



For over 15 years, Kids Care Clubs has been distributing Holiday Hope Chests to thousands of children across the United States. The project is simple and fun. Children find a shoebox in their closet at home, decorate it and fill it with new small gifts and toys. They then insert a special homemade card or drawing to let the recipient know that the chest is from a “kid who cares.”

Kids Care Clubs believes that making a Holiday Hope Chest enables children to be more involved in the giving process than buying a toy and dropping it into a collection box. The children think and wonder about small gifts that another child would need, like or find delightful during the holiday season. Children who receive them are pleased and surprised that other children put such caring and effort into a gift for them. At the same time, children in Kids Care Clubs have an opportunity to learn about the issue of poverty. Compassion Education stories and a Resource Guide are part of this project. These tools are used to initiate discussion and develop compassion among children during club time or sent home to discuss with their families.

Members of the Ionia Kids Club have coordinated this project locally for 4 years! Last year, Kids Care Clubs distributed approximately 20,000 boxes nationwide to needy children. Locally we have grown from about 80 boxes the first year to nearly 200 boxes per year which all stay locally! This project has been grown each year to thanks to many local volunteers and sponsors. Here are ways that you can help us:

- ❖ Work with others in your group, organization, or business to prepare Hope Chests.
- ❖ Donate items that Kids Club Members can place in Hope Chests.
- ❖ Donate funds for Kids Club Members to purchase items or other supplies needed.

We are happy to help you with whatever you need to put together boxes. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us in this project!

Hope Chests can be dropped off at the First Christian Church in Ionia December 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup> by appointment. Please contact us to schedule a pick up or drop off at 616-755-8050 or email us at [IoniaKidsClub@gmail.com](mailto:IoniaKidsClub@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Penny Beeman, Kids Club Coordinator