

Project Self-Sufficiency's

Season of Hope Toy Drive

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Season of Hope? Who does it Benefit?

The Season of Hope is a toy drive specifically designed to collect toys for children and teens who live in Sussex and Warren Counties. Families do not have to be Project Self-Sufficiency participants to receive toys. They need only register by providing proof of residency, child custody, and financial need. All types of families struggle with holiday expenses; not just single and teen parents, but working, two-parent families, grandparents raising grandchildren and others.

Who runs the Season of Hope Toy Drive and Toy Shop?

The Season of Hope is led by Project Self-Sufficiency with the support of a generous community.

How Many Families are Helped by the Season of Hope?

Each year, approximately 2,500 children and teens receive assistance from the Season of Hope.

How do Families Get Toys through the Season of Hope Toy Shop?

Parents register to receive toys in advance, in person or over the phone. On a designated date, each family selects a previously determined number of items per child at no cost (*this number is determined by the number of children registered and the number of items in stock*). Parents are given the unique opportunity to select items for their children in a beautiful, welcoming atmosphere where they are treated with dignity.

What is the Stuff the Stocking Contest?

Preschools, elementary, middle, and high schools are invited to participate in a friendly competition to collect toys for the Season of Hope Toy Drive. The school which collects the most toys gains ownership of the coveted Stuff the Stocking trophy for one year, along with a monetary donation for their school activities fund. Separate trophies are awarded in Sussex and Warren Counties. The second and third place schools also receive monetary contributions for their school activities funds. **In 2025, 50 schools across Sussex and Warren counties participated in the Stuff the Stocking contest.**



Why do you need Cash Donations?

Cash and gift card donations allow our volunteers to purchase items to supplement the toy shop inventory (for example, a large percentage of donated toys are for young children, yet a high number of families register to receive items for teens).

Isn't there a Better Way to Help these Families than just Giving them Toys?

Having gifts to open over the holidays helps struggling and isolated families to feel respected, cared for, and part of a community – *they matter and they have not been forgotten*. This can be the spark of hope which helps a family move forward on a rocky path to self-sufficiency or for a scared and struggling individual to find the courage to reach out for help for the first time. During the rest of the year, Project Self-Sufficiency is devoted to education, job training, and family strengthening programs which help build the foundation for long-term success. Visiting the Season of Hope Toy Shop often represents the first step on this journey and may be the only way to connect individuals to the services they desperately need.

Still Have Questions?

Contact Project Self-Sufficiency, **973-940-3500**.