation of Holiday Giving project in church newsletter. Posted the completed wish lists (edited) in the Parish Hall on the ILYA bulletin boards. Single gifts were placed on tags on a small Christmas tree. Volunteers could choose to purchase single gifts or a whole wish list. Or they might give a donation or offer to help wrap packages.

Number of young adults - 24; children -7

Where: Marge Myermann’s house for collection and wrapping. Wrapping gave the opportunity to help for those unable to buy presents. A holiday card with a message to the young adult was put in each package (Cards came from a supply sent by charities to the Wiers). All presents for a young adult or young adult and child(ren) were put in holiday plastic bags with names of recipients.

Delivery: Some volunteers delivered but it took a lot of time to get the packages to the right places. So it was decided to have the ILCs deliver next time.

2007 Coordinator: Barbara Perry (responded to call for help in newsletter!)

Helpers: Olga Beskrone, Betty Wier, Marge Meyermann, Caryl Carlson (from UUSMC)

Advertise: Explanation of project was included In October newsletter and Order of Service (special page). As was done last year, retyped Wish Lists were posted on bulletin boards and single gifts on little Christmas tree. Sundays in November volunteers could choose single gifts or gifts for whole young adult/family. They could sign up to help wrap or add money for gifts. The UU Fellowship of Newark and UUSMC helped as well, with Caryl as coordinator.

Numbers: 37 young adults (including 2 dads; 1 grandmother); 47 children

Donors: More than 51 people (at least 7 were point people for groups such as Spiritually, Brown Bag, Chalice Circles) so the number is closer to 85. Student wish lists were shared with their College Care Package contacts to see if they wanted to give any or all wishes.

Where: Marge’s home on December 6, 7, 8. Children’s gifts not wrapped. Instead gift wrapping was added to the family package so the parent could wrap. A holiday card with a message to the young adult was put in each package. All presents for a young adult or young adult and

child(ren) were put in holiday plastic bags labeled with the name. Calendars (from charities) were included also.

Delivery: Sue Dougherty and Pam Richards to their clients

Thank you: Caryl Carlson had a thank you party for the volunteers from UUSMC and First U at her home on January 27, 2008!

2008 Coordinator: Barbara Perry (First U); Caryl Carlson (UUFN and UUSMC)

Advertise: Same as 2007 (wish lists on board – singles on tree)

Numbers: 35 households (70 individuals);

Donors: more than 77 people donated gifts. Many more donated money; 9 people wrapped packages. College Care Package contacts received wish lists of students to see if they wished to give any or all gifts.

Where: Barbara Perry's home. (See 2007 regarding wrapping, etc.)

Delivery : Sue Dougherty and Pam Richards to their clients

2009: Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Advertise: same as 2007

Numbers: 46 (24 young adults, 22 children, 1 dad) and 2 former ILYA youth and their significant others.

Donors: countless from First U and UUSMC

Where: Barbara Perry's home for wrapping. Sue, Pam, and Antione Warren helped deliver

2010 *Sunday Forum*: As a stimulus for members to give to Holiday Giving there was a forum after church service November 21. ILC Sue Dougherty, Gina and Grace Small and Barbara Crowell presented. Additionally, Ma told about her childhood and how she ended up in foster care. Grace, age eight who heard this presentation, later asked friends to donate to ILYA in lieu of birthday gifts.

Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Advertise: Same as 2007 (UUSMC Caryl)

Numbers: 52 individuals (33 young adults and their children). Some larger household goods were on wish lists this year.

Donors: countless! From First U and UUSMC

Where: Barbara Perry's home. Several helped wrap. NET: Sue, Pam, and Antione delivered.

2011 Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Advertise: same as 2007

Numbers: 45 individuals (34 young adults; 11 children)

Donors: 47 church members took items (includes 3 from UUSMC); 4 helped wrap [delivered by Sue, Pam, Antione]

Donors were encouraged to help First U fulfill its application for *Green Sanctuary Candidacy Action Plan* by “greening” gifts – reusable shopping bags, dish towels, products for school and apartments made from recycled materials, and food that is inexpensive, but healthful, and not over-packaged.

THE FOLLOWING YEARS ARE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR SO THEY WILL BE DESCRIBED AFTER 2016

2012 Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Numbers: 44 young adults; 25 children = 69 total people received gifts

2013 Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Numbers: 37 young adults + children = 65 total people received gifts

Note: More young adults wished for gift cards, so there were less “packages.”

2014 Coordinator: Barbara Perry

Numbers: 33 young adults + children = 63 total people received gifts

2015 Coordinator: Barbara Perry, Co-coordinator: Carolyn Gibson

Numbers: 39 young adults + children = 54 total people received gifts

2016 coordinator: Carolyn Gibson

Numbers: 22 young adults, 27 total received gifts. (Progressive Life, a new agency, plans to become involved next year.)

Donors: 33 church members made donations.

Where: wrapped packages at Carolyn’s

Delivered: by ILCs

WHAT HAPPENS:

Get Ready Procedure:

- Carolyn Gibson starts emailing People’s Place 2 ILCs and Progressive Life Center ILCs in early October to get Wish Lists of young adults by November.

- Arrangements are made with the church office for ILYA to have a table in the Parish Hall from first Sunday in November through the first Sunday in December. The table needs to be in front of the name tag boards so that the Christmas tree can be plugged in and to ensure there is enough space for the bulletin boards and for packages.
- Dates for wrapping need to be chosen and entered in the Holiday Giving Instruction sheet. Choose some daytime wrapping as well as evening. About two dates will handle it.
- Send wish lists to Student Care Package coordinator (now Cathy Butler) so she can find out if her volunteers wish to give some or all wishes to their student.
- Type spreadsheet with names and grid for donor sign up each Sunday.
- Edit and retype Wish Lists and place on bulletin boards.
- Put some single gifts on tree.
- Lois Morris writes an article about Holiday Giving for First UU eNews each Sunday in November. She will also write a piece for announcement during service.

Set up:

- An artificial tree is set up and poster board photo display of previous Holiday Giving activity. (Betty brings tree along with rolling stand and extension cord to church.)
- An easel and poster boards need to be set up to hold Wish Lists.
 - Easels and poster boards are in storage room off church hall. Photos are in plastic bin with ILYA items along with shoebox for donations and basket with info on ILYA.
- Tree tags of single Wish List items work well. Select items from a family or make tags for everything from one individual.
- Have a spreadsheet of all young adults and family members for sign-ups of who is taking them each list/item.
 - Also, provide space for gift wrappers to sign up.
- Have copies of instructions and pink church donation receipt forms to hand out.
 - Pink church donation slips are in file drawer in back of desk in Church Office.
 - Sign a few in advance to hand out to folks as they sign up.
- Give each volunteer a copy of Giving Instructions.
- For financial donations, make sure all checks are written to First Unitarian Church and have "ILYA-Holiday Wish" in memo line.
- Use Funds Delivered form (found in file cabinet next to Church Office desk) to document the donations to be deposited. Include form with checks and cash in an envelope and drop in the special slot in the office closet for Marina.

Sunday table help:

- The first Sunday, two people can handle the table but three to four are needed for other dates to assist with selection.
- A team member should circulate during coffee hour distributing Holiday Giving brochures and encouraging people to go to the ILYA table to volunteer.

- Have instruction sheets ready to be handed out to folks who take names or items. People can drop off purchases at church on Sundays with the last time being first Sunday in December. Other drop offs can be done directly to the coordinator's home.

Wrap and organize:

- When items arrive at home for wrapping, arrange items by family making sure children's items are somewhat equal.
- Large trash bag size plastic bags with holiday print need to be purchased to hold all gifts for one family.
 - The Dollar Store is a good place to get bags, along with scotch tape.
 - Need 12 inch gift bags and colored envelope for gift card only requests.
 - We include wrapping paper and scotch tape so parent can wrap children's gifts. We wrap adults' gifts.
- Print a sheet with young adult name to attach to plastic bag for easy identification by Independent Living Coordinator when delivering.
 - If more than one bag per family write young adults name #1 of (#total number) to facilitate all items being delivered.
- Betty writes a note in each card (from charities) to families from First Unitarian Church.
- Betty and others donate charity calendars that are tucked into bags of gifts for each young adult unit.
 - Check with others to get enough calendars for all.

Send:

- Send email to ILCs to alert them to an approximate date gifts will be ready for pickup.

They will reply with their schedule for pickups. Off they go for a merry holiday!



HOLIDAY WISH LIST form

Name of young adult:

Address:

Phone, e-mail

Brief "bio" of family/young adult (work, school, interests, special situation...)

Young adult/Family Wish List

We want to provide wishes, but be sure they are reasonable - not a large expense - because we want to provide wishes for many young adults this year.)

(Be sure to provide details, including size and favorite colors for clothing items.)

Young adult's first name:

age:

Wishes:

Favorite stores:

Other family members: [Please be specific about items -- for example, clothing size, doll color (Black, White, Hispanic, etc.)]

(1) *Name*

Son/daughter/spouse or...

age

Wishes:

(2) *Etc.*