

By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

Each year, the Kansas Children's Service League touches the lives of more than 40,000 children and families in Kansas.

This helps parents become their best, while creating safe and nurturing families for children and assisting struggling parents.



Through Dec. 13, people can help make the holidays special for the children and families KCSL serves by purchasing items from KCSL's Holiday Wish List or making a donation to KCSL to fund programs and services.

KCSL Marketing and Public Relations Supervisor Deena Williams said the wish list is a combination of programs throughout the state, which helps find the needs of children and families.

This, in turn, helps the organization solicit and see what is available for distribution to various families.

"It's really based on the giver," Williams said. "If someone comes in and they donate items and they want it for a specific program that's not in this area, we make sure those items get sent to that area. We can distribute how we like."

KCSL is likewise hosting another December fundraiser with its signature Red Stocking Breakfast, which will take place in Liberal on Dec. 14. Liberal, Williams said, is just one of seven locations in Kansas that has such an event.

"It's one of our big fundraising events. We do have different events in different areas throughout the year, but Red Stocking would be the major one that we do in several places. Liberal does have one," she said. "Theirs is on the 14th."

As with most non-profit groups, Williams said KCSL makes a point to do more fundraising around Christmas time.

"It's a bigger time of year for people to give," she said. "We do an appeal for donors in the winter. We do one in the spring as well, but usually, the one in winter is a bigger time. In general, people give around the holidays."

Williams said the Holiday Wish List is tailored towards the needs of KCSL's clients.

"They look for certain items these families actually need, and that kind of determines how we compile our list," she said.

While the list of items people can donate is extensive, Williams said others can be donated as well.

“We’re always open to people who are willing to donate items to us,” she said. “We’re always willing to take in donations. We take monetary donations which can be done through the Web site as well. If you look at the list, it’s a pretty wide range of items. It covers quite a bit. If someone was wanting to give something different, if it was something that we need, we would use it. If it wasn’t something we could use, we would tell people another organization that would need it.”

Those wishing to make a donation in Liberal can do so by taking it to 50 Village Plaza or 150 Plaza Drive. Gifts are appreciated by Dec. 13, and to make a financial contribution, visit www.kcsl.org.