

Giving Tree FAQ

Q: What is Giving Tree?

A: MIT Giving Tree is a program through the Public Service Center in which on-campus groups or individuals may sign up to provide gifts to children and families in need. We receive requests from local organizations for toys, books, and other essentials for families and children they serve.

Q: What local organizations are the gifts going to?

A: The Guidance Center, Cambridge Children & Family Services, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Elizabeth Peabody House, Nurtury, East End House, DCF Kids' Fund, The Salvation Army, Cradles to Crayons, and Horizons for Homeless Children.

Q: How many gifts do we need to provide?

A: This number will vary based on your group's history with Giving Tree and the need, which varies by year. We ask that you inform us of the number of gifts you feel you can absolutely commit, and we can adjust from there.

Q: What is the price range of a gift?

A: The suggested amount is \$15-20. However, you may find that many of the gift requests fall under this number or you may even desire to spend more on a gift. This is perfectly appropriate, so long as the gift is in good condition and not vastly more valuable than other gifts that will be going to children.

Q: Do gifts need to be wrapped?

A: Some organizations like gifts to be wrapped and others do not, so this will be determined once you have been given gift requests. We ask that you determine your capability of wrapping gifts, as we will only assign you wrapped gifts if you say that you are capable of doing so.

Q: When do we need to have the gifts ready by?

A: December 11th is the hard deadline for donating gifts. We highly encourage gifts to be turned in prior to this date.

Q: What if we find we can't fulfill our gift commitment, or we find we could commit more?

A: Please contact Kyla Truman at the PSC (mitgivingtree@mit.edu) immediately. If it's early, we may still be able to reassign gifts that you cannot provide to another group. If you find you can commit more, please let us know so that we can inform local organizations that we can provide more gifts.

Q: In what other ways can we help?

A: Giving Tree is incorporating a canned food and gently used clothing drive into the programming this year, so if you feel your organization is capable to providing anything in either category, please let us know! We'd love to partner with you in an effort to expand the reach of Giving Tree.

