

GEORGETOWN CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER PROGRAM

Brief History

Beth Jenkins, President of Pilot's Choice Aviation, Inc. has responsibility for this Program. It was started back in the late nineties by Joann Ford, Principal of the Ford Elementary School. Beth and her father started out as drivers. The program benefits Meals on Wheels (MOW) and Caring Place families who sign up. However, this is not an Opportunities MOW or Caring Place sponsored event. The goal is to provide a hot Christmas meal catered by Georgetown Sheraton, gifts and holiday goodies to all recipients. The recipients are from moderate to low income families and those on fixed income such as seniors. Georgetown Sheraton, HEB, The Caring Place, Opportunities MOW, Monument Cafe, Georgetown school children, local Georgetown residents, Women Helping Others (WHO), Blue Santa, IKEA and several Sun City neighborhoods donate gift items, food and drivers to make this happen. This is a Georgetown community effort to make sure homebound seniors and needy families have a wonderful Christmas. As of 2020 this program became a 501(c) 3 nonprofit called Holiday Meals Delivered (HMD). All monetary donations are tax deductible. The Christmas dinner and gifts bags are delivered to each family on a one-on-one basis by over a hundred volunteers on Christmas morning. It is anticipated that over 250 families will be served for a total of over 600 meals; 2/5 are seniors, and 3/5 are families.

WHO's Involvement

This has been a WHO tradition since WHO's beginning in 2010. WHO has contributed greatly to making this program a success and helping Beth with her mission on Christmas Day. Committee Members are Pat Scheuer, Anne Marshall and Nina Stancil. Notifications will be via Emails to WHO Members and Sun City individuals via the NRO Bulletin and the CA Communicator. WHO's involvement includes the following:

- 1) Donate and gather toiletry items. A Sun City wide notice is generated to request that WHO and Sun City residents donate toiletry items. Items are shampoo (smaller than 16 oz), deodorant, bar(s) soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes. WHO will be bagging these toiletries at the November 14th Meeting. The Committee will deliver these items to Beth at the Georgetown Airport after the meeting. Because small travel size items are slowly disappearing from hotels, if any small items are donated they will be boxed and given to Helping Hands. Excess toiletries are donated to both Helping Hands and the Caring Place.**
- 2) Cookie baking & packing – A Sun City wide notice is generated requesting WHO membership and Sun City residents to start baking. The packaging of the cookies will again be at the Atrium, 1 Texas Drive on December 23rd. It is planned to package approximately 400-500 dozen cookies including 30 dozen from Monument Café. The WHO Ladies love to have fun so it is suggested that if you are participating in the cookie packing, you wear a Christmas/Holiday sweater. The Committee will deliver these bagged cookies to Beth at the Georgetown Airport after the bagging event. Cookies may not be a necessity but it is Christmas so let's eat cookies.**

- 3) **Gift Purchase** - Beth Jenkins purchases the family gifts and WHO purchases the senior gifts. Gift cards are great (and needed) gifts for seniors. A Sun City wide notice is generated requesting WHO membership and Sun City residents to help a senior by purchasing a \$25 gift card. Strongly suggest that gift cards be purchased from HEB or Wal-Mart. These stores do not charge any extra fees. Nina collects these gift cards, puts them in separate envelopes and labels each envelope per Beth's current senior list of participants. Nina takes these addressed envelopes to Pilot's Choice Aviation on Christmas Eve to be added to the individual gift bags.
- 4) **Drivers for the event.** The goal is to have one driver per family. Last year we had 176 families. This year we are expecting 250 families. Beth will have an ad requesting drivers in the Georgetown Sun Newspaper. The response from this notice will normally be sufficient to get enough drivers. However, WHO helps by sending out an e-mail to its membership, NRO eblast and all of Sun City that drivers are needed on Christmas morning. This is coordinated by Pat and she will let Beth know how many drivers from Sun City and WHO there will be. Volunteer drivers needed are over 160. Drivers are requested to bring a dozen of mixed fruit (per Beth's request). On Christmas Morning, drivers are requested to meet at Pilot's Choice Aviation, stay in their cars and drive through to get their family's name and address and their gift bags. Then they will need to drive to the Georgetown Sheraton to pick up the hot meals for their families.
- 5) **All of the items above, excluding 4) are assembled on Christmas Eve in large IKEA bags by a group of dedicated volunteers. Beth and her staff attaches family information label on each bag.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOTE: All events will be published by emails for WHO Members and NRO for Sun City

September 26 Mtg - General Announcement about this Program

September 28 - 1st email sent out about toiletry drive

October 24 Mtg - Meeting announcement to start thinking about cookies

October 25 - 2nd email about toiletry drive

November 7 - 1st email announcing the start of the cookies baking.

November 12 - deadline for toiletries.

November 14 Mtg - toiletry packaging after the meeting

November 21- 1st email announcing gift cards for seniors

December 5 - 2nd email announcing cookies baking and gift card drive.

December 8 - Email requesting drivers (one time only)

December 20 - gift card deadline.

December 23 - cookies packing.