



What is Holly House?

Holly House began in 2006 when its founder, working at a local foodbank, realized the families she served did not have the resources or ability to provide their children with new gifts, warm clothes, and necessities during the holidays. Financial insecurity and homelessness, or the threat of homelessness, is a very real concern to many of our families.

Most of the families are living paycheck to paycheck going without many "essentials". In the winter time, their children are cold, often going to school without socks or underwear and going to bed at night without warm pajamas or blankets.

Christmas is meager and often non-existent as parents struggle to meet the basic needs of their family, and do not have the resources to provide a celebration. Our mission is for these children to never go without the simple joy of the holiday season and receiving gifts and toys.

Contact Information:

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How It Works



From the beginning our goal has been to provide comfort, joy, and hope to the children and families in our community. In its first year Holly House reached 430 children. Over the years, the need has grown, and Holly House now serves more than 2,000 low-income children, from infants to 17 years old.

We serve local children in the Edmonds School District, which includes a large immigrant population that speak up to 38 different languages. Some of our schools have a population of up to 85% of children are living at or below the federal poverty level.

Holly House is a huge operation, requiring year-round planning and organizing, 100s of volunteers to run this four day event. This is a beautiful shopping experience for parents and ultimately the children.



All year, Holly House collects and organizes donations of new pajamas, books, socks, underwear, scarves, hats, toys, stocking stuffers and other gifts in preparation for the Holly House complimentary "store" in December. Parents come the day of the event and are paired up with a personal shopper who takes them through an array of gift stations where they can select gifts for free for each of their children.

In such a difficult time, the cheer we bring to the parents is incredible, many of them have tears streaming down their faces so grateful for the help and support. We hear over and over, without Holly House their children would not have a Christmas.

Holly House is for adult shoppers only, it comes as a complete surprise to the children. This allows the parents the opportunity to decide what they will tell their children - Did Santa bring the gifts? Were the parents able to provide them due to a last minute miracle? Or do they share that the amazing people in their community gave to them through Holly House? Giving parents the choice to share in their own way offers more than joy and warmth, it offers dignity.