

The Christmas Giving Tree originated as a project of St. Michael's Catholic Church about 40 years ago under the direction of Sylvia Bryce. Over the years most of the churches of Brady and Conrad have worked together on this community project.



The original Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree presented children with articles of clothing. Bea Lunda spearheaded the efforts of the Tavern Association to provide each child with a toy. As she said, "Every child deserves a new toy at Christmas." Toy tags are still distributed by the liquor store, local bars, and taverns.

For many years, the Food Pantry provided families with Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner food baskets. As the needs grew, they had to limit their efforts to Thanksgiving baskets. Once again, Bea Lunda stepped up and the Tavern Association provided Christmas Dinner Baskets. The liquor store, local taverns and bars continue to organize fund raisers to provide Christmas Food Baskets.

Sponsors of the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree

*St. Michael's Catholic Church
Brady United Methodist Church
Pondera Valley Lutheran Church
Golden West Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
The Church of Latter-Day Saints
Conrad Mission Church
New Life Fellowship*

*Knees Community Club
Conrad High Student Council
Conrad High FCCLA
Pondera County Insurance*

*Conrad Liquor Store
Ed's Tavern
Branding Iron
Dusty's Bar and Grill
TNT Tavern
Santa's Helpers
Conrad Lions Club*

*Town Pump Charitable Foundation
Custom Crop Care
3 Rivers Communications*

*Independent-Observer
I-O Mitten Tree
Gary and Leo's IGA Toy Drive*



2020

CONRAD\BRADY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Families and Individuals living in the Conrad and Brady communities who are in need of Christmas gifts, may register with the Conrad Brady Christmas Giving Tree.

Personal requests **ONLY**

NO second party **REFERRALS** accepted

Tags delivered to participating churches, businesses, and organizations by Saturday, November 22

Toy tags due back to participating bars and taverns by **Wed. Dec. 9**

Registration opens
Monday, October 26

Registration closes
Friday, November 13

788-4880
627-2433
627-2465

questions: jafarkell@3rivers.net

Gifts Due
Sunday AM
December 20 at
the very latest

Gifts can be delivered to the CENTROL Shop behind the Branding Iron Dec. 16-20



Conrad/Brady
Christmas
Giving Tree
distributes the
I-O Mitten
Tree



Gift Distribution
Sunday, December 20
CENTROL Shop
Behind the Branding Iron
on Front Street

Dear Church Leaders,

Once again, it is time to gear up for the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree. Needless to say, due to COVID-19, this year poses many challenges. Before I explain the changes we will be making for this year's Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree, please allow me to review how the Christmas Giving Tree became such an important part of our community.

The Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving tree was started by Sylvia Bryce and Karen Durgin as a project for St. Michael's Catholic Church about 40 years ago. Since then, it has become a community project supported by churches, organizations, individuals, and businesses of Conrad and Brady. Please refer to the enclosed brochure.

Last year the Christmas Giving Tree provided gifts to 92 children. Each child received two articles of clothing and a toy, totaling 276 gifts. Articles of clothing included shirts, pants, winter coats, snow pants, or winter boots. We also distributed the Independent-Observer's Mitten Tree to the children and toys for IGA's toy drive.

The 2019 Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving tree was able to provide Christmas gifts to 95 adults, of whom 28 were referrals from PMC Extended Care, Horizon Lodge, and Mental Health. The others were parents and various individuals living alone. Common requests are for jeans, coats, coffee makers, crock pots, and snow boots.

The 34 families with children, who were registered for the 2019 Christmas Giving Tree, also received Christmas Dinner Food Baskets. These included a frozen turkey, bag of frozen rolls, bag of potatoes, brownie mix, Jello, a can of olives, a can of vegetables, and canned yams with a bag of marshmallows.

Several years ago, the bars and taverns of Conrad and Brady, offered to provide the food baskets and most of the toys. They continue to provide these items by giving out tags to their patrons. As you can see, the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree is truly a community project, and one we can all be proud of.

Due to COVID-19 we will not be able to provide as many gifts as we have in the past because church attendance is down and distribution of and collection of gifts will be more difficult. We will continue to give each child two articles of clothing and a toy. Most adults will not get an actual gift, but hopefully we will be able to provide Conrad Chamber Bucks instead. We will try to continue to provide actual gifts to a dozen or so residents at PMC Extended Care. All families with children will receive the traditional Christmas Dinner Food Basket.

The registration for this year's Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree is open from Monday, October 26 through Friday, November 13. Individuals and families in need of gifts may call

627-2465, 627-2433, or 788-4880 to register. No second party referrals are accepted, except for PMC, Horizon Lodge, and Mental Health. All recipients must live in the Conrad or Brady communities.

Tags describing the needed gifts will be distributed to participating churches and organizations by Saturday, November 21, in time for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Each participating church or organization is expected to have a representative who will be responsible for keeping track of who has checked out the gift tags, collect the wrapped gifts, and deliver them to the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree. **In an effort to increase social distancing, we will be working out of the CENTROL Shop (owned by the Farkells) located on Front Street behind the Branding Iron instead of the Catholic Education Building.**

This year with church attendance at an all-time low and concerns of social distancing, we are asking each church to evaluate their giving capabilities and let us know what we can expect. Will you be able to distribute tags and collect the gifts?

ALL gifts MUST be delivered to the Conrad/Brady Giving Tree at the CENTROL Shop, no later than Sunday morning, December 20. Gifts may be dropped off Wed., December 16 through Sunday morning December 20th. Each church or organization must be sure that all tags and gifts are accounted for.

Recipients of gifts from the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree will pick up their gifts at 2:00 on Sunday, December 20. As you can see, **there is NO time for late or missing gifts.**

Thank you very much for your support of this program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Farkell".

Janice Farkell, Chairperson

jafarkell@3rivers.com

788-4880 or 627-2465

Facebook: Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree