



# Commander's Guide to Holiday Support Programs 2024



| Date                                    | Program   | Support Categories        | Learn More Here   |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| Applications close<br>November 15, 2024 | <b>Mountain Post Santa's Workshop</b><br><br>A registered non-profit located on Fort Carson that helps to provide toys, books, and games to children in need, of active duty Soldiers in Colorado.  | Toys<br>Books<br>Games    | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br><br>LES/SRB or DD Form 1172-2 Required to apply.   |
| Dates Coming Soon for 2024              | <b>WARRIORS WAREHOUSE TOY GIVEAWAY 2023</b><br>Open to active duty only. No applications - First Come First Served. No children allowed for shopping, only 1 parent. Ages infant to 17 Years – must live in your household and be enrolled in DEERS. You may choose two gifts each WHILE SUPPLIES LAST with no exchanges. For children ages 1 to 12, if a family receives gifts from Santa's Workshop, they are ineligible to also receive from Warriors Warehouse, ages 13-17 can. December 12, 2023 is open to ranks E5 and below. December 13-14, 2023 is open to all ranks in need. | Holiday Gifts<br><br>Toys | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br><br>Bldg. 1045, 5769 Wallace St.<br><a href="mailto:ww.ftcarson.1045@gmail.com">ww.ftcarson.1045@gmail.com</a><br>POC: Donna Swanson<br>402-659-8755 |
| Dates Coming Soon for 2024              | <b>Trees For Troops</b><br><br>Provides free live trees for DoD ID Card holders on a first come, first serve basis  | Holiday Tree              | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>   |
| Dates Coming soon for 2024              | <b>Seasonal Employment Opportunities</b><br><br>The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program hosts the Holiday Coffee Conversations event where you can network with HR professionals who have available seasonal job opportunities.   | Seasonal Employment       | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br>719-526-0452   |

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| Open Year Round | <p><b>Operation Helping Hand</b></p> <p>Program managed by the Fort Carson Religious Support Office providing immediate and direct support for Soldiers and their Families facing food insecurity. For support, contact your Unit Ministry Team. For questions: <a href="mailto:FCCOChaplainRMTeam@army.mil">FCCOChaplainRMTeam@army.mil</a></p> | Food Gift Card  | <p>CLICK IMAGE</p>  |
| Open Year Round | <p><b>2-1-1</b></p> <p>211 is a comprehensive source of information about local resources and services. For Soldiers with Families in the U.S. but out of the Fort Carson area, local holiday assistance can be found by reaching out to their 211 locally.</p>  | <p>Toys</p> <p>Holiday Assistance</p> <p>Holidays Meals</p> | <p>Call 211<br/>Or-<br/>Text your Zip Code to 898-211</p>  |
| Open now        | <p><b>Salvation Army Angel Tree program</b></p> <p>Multiple holiday programs exist to help with school supplies, winter coats, community Thanksgiving, Christmas food boxes and toys for children. Registration is required for assistance</p>   | <p>Toys</p> <p>Meals</p> <p>Coats</p>                       | <p>719-636-3891</p>  |
| Open Year Round | <p><b>Catholic Charities of Central Colorado and El Paso County</b></p> <p>There are assistance programs, including at Christmas, for immigrants, families in poverty, women and others. Free groceries for holiday meals, stocking stuffers for kids, Christmas gift or decorations and more is offered.</p>                                    | <p>Meals</p> <p>Stocking Stuffers</p> <p>Decorations</p>    | <p>719-636-2345</p> <p>228 North Cascade Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903</p>                         |
|                 |  |   |  |

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| Open Now  | <p><b>The Christmas Tree Project</b></p> <p>Their mission is to give away fully decorated Christmas trees to families in need.</p>  | Holiday Tree   | <p><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br/>(719) 799-6070</p>  |
| <p><a href="#">Follow their Facebook page for event and date details</a></p>  | <p><b>Operation Homefront – Holiday Toy Drive</b></p> <p>Helps bring holiday cheer to veteran, wounded and active-duty military families alike! They've partnered with Dollar Tree for more than a decade to provide military families with recurring support during the holidays.</p> <p><b>Operation Homefront – Holiday Meals for Military Families</b></p> <p>The added expense of the holiday season can be challenging for deployed, wounded and veteran families. Operation Homefront recognizes that many military families are separated during this time due to deployments and others travel long distances to be together. Holiday Meals for Military is Operation Homefront's way of saying thank you for the service and sacrifices that you have made for our country!</p> | <p>Toys</p> <p>Holiday Gifts</p> <p>Holidays Meals</p> | <p>Toys and Gifts:<br/><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a></p> <p>Meals:<br/><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a></p> |
| <p>Applications Due<br/>December 8,<br/>2024</p> <p><a href="#">Follow their Facebook page for event and date details</a></p> | <p><b>Christmas Unlimited</b></p> <p>During the holiday season, Christmas Unlimited collects and distributes toys to the families in need in El Paso and Teller counties in a store-like environment, empowering parents to select gifts for their children.</p> <p>What sets Christmas Unlimited apart from similar programs is its method of gift distribution. The Christmas Unlimited Distribution Center is set-up like a retail store. Parents are issued shopping passes (points are allocated based on the number of children they have) to shop our distribution center and pick out Christmas gifts for their children. This allows the client to select what they want for their children and empowers them to be the most important part of the process.</p>                  | <p>Holiday Gifts</p> <p>Toys</p>                       | <p><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a></p>   |

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| Open Now<br>Until December 1, 2024 | <p><b>Soldiers' Angels – Adopt-a-Family</b></p> <p>Soldiers' Angels understands the many challenges faced by military and veteran families. Providing a holiday celebration for their children should never be one of them. Military and veteran families register with Soldiers' Angels and provide the necessary documentation to validate their service as well as their financial status. Though priority is given to families based on their income, Adopt-a-Family is designed to support all families. Qualified families are uploaded to their database and await adoption by individuals, organizations, and businesses. Once linked with their family, adopters can view the family's wish list on their database and also contact the family with any questions or to arrange shipping/delivery of the gifts.</p> | Grocery Gift Card<br>Gifts for Each Child | To register for support or to support a family:<br><br><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a> |
| December 1, 2024                   | <p><b>Mercy's Gate – Home for the Holidays</b></p> <p>Eligibility Requirements: Must be listed on a signed lease or mortgage statement and must not have received rent/mortgage assistance from Mercy's Gate in this calendar year. Landlords and mortgage companies must accept partial payment by check.</p>   | Rent and Mortgage Assistance              | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>  |
| Dates Coming Soon for 2024         | <p><b>Operation Christmas Spirit</b></p> <p>To spread the Spirit of Christmas and share their appreciation for the sacrifices our Active Duty military families make for our country. They do not view Operation Christmas Spirit as an act of charity but as an expression of gratitude and love at a time of year when the best of humanity can be seen.</p>   | Holiday Gifts                             | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>  |
| Applications open November 1, 2024 | <p><b>LEAP - Low-income Energy Assistance Program</b></p> <p>A federally funded program that helps eligible hard-working Colorado pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.</p>  | Heat Payment Assistance                   | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br><br>1-866-HEAT-HELP<br>(1-866-432-8435)             |



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| December 14, 2024<br>9am-3pm  | <p><b>Bob Telmosse Foundation – Christmas Gifts</b></p> <p>Provides a Christmas toy giveaway at the Colorado Springs Event Center. Children will need to be present at this event to receive a gift card. Families with children aged 0 - 18</p>  | Toys<br><br>Gift Cards      | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>   |
| Thanksgiving Meal Dates Coming Soon for 2024<br><br>Christmas Meal Dates Coming Soon for 2024 | <p><b>Colorado National Guard – Meal Assistance</b></p> <p>Everyone needs a little assistance every now and then. The Colorado National Guard Family Program is once again partnering with the Colorado National Guard Foundation, Inc., to aid Colorado National Guard Service Members and Families in need. Their combined goal is to make sure that every Air and Army Colorado National Guard Service Member has the opportunity to have a wonderful holiday season.</p>  | Holiday Meals               | Thanksgiving Meal Registration<br><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a><br><br>Christmas Meal Registration<br><a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a> |
| Dates Coming Soon for 2024  | <p><b>Colorado National Guard – Adopt-a-Family</b></p> <p>The Adopt-a-Family program provides dedicated holiday support to Colorado National Guard Service Members and their Families in need during the holiday season. All faiths and religions are welcome to participate. Program is only for current Colorado National Guard Families. Gifts or gift cards will be provided for Service Members children ages 0-18.</p>  | Holiday Gifts<br>Gift Cards | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>   |
| Dates Coming Soon for 2024  | <p><b>Colorado National Guard – Santa Shop</b></p> <p>Join the Family Programs Office for the 2023 Santa Shop and make this a fun annual tradition part of your family's holiday festivities! Come enjoy holiday refreshments, activates for the kids, meet Santa, have your picture taken in the North Pole, and celebrate the holidays with us! If that was not reason enough to attend, the Santa Shop event also provides, free stocking stuffers, and free gifts! Registered Service Members and family are given to the opportunity to shop an assortment of gifts donated by the community and local organizations. You don't need to be in need to attend event, this is a celebration of the holidays!</p> | Holiday Gifts<br>Toys       | <a href="#">CLICK HERE!</a>   |



# Food Pantries - Commander's Guide to Holiday Support Programs 2024



| Program  | Location(s)   | Information  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Good Shepherd United Methodist Church</b><br>(719) 392-5782           | 1201 Leta Dr.<br>Colorado Springs                   | Mostly canned goods and bags of food are offered at the church pantry.   |
| <b>God's Pantry Ministry</b><br>(719) 382-0643                           | 102 North Main Street<br>Fountain                   | Emergency boxes of good, female products, hygiene goods, and other support is given. There may also be clothes for the homeless.   |
| <b>St. John's Baptist Church</b><br>(719) 633-7017                       | 902 S Prospect Street<br>Colorado Springs           | Some of what may be offered includes basic needs such as clothing, canned food, fresh fruits, and volunteers may serve a hot meal.   |
| <b>Living Hope Church</b><br>(719) 473-9436 for hours or an appointment. | 640 Manitou Blvd.<br>Colorado Springs               | Some of what is offered includes perishable items (fruits, meats, eggs), canned goods including pasta, or maybe baby formula. Call for hours.  |
| <b>Fellow Bible Church</b><br>719-533-2433                               | 4159 Centennial Blvd<br>Colorado Springs            | Provides groceries, meals, and support in El Paso County.  |
| <b>Family Christian Center</b><br>(719) 636-2191                         | 3018 Virginia Ave.<br>Colorado Springs              | Volunteers and social workers strive to address hunger. Children, the disabled, homeless, and indigent may all get groceries and more from the food bank.  |
| <b>Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado</b><br>(719) 528-1247  | 2605 Preamble Pt<br>Colorado Springs                | At Care and Share Food Bank, we believe that no one should go hungry. Every day we provide food to partner agencies across Southern Colorado.  |
| <b>Community Food Pantry</b>   | 3219 S. Academy Blvd.<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80916 | Weekly: Tuesdays and Fridays 2pm-6pm<br>Monthly: Drive-thru food distribution!! *Second Friday of every month.<br><i>Additional Information Necessary for Pick-Up:<br/>Please bring your own bags if you can. (pick your own items with limits). They also have dry dog food, just ask for it.</i> |

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| <b>Springs Food Pantry</b>  | 1930 W Colorado Ave.<br>Colorado Springs  | The Springs Food Pantry has been serving the southern Colorado and surrounding areas for over 26 years. We are the only no boundaries pantry in southern Colorado. This means we will serve anyone who comes to our pantry. Our customers range from single moms with children, the elderly, the homeless, to families and people who can't afford food. We currently serve 300 families a month.   |
| <b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b><br>1-855-855-4626 | Apply Online at:<br><a href="#">Colorado PEAK website</a>                             | The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households in Colorado purchase food. It provides a monthly benefit that helps families and individuals buy the food they need for good health.   |
| <b>Colorado Pet Pantry</b>  | For locations of pet food pop-up pantries, visit the link →                           | <a href="#">CLICK HERE FOR LOCATIONS</a><br>You are eligible to receive pet food from the Colorado Pet Pantry every two months no matter the location. (You can only go to one location every two months).  |
| <b>Mercy's Gate – Holiday Meal Kit</b>                                    | 4360 Montebello Drive Suite #300,<br>Colorado Springs, CO 80918<br><br>(719) 277-7470 | If you are a neighbor in need to assistance, go to Mercy's Gate to pick up a Holiday Meal Kit during open ministry sessions from Nov. 14-Dec. 23.<br><br>On whichever available date you choose, you'll come to Mercy's Gate and receive a meal and a Holiday Meal Kit. As a reminder, each kit will contain classics like turkey, sweet potatoes and dinner rolls ready to be cooked and enjoyed with your loved ones.<br><a href="#">LEARN MORE HERE!</a> |
| <b>Crossfire Ministries</b>   | 3975 N. Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80917<br><br>719-447-1806                  | No-cost groceries, clothing and care for the times when life presses in. Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 3pm and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10am – 1pm   |
| <b>Open Arms Food Pantry – Food Distribution Center</b>                   | 6540 Templeton Gap Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80923<br><br>(719) 591-1800               | Monday – Thursday 1pm – 4pm, Bring current ID and proof of El Paso County address.<br>Stay in your vehicle. Not feeling well? Send someone you trust with your ID and proof of address.   |

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