



CAPtions



A publication of FiveCAP, Inc.

October—December 2022

Toys for Tots / Gifts for Teens provides Christmas toys & gifts to **605 area children**

For over 50 years, FiveCAP, in partnership with Synergy Media, Inc. (WKLA-FM “Hits 96” and WKZC-FM 94.9 “The Big Dog”), provides all families in Mason and Manistee counties the opportunity to have toys or gifts their children (ages 0-18) will love under the tree on Christmas morning.

Barrels filled with toys collected throughout the community, toys dropped off at FiveCAP locations, and monetary donations to buy toys **resulted in over \$24,000 in contributions.**

“Once again, we saw amazing support from the community”, said Executive Director Mary Trucks. “It seems almost daily we received calls to pick up items from barrels that were already full, and checks of a \$100 or more flowing in for us to use towards the purchase of toys/gifts for those age groups we may need more”.

The annual Jingle Bell Jam event in Manistee during Sleighbell Weekend raised \$1,717 in cash contributions, plus toys that were brought in.

In addition to a generous \$2,000 donation from Ludington Meijer, other major contributors were the Filer Mill Community Club with a \$1,000 donation; and \$500 from the Masons of the Onekama Lodge #497.

Distributions took place December 14 & 15 at the V.F.W. Hall in Manistee and the Graystone Event Center in Ludington, where 236 families accompanied by personal shoppers, selected toys/gifts for their children, stocking stuffers, books or puzzles, and a family game.

Thank you to all that made this possible!!



Above: Ludington Meijer Store Director Jamey Garcia (3rd from right) presents \$2,000 check to FiveCAP Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens.

Pictured below: The Grinch did not steal Christmas!! Volunteers and staff made it a merrier Christmas for many families in Manistee.



FiveCAP, Inc. County Office Locations

Mason County (Main Office), *Scottville*—(231) 757-3785 Lake County, *Baldwin*—(231) 745-4617
Manistee County, *Manistee*—(231) 723-8327 Newaygo County, *White Cloud*—(231) 689-6688

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.fivecap.org

Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center website: www.historicidlewild.org



The Season of Giving

Rapid Relief Team donates 60 food boxes to area families

Just in the nick of time, sixty (60) RRT Holiday Food Boxes were delivered to FiveCAP's door to give to families in need of food for the holidays at the Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens distributions in Mason and Manistee counties.



Food Box contents included a variety of non-perishable items, designed to feed a family of four for up to two days and included some special goodies for the holidays.

Thank you to the RRT for their spirit of giving this holiday season!



donates \$3,000 for Imagination Library

To bring cheer to children not just for Christmas, but the entire year, Swidorski Brothers Excavating LLC in Manistee donated \$3,000 to the FiveCAP sponsored Dolly Parton Imagination Library program for Manistee County.

Every \$25 covers the cost for a child to receive a book each month for a year. With this generous donation, FiveCAP will be able to enroll and cover costs for 120 children for an entire year!!



Above: The Ludington Rotary Club donated toys collected at their Social Time event to Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens. Front and center holding banner, accepting gifts are FiveCAP Community Support staff Angela Anderson (left) and Billie Jo Chimel. Photo courtesy of Ludington Daily News.



Above: Andy Robak (second from left) presented a \$500 check from the Masons of the Onekama Lodge #497 to Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens at the Kaleva Tavern on December 7th. Pictured left to right: Mary Trucks, FiveCAP Executive Director; Andy Robak; FiveCAP board members Nikki Koons and Corey Van Fleet; and FiveCAP volunteer Sally Durtche.



Left: Denis Meikle of Manistee National Golf & Resort drops off toy donations from their golf club members to the V.F.W. Hall in Manistee for Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens.

together
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Annual Walk for Warmth Events

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Walk for Warmth is a locally funded program designed to raise money on a community level to assist local residents with winter heating expenses in *emergency* situations. The funds assist low-income families and senior citizens that may be just over the threshold of eligibility for other FiveCAP programs or public assistance...or when government program funds are delayed or unavailable.

Walk for Warmth events will be held in Mason, Manistee, Lake and Newaygo counties with a two mile walk on Saturday, February 18th starting at 10:00 a.m. Contact your county FiveCAP office for more information, sign-up and pledge sheets.

Whether you walk or not, monetary contributions are accepted and appreciated at any time of the year. Mail to: FiveCAP, Inc. Walk for Warmth, PO Box 37, Scottville, MI 49454.

Pledge sheets and Charitable Contribution Form available on our website at www.fivecap.org.



2021 walkers in Lake County (2022 Walk events were canceled due to COVID)

Free Tax Preparation for low-income residents

Trained FiveCAP staff will be making **appointments starting February 1st** to assist low-income residents in preparing and e-filing Federal and State income taxes. We help to ensure that eligible residents receive tax credits such as the Home Heating Credit, Homestead Property Tax/Rent Credit, and Child Tax Credit. ***This service is free!!***

Contact your local FiveCAP Community Support Services Worker to schedule an appointment. You must provide your year-end tax documents (Social Security Benefit Statements, W-2(s), Child Support Statements, Unemployment 1099G, etc.).



CSBG COVID funds provide prevention & preparedness

In addition to food, energy conservation kits (*including weather stripping, educational materials, and a wool blanket*) and cleaning kits were provided to low-income households impacted by COVID.

Four hundred (400) energy conservation kits were given out; and one hundred & eight (108) boxes filled with cleaning products were distributed to households throughout the four county service area.

A special thank you to Blue Earth Tree Farm

Historically since 2011, FiveCAP and Chris Frederick of Blue Earth Tree Farm in Ludington helped kick off the holiday season with free Christmas trees to low-income families throughout Mason, Manistee, Lake and Newaygo counties. Trees would be loaded up and taken back to the respective counties by staff and volunteers.

Unfortunately this year, we were notified that Blue Earth Tree Farm is no longer providing this product and is growing in a different direction.

FiveCAP extends a special thank you for their generosity over the years!





602 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 67, Scottville, MI 49215

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CAPtions

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CAPtions is published by FiveCAP, Inc., a non-profit corporation providing services to the people of Lake, Mason, Manistee and Newaygo Counties. Production is supported by Agency discretionary funds.

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Mark Your Calendar

Our offices are open, but appointments encouraged. Guests required to wear face mask. Secure drop boxes are provided for documents at all FiveCAP locations.

JANUARY

January 2 *New Years Day Holiday—Offices closed*
January 3 Head Start Centers—children return from holiday break
January 10 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
January 16 *Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—Offices and Centers closed*
January 26 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

FEBRUARY

February 8 [CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution—Seniors](#)
February 14 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
February 18 **WALK FOR WARMTH (see article, Page 3)**
February 23 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

MARCH

March 2 [TEFAP Quarterly Food Distribution—Families](#)
March 14 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
March 17 HS/EHS Grant Planning Meeting (call for info)
March 27-31 Head Start Centers—Spring Break (Mason, Lake, Manistee counties)
March 30 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

APRIL

April 3-7 Head Start Centers—Spring Break (Newaygo County)
April 11 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
April 12 [CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution—Seniors](#)
April 21 HS/EHS Health Serv. Advisory Committee Meeting (call for info)
April 27 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

FiveCAP Programs & Services

- Head Start**
- Early Head Start**
- Weatherization**
- Home Ownership Counseling**
- Foreclosure Prevention**
- Single Family Housing**
- Multi Family Housing**
- TEFAP**
- CSFP**
- Garden/Food Preservation**
- Educational Workshops**
- Food Pantry**
- Tax Preparation Assistance**
- Energy/Utility Assistance**
- Walk for Warmth**
- Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens**
- Information & Referral**
- And more.....**

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