**MASON-RICE'S 20th ANNUAL GIFT OF GIVING**

**\*\*WISH LISTS WILL BE POSTED AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCES STARTING MON. NOV 13th\*\***

**Please join Mason-Rice's community tradition of gift giving.**

**WHY GIVE?**You can help make a difference in the lives of so many children. Year after year, the incredible care given by our families to treat each wish list as if it were one of our own children is truly inspiring. The level of thoughtfulness and generosity from our community is special and makes a difference to those in our extended community. Imagine a child getting no gifts at the holidays. The children on our lists have been carefully chosen because they have very little and will likely receive nothing at all without our help. Your gifts make their holiday special and it’s a great experience for our Mason-Rice kids. Having the specific wish list of a child in need helps our kids make Gift of Giving a truly meaningful experience.

**WHO ARE WE GIVING TO?** Gift of Giving will be supporting a few needy organizations this year including:

Bromley-Heath Housing, recently renamed Mildred C. Hailey Apartments in honor of longtime advocate Mildred Hailey. This is our 19th year supporting Boston’s largest public housing development. We estimate we have helped well over 1,000 children in need throughout our long history together.

The Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP).  This incredible organization at Boston Medical Center offers counseling and advocacy to children who have witnessed domestic violence, community violence or experienced trauma.



The Second Step. This organization, located in Newton, provides transitional housing and a wide variety of supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their children. This will be our second year providing support.

**HOW DO I GIVE?** Starting on **Monday, November 13,** paper mittens, each with a child’s information, can be selected at the front entrance of Mason-Rice. Mid-week, we will post remaining mittens on a designated sign-up genius for parents to use from home. We will have many, many children with a variety of ages and wish lists. We’ve found that the average expenditure has been $100-$125 per child but all gift giving is appreciated.

* If you can’t make it to drop-off or pick-up, you will be able to use a sign-up genius provided later in the week.
* If you want to participate but don’t have time, feel free to make a cash donation or purchase a gift card and we will shop for you.
* We also welcome **new** miscellaneous items such as pjs, hats/mittens, books, games, toys, and basic art supplies (markers, pads of paper, etc). Place any new gifts/items into the large gift box in the lobby. Kathy Rinn is aware that parents may be buzzing/dropping items to the Collection box.

CONTACT: Jennifer Manthei (Jennifer.manthei@gmail.com) or Sarah Dupre-Healy (sarah\_dupre@hotmail.com)

**Gift of Giving “How-To” Checklist**

**Step 1:**

* VISIT the front entrance of Mason-Rice on Nov 13th (or use sign-up genius link that will be provided later in the week):
* Select a child/ren
* Write your name and phone number on the Sign-Up Sheet next to the corresponding child/ren
* Take the paper mitten with you with the Wish list/Check list

**Step 2:**

* PURCHASE GIFTS:
  + Please try to give what has been requested on the wish list. **If a basic necessity such as coat, boots, hat/mittens, or clothing is on a wish list, we always try to fulfill those items.** There is no rule as to how much to spend – and you do not have to buy every gift requested.  In general, families spend $100-125 per child. If there are only one or two items on your child's list, you are welcome to buy other age-appropriate items such as clothes, books, toys, games or crafts.
  + Please remember to purchase **NEW** gifts. Contact us if there are wish list items that you are struggling to find.
  + If possible, please include gift receipts in a separate envelope.

**Step 3:**

* WRAP:
  + **BLUE MITTEN = WRAP ALL ITEMS**
  + **GREEN MITTEN = DO NOT WRAP ITEMS**, instead include gift wrapping supplies (festive paper/bows)
* BAG ITEMS: (This replaces the need to tag each item used in past years)
  + **Gifts for each child NEED TO be put into A large shopping/gift bag**
  + **Please attach the mitten OR A checklist with items checked off and attach to the bag**
* DELIVER GIFTS:
  + Drop off gifts at: The Manthei's,19 Columbus St, Newton Highlands by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3.** You may drop gifts at anytime. If no one is home, please leave items on the front porch (please use sign-in sheet).

**special request from the M-R Shopping Team:** If Amazon shopping, please click through the Amazon logo on masonrice.org.

**\*\* Thanks! Items Due by Sunday, December 3 \*\***