



# CAPtions



A publication of FiveCAP, Inc.

October—December 2023

## 51st ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS / GIFTS FOR TEENS BRINGS THE JOY OF GIVING



The 2023 annual Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens distribution was held December 13th and 14th at the Greystone Event Center in Ludington and the VFW Walsh Post 4499 in Manistee. Once again, FiveCAP, Inc. partnered with Synergy Broadcasting Group to collect toys, gifts and cash donations to purchase toys for area children ages 0-18 years old.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mason and Manistee communities, 632 area children received presents on Christmas morning. In Mason County, 122 families participated in the program with toys and gifts for 324 children. In Manistee County, 119 families participated in Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens and 308 children had presents under the tree.

In the weeks leading up to distribution, FiveCAP Executive Director Mary Trucks said she and the FiveCAP staff were inspired by the generosity of the community. “Each year, it’s really heartwarming to see how people give to the program. It truly helps these parents make happy memories with their children.”

On Friday, December 8th, Trucks and several FiveCAP staff members were presented a \$4000.00 check donation from the Ludington Meijer, which they used in addition to other monetary donations received to shop around the store for the event. 95 donation barrels placed around the area were also filled with gifts to be distributed.

“These contributions are just to name a few,” said Trucks. “And we certainly cannot forget to thank our volunteers that helped pick up the toys from area businesses and distribution.”

From this abundant selection, parents were able to select age-appropriate toys/gifts, stocking stuffers, and a family game for their children.

A big **THANK YOU** to the Greystone Event Center and the VFW Walsh Post 4499 for their annual support and donation of space for the distribution.

**Its not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.**  
-Mother Theresa

### FiveCAP, Inc. County Office Locations

Mason County (Main Office), *Scottville*—(231) 757-3785  
Manistee County, *Manistee*—(231) 723-8327

Lake County, *Baldwin*—(231) 745-4617  
Newaygo County, *White Cloud*—(231) 689-6688



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.fivecap.org](http://www.fivecap.org)**

*Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center website: [www.historicidlewild.org](http://www.historicidlewild.org)*



## 'Tis the Season for Giving

### VFW Gold Bar Post #5096 Donates FIVE Complete Thanksgiving Meals



Spreading joy to five local families this holiday season, VFW Gold Bar Post #5096 in Custer donated 5 complete Thanksgiving meal baskets to help local families in Mason County. Each basket included a Turkey, several side dishes, rolls and even a pie!

*Thank you to the Members of Post #5096 for their spirit of giving this holiday season!*



## Volunteers Needed

Looking to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around you? FiveCAP, Inc. has many opportunities throughout the year for those who wish to make an impact in our Community. *For more information call your local FiveCAP office, contact information found on page 1.*

*together*

WE CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE



## Give the gift of reading; Enroll or Donate today for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The Imagination Library program supports early literacy by mailing a book each month, each year to enrolled children ages 0-5 in Lake, Mason and Manistee counties.

**Want to Help?** As an example of impact, every penny is used to provide books to the children, and just \$25 provides a book each month for a year to a child in your community.

**Please Note:** Due to the overwhelming interest and a limited budget, we have prioritized enrolling children of low-income families and are only able to enroll new participants when someone graduates or drops from the program. We would like to have the funding to enroll every child whose parent applies for them to receive books.



## 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.).

### FiveCAP is accepting Weatherization Program applications in Mason, Lake and Newaygo counties

FiveCAP is accepting applications for home weatherization. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, there are no costs for this service for households at or below the 200 percent Federal Poverty Level, and is available to home owners and rental units. This service is provided year-round in Mason, Lake and Newaygo counties.

*For more information or to schedule an appointment, call your local FiveCAP office.*

Happy Thanksgiving  
from  
your friends  
at  
Southern  
Newaygo  
FiveCAP  
Head Start!



## Annual Walk for Warmth Events Saturday, February 17, 2024

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 17th 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](http://www.fivecap.org).***

**Pictured: 2023 walkers in Lake and Mason counties.**





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## CAPtions

**Anita Brown**  
Chairperson,  
Board of Directors

**Mary L. Trucks**  
Executive Director

*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. Secure drop boxes are provided for documents at all FiveCAP locations.

### JANUARY

January 1 *New Years Day Holiday—Offices closed*  
January 2 Head Start Centers—children return from holiday break  
January 9 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
January 15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—Offices and Centers closed*  
January 25 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

### FEBRUARY

February 13 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
February 14 [CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution—Seniors](#)  
February 17 **WALK FOR WARMTH (see article, Page 3)**  
February 29 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

### MARCH

March 7 [TEFAP Quarterly Food Distribution—Families](#)  
March 12 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
March 15 HS/EHS Grant Planning Meeting (call for info)  
March 25-29 Head Start Centers—Spring Break (Mason, Lake, Manistee counties)  
March 28 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

### APRIL

April 1-5 Head Start Centers—Spring Break (Newaygo County)  
April 9 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
April 10 [CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution—Seniors](#)  
April 19 HS/EHS Health Serv. Advisory Committee Meeting (call for info)  
April 25 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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