



Coalition Newsletter

News You Can Use | Little Wishes 2026—Illinois

Little Wishes Holiday Program: Deadline October 15

It's time to register for the Little Wishes Holiday Program! Thanks to KSDK 5 On Your Side and thousands of generous donors, your children impacted by foster care can receive holiday gifts.

We ask that you please register ONLINE.

Children are eligible if they live in the IL counties of Bond, Clinton, Washington, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, or Randolph and are currently in the foster care system, or were in foster care and now live in one of these counties with their adoptive or guardianship family.

Step 1:

Locate your **Coalition Caregiver ID**, which can be found above your address on the outside of this newsletter.

Step 2:

Find a secure address to provide for gift delivery—avoid P.O. Boxes. Most shippers require a physical address and leave boxes at the front door. We receive calls every year from caregivers who didn't receive gifts that were shipped to them. Unfortunately, we can't replace gifts that were delivered.

Step 3:

Ensure you have the name and phone number for each child's **current foster care case manager or adoption/guardianship subsidy worker**. We WILL verify this info.

Step 4:

Choose gifts!

- Youth currently in foster care who are under 8 years old may request 1 gift from the white sheets of the catalog
- Youth currently in foster care who are 8-20 years old should request 1 gift from the white sheets and 1 gift from the yellow sheet of the catalog
- Youth who live with their adoptive/guardianship family may request 1 gift from the white sheets of the catalog until their 18th birthday

Step 5:

Submit your wish requests online starting Friday, September 25. This preferred method is easy and helps avoid errors! Scan the QR code or go to:

foster-adopt.org/wish



What if I can't submit my gift request online?

If you're unable to submit your gift requests online, please register by calling (314) FOSTER-3 during our available phone registration days:

October 2, 8, or 15 | 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

If online and phone registration aren't possible, fill out and return the enclosed form ASAP. If your request form is filled out incorrectly or inappropriate gifts are chosen, age-appropriate gifts will be selected for the child.

Questions?

Please call **(314) FOSTER-3**.

Important Upcoming Dates

ANTICIPATE 60-90 MINUTE HOLD TIMES BEFORE NOON THE FIRST DAY OF PHONE REGISTRATION

Motion for Kids Phone Registration (until all spots are filled) 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.			Little Wishes Holiday Program Phone Registration (online preferred) 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.			Holiday gifts may arrive any dates between	
Tuesday, October 6	Wednesday, October 7	Thursday, October 8	Friday, October 2	Thursday, October 8	Thursday, October 15	Thursday, November 12	Tuesday, December 22



Motion for Kids Party

Sunday, December 6 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Harris Stowe University
3026 Laclede Ave. | St. Louis, MO 63103

Each December, the Bar Association of St. Louis throws a fun holiday party for families in the St. Louis region. For years, our families have enjoyed an event filled with gifts, activities, and lots of joy. Each child registered for the event requests one gift. Motion for Kids donors purchase these gifts for families to pick up at the party!

Who can register?

You must be a family with foster/adopted/guardianship children who are 17 years old or younger. **Only people living in your household may attend.**

How do I register?

Register by calling (314) FOSTER-3 until all spots are filled.
October 6–8 | 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Spots are limited and filled on a first come, first served basis! We **will not** take registrations by voicemail or email. Please anticipate long wait times. **Tip:** During the first few hours on the first day, it can be very difficult to get through. If you experience this, please try calling back later in the afternoon.

What do I need to register?

When you call, you must have a specific gift request priced around **\$50** for each child. Be specific, including brands, titles, and sizing: (e.g. “Lego Minecraft set” or “Boys t-shirt, red or black, Nike or Adidas, size Youth 10-12”). This helps the donors know exactly what to get your child. **Gift card and cash requests are NOT accepted.**

What if I can’t attend the event?

All gifts must be picked up at the event, no exceptions. If you won’t be able to attend, please don’t register.

Successful Parenting Skills

The Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition offers a variety of workshops each month designed to help you:

- Understand how a child’s past experiences can affect their behaviors
- Explore ways to enhance your strengths as a parent
- Develop new skills to positively guide your child’s behaviors and attitudes
- Discover strategies to reduce stresses of parenting
- Connect with other parents to share resources

All trainings are offered virtually to help reduce barriers to participation. Keep an eye on your email for our monthly **Parent Opportunities & Insights** newsletter or visit **foster-adopt.org/parenttraining/** to explore upcoming workshops and training opportunities.

We look forward to helping you feel more confident and connected on your parenting journey!

