

Angels in the Outfield to host 2018 Holiday Store

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Service historically provided by Clackamas Women's Services; donations can be dropped off at the Holiday Store, 501 Pleasant Ave., Oregon City

This holiday season, Angels in the Outfield will host the Holiday Store for domestic and sexual violence survivors, a service historically provided by Clackamas Women's Services (CWS).

The Holiday Store is an annual tradition offered to survivors and their families during the holiday season and allows parents and caregivers impacted by violence to choose gifts for their children from among the donations.

CWS officials say their partnership with the Angels in the Outfield will increase the program's sustainability. The Holiday Store expanded to provide 110 families with gifts during the 2017 holiday season. CWS officials have been challenged to keep up with the growth while maintaining their crisis-response services.

"We are grateful to this new partnership with the Angels in the Outfield. Their engagement will ensure that CWS clients will be able to create warm holiday memories for their children," said John Aney, CWS director of development and communication.

"The involvement of the Angels in the Outfield also emphasizes to survivors that there are caring, engaged individuals and groups out in their community."

Holidays often can be difficult for survivors of violence, many of whom are struggling to find safety and shelter, navigating court systems and challenging family dynamics, all the while trying to maintain a sense of normalcy and holiday spirit for their children.

The Holiday Store takes the stress and financial burden off of survivors and allows them to provide gifts for their children. Unlike other types of holiday giving, the Holiday Store allows parents themselves to select from among donated gifts for their children, giving back to survivors a sense of empowerment and ownership and reaffirming their role as provider within their family.

Wish lists and more information about how to volunteer or make a donation of new toys can be found at theangelsintheoutfield.org.

Donations can be dropped off at the Holiday Store, 501 Pleasant Ave., Oregon City, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 5-7 or at any of the Angels in the Outfield drop-off locations before Dec. 10.