



IONIA KIDS CLUB SHARES JOY OF GIVING WITH HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS

Ionia; December 1st thru 15th -- Children caring about children -- the perfect way to share the holiday spirit of light and joy. For the 4th year in a row, the Ionia Kids Club will be joining clubs across the United States to assemble and distribute Holiday Hope Chests to local needy children.

The Ionia Kids Club members, who range in age from 8 to 18, are creating the chests by decorating shoeboxes or plastic containers with wrapping paper or stickers and filling them with new small toys, toiletries, art and school supplies for local children living in low income families during the holidays. Each year a different area within Ionia County is selected to receive the Hope Chests. In an attempt to keep this a surprise for the recipients the area to receive is not released. In years past, we have partnered with the Ionia Housing Commission, Saranac Housing Commission, Palo Schools, West Berlin Wesleyan Church and ENRICH of Ionia County. These young volunteers are able to think and wonder about what another child would need, like or find delightful during the holiday season. Children also enclose a hand-made card letting the recipient know that their gift is from a "kid who cares."

The Ionia Kids Club is collecting 200 chests that will be distributed to youth in Ionia County. This is only made possible through local donations from various businesses, churches, and other groups. Last year we partnered with 2 local boy/cub scout packs and 3 area churches. You can see pictures from last year's project on our website at www.kidsclub.ioniahost.com.

This project is part of a nationwide campaign involving youth. Holiday Hope Chests are being created all over the country by youth in Kids Care Clubs. Kids Care Clubs, part of the Points of Light Foundation, are small groups of youth who work together at service projects.

To help the Ionia Kids Club with the hope chests or other projects, please contact Penny Beeman at 616-755-8050 or IoniaKidsClub@gmail.com.



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