



### **1. What is the GRACE Christmas Cottage?**

The Christmas Cottage is a program that provides families with Christmas gifts for their family at no cost to them. What makes our program unique is that we allow our clients to make their own selections of gifts for their family. Each family is given a budget based on their family size. They “shop” in the cottage among age appropriate items that are given a point value that is representative of a dollar value of the item. This way, they not only get to choose the gifts that they know their children will like, but they are learning to budget and understand the value of what they are receiving. It really helps the parents maintain a sense of dignity since they are able to maintain a level of autonomy in their selections.

### **2. How many volunteers does it take to operate the Cottage?**

Including the volunteers who decorate the space, those who work while the cottage is open and those who help take everything down and pack up, it takes more than 450 volunteers!

### **3. Do you still need volunteers?**

Volunteers are crucial to the success of Christmas Cottage. Contact GRACE Volunteer and Development Coordinator Heather DeMoss for details.

### **4. The minimum age for a volunteer?**

Volunteers at the Christmas Cottage have to be 16 or older.

### **5. How many people does the Christmas Cottage help?**

On average we serve over 2,700 families members with new, unwrapped gifts, housewares and family appliances. This year because of COVID, we expect to serve many more!

### **6. How soon can people begin bringing donations?**

We accept donations for Christmas Cottage all year long. If you'd like to donate items specifically for Christmas Cottage, take them to Donation Station (112 N. Scribner in Grapevine) and let the staff know you'd like the items tagged for Christmas.

### **7. Should gifts be wrapped or unwrapped?**

Great question! All donations must be unwrapped, that way we know what the items are and can organize them. Each family that shops with us is given all of the wrapping paper, tape and bows that they will need to wrap their own gifts, so we also need lots of those things donated as well!

### **8. Are there certain types of gifts that you usually run low on?**

Yes, gifts for teens are usually in shortest supply. Great teen gifts are gift cards (\$10, \$15 & \$20 denominations), movie tickets, DVD's and CD's to name a few. We also run low on our family gifts which are things like small appliances, towel sets, dish sets, etc. Each family gets to select one “family gift”.

### **9. How can local businesses get involved?**

We encourage local businesses to host toy drives or we can supply them with bell ornaments that list gift needs. That way, their employees can select an ornament or two and simply purchase the items listed on them.

The GRACE Christmas Cottage is a wonderful program that is a reflection of this community's spirit of giving! If you would like more information about donations, volunteering or gift bells, please contact GRACE Volunteer and Development Coordinator [Heather DeMoss](#).