



Committee Members

Chief Eric Muszynski

Gerrish Twp. Police Dept. & ACT NOW

Julie Hill

Gerrish Twp. Police Dept. & ACT NOW

Bob Barber

ACT NOW

Cathy Erickson

Roscommon Rotary & Interact Club

Ben Elliott

Houghton Lake Rotary & Interact Club

Suzanne Luck

Roscommon County Community
Foundation & Youth Advisory Council

Tracy Wyszynski

MI Dept. of Health & Human Services

Rachael Shorey

MI Dept. of Health & Human Services

Foster Children
Christmas



Contact

For more information on
the Kids Helping Kids
Program or to make a
donation please contact
Julie at (989) 821-5207
Ext. 291 or Email at
jhill@gerrishpolice.org

Kids Helping Kids Program

History

This is an annual program that began in 2008 that provides Christmas gifts for Foster Children and a gift card for food for the Foster Families in Roscommon County. Many of the children from Roscommon County are placed in foster homes in Ogemaw County as there has been a decline of licensed foster homes located within Roscommon County.

The State of Michigan only provides a \$25 gift card per foster child to be used at Christmas time. A small committee of community members saw a need for providing more than this during the holiday for these children and their families.



Community Partners

- **ACT NOW - Gerrish Township**
Advisory Community Team -
Neighbors On Watch - **Fiduciary**
Agent for Kids Helping Kids Fund
- **Roscommon County**
Community Foundation
- **Roscommon Rotary Club**
- **Houghton Lake Rotary Club**

Funding

Funds for the program come mainly from our major partners every year along with some individual and anonymous donors.

The average annual budget varies from \$6,200 - \$11,450 depending on the number of foster children in the system.

Origins

The name of the program came from the idea that local youth groups would help out the foster youth by shopping for Christmas gifts and wrapping them.

Gift suggestions are provided by the DHHS staff and after the shopping and wrapping are completed the gifts are delivered to the foster children by DHHS staff before Christmas.

The youth volunteers understand the privacy of the program and take great pride and enjoy participating giving them a sense of community service.

New Traditions

The program began as an in-person party including a family-style holiday meal and gifts that were handed out by Santa. 2020 and COVID-19 brought restrictions and changes to the program and since then gifts are delivered by DHHS staff and a family gift card is provided for food.

