



**Christmas Clearing Council**  
of Waukesha County

# CHRISTMAS NOTES

October 2024

Christmas is a season to enjoy time with family and friends. We also know it's a time for many of our neighbors to reach out and help someone else. The treasured memories many of us have of holidays past sometimes aren't shared by families that are struggling. It's the generous acts of thousands of angels each season that help restore the magic of Christmas for many children in our community. Thank you for making the season brighter for Waukesha County families grappling with serious financial challenges.



**Sarah Hein**  
Executive Director



As I write, it's a hot Waukesha County summer day, but at CCC, we're thinking of snow and Christmas trees and carols and ... well, you get the picture. This year, we are making a special plea for gift cards for our teens. (See page 2 for how to help.) In 2023, we shared the spirit of the season with 1,512 teens, 507 of whom were not sponsored and received gift cards. Your generous gift card donation will make a teen smile this Christmas. We hope that will make you smile, too.



**Ron Weber**  
CCC Board President



## JINGLE BELL JOG AND WALK 2024 WAS A SANTA-SIZED SUCCESS



On Aug. 4, more than 200 runners and walkers of all ages gathered at The Ingleside Hotel for the third annual 5K run, 2-mile walk and children's fun run. Despite the heat, Santa showed up to help with the festivities.

More than \$15,000 was raised to support our 2024 Toy Shop and teen gift card programs.

A special thank you to Trackside Timing, The Ingleside Hotel and our many generous sponsors. Watch our social media pages for an announcement this fall about our 2025 Jingle Bell Jog and Walk date.





## FULFILLING CHRISTMAS WISHES IN 3...2...1



# 3.



**Sponsor a child.** Deadline to sponsor is Dec. 8 at 11:59 p.m. Scan the QR code to the left or visit [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/sponsor-a-family](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/sponsor-a-family) to sign up online today.

# 2.



**Donate.** Make a financial, toy or gift card donation. A list of toy drop-off sites, a link to our gift card registry, and online donation information can be found by scanning the QR code to the left or by going to [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/donate](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/donate).

# 1.

**Share.** Tell others about CCC's mission, organize an event to support CCC, or gather a group to volunteer. Encourage families who are struggling to fill out our online application by Nov. 15. For information on all the ways to help or get help, visit [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org).



## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS WALK 2024

### Mark your calendar!

Nov. 15-17 & 22-24, 5-9 p.m.

The Ingleside Hotel's Country Christmas will host two weekends of walking nights this year. A portion of proceeds from both weekends help support CCC. Since our partnership with the Ingleside began in 2019, more than 14,000 people have enjoyed the iconic Christmas lights display on foot along the nearly 1-mile path. Gather your friends and family, including the 4-legged ones, to enjoy this winter wonderland.

Purchase tickets in advance at [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/illuminatedwalkthroughcountrychristmas](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/illuminatedwalkthroughcountrychristmas) or at the event.

# MEET OUR 2024 ANGEL AWARD WINNERS

The Christmas Clearing Council established the annual Angel Awards in 2006 to recognize those in our community who, through special acts of generosity, further the CCC mission of helping families celebrate a more joyful Christmas. We are proud to announce the 2024 recipients.



## YOUTH: Sophia Martin

Sophia, an Oconomowoc High School student, made 40 tie blankets and donated them to our 2023 Toy Shop. Blankets, quilts and sleeping bags are extremely popular gifts at Toy Shop and every one of the blankets she donated is being snuggled by a happy child. The enterprising Sophia enlisted the support of the Oconomowoc Public Library as a collection site for generous community members to donate fleece.



## BUSINESS: Hydrite Chemical Corp.

Hydrite and its employees have been actively involved in CCC for more than a decade. The company has donated funds each year since 2013, sponsored children in 2021 and sponsored our 2022 Jingle Bell Jog. In addition, a dedicated crew of Hydrite colleagues has provided a critical service to Toy Shop for many years – sorting, organizing and packaging thousands of stocking stuffer items for the children we serve.



## INDIVIDUAL: Jason Kellner

Jason has been a dedicated volunteer at our annual bike build for more than a decade. After a pandemic-related hiatus on being able to offer a bike as an option for a child, we lost the former volunteer who checked and fine-tuned all the bikes before Toy Shop began. True to form, Jason didn't hesitate to step up and fill that void in 2023. As a result, all the bikes were ready for riding.



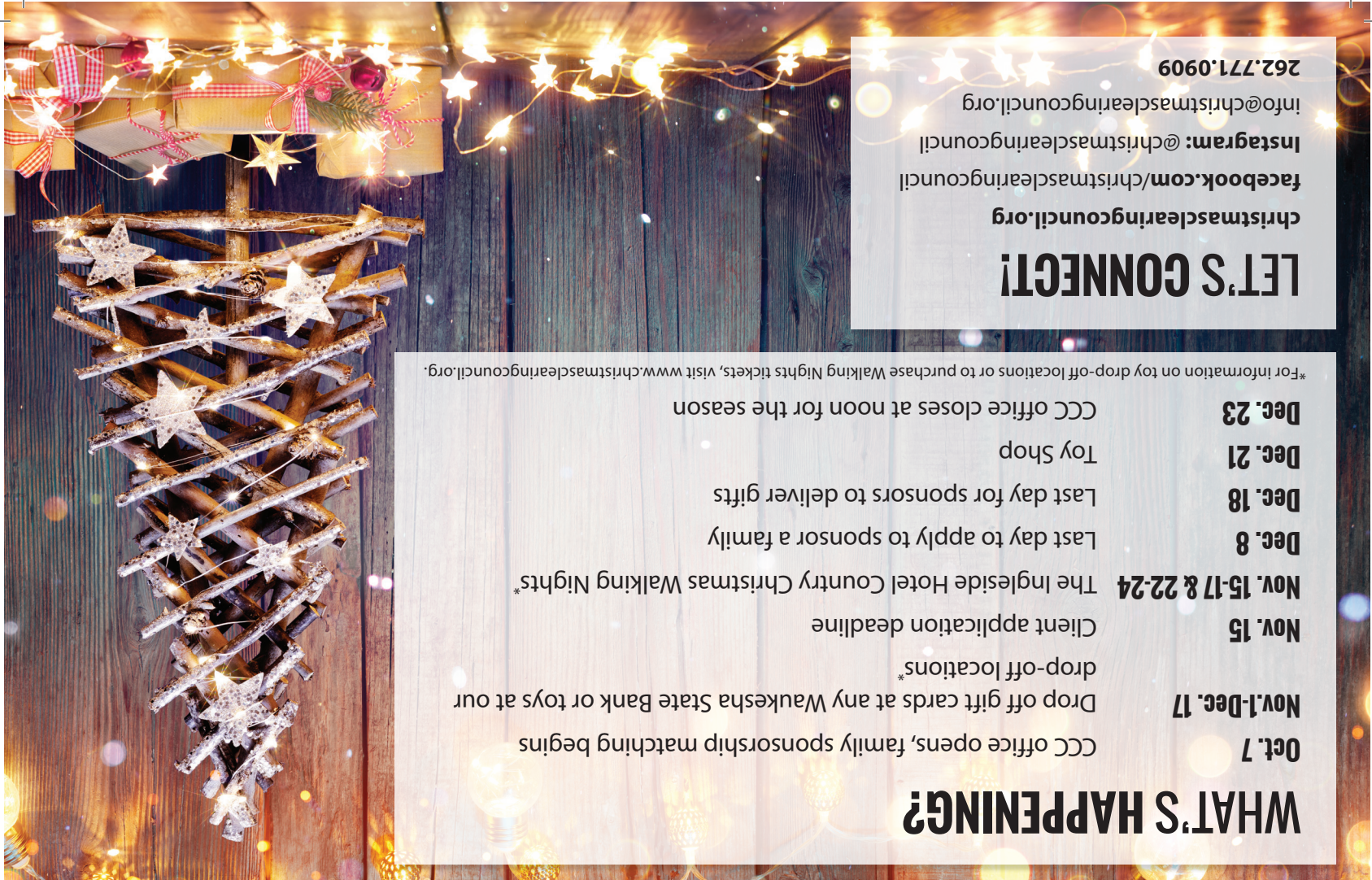
## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: FUMC Piecemakers

The First United Methodist Church (Waukesha) Piecemakers have been donating beautifully hand-crafted small quilts for our annual Toy Shop for more than 15 years. These treasures are created by a small group of women with a winning combination of patience, talent and love. They are popular items chosen by our Toy Shop clients and used as lap quilts, covers for doll beds and floor mats for infant play time.



## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Shannon Fischer

Shannon, an experienced professional, owns Shannon Rose Photography in Waukesha and specializes in family, senior and branding photography. In 2023, she conceived and organized a Christmas family portrait event to support CCC. The proceeds from that event were donated to CCC – a testament to Shannon's sense of community spirit and her generous heart – and used to sponsor 10 children.



## LET'S CONNECT!

christmasclearingcouncil.org  
 facebook.com/christmasclearingcouncil  
 Instagram: @christmasclearingcouncil  
 info@christmasclearingcouncil.org  
 262.771.0909

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Oct. 7** CCC office opens, family sponsorship matching begins
- Nov.1-Dec. 17** Drop off gift cards at any Waukesha State Bank or toys at our drop-off locations\*
- Nov. 15** Client application deadline
- Nov. 15-17 & 22-24** The Ingleside Hotel Country Christmas Walking Nights
- Dec. 8** Last day to apply to sponsor a family
- Dec. 18** Last day for sponsors to deliver gifts
- Dec. 21** Toy Shop
- Dec. 23** CCC office closes at noon for the season

\*For information on toy drop-off locations or to purchase Walking Nights tickets, visit [www.christmasclearingcouncil.org](http://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org).



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