



**2018**  
**“Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative**  
**November 19<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup>**

This Annual initiative is sponsored by the Lewis County Youth Bureau in support of the Lewis County Department of Social Services (DSS) as well as many other local agencies, who recognize there is a hidden epidemic that has to do with homelessness, lack of safe and affordable housing and assisting local residents who have faced economic hardships get back on their feet. There are many reasons that families and individuals find themselves “out in the cold” including job loss, illness, addictions, and house fires. As of October 2018, donations received during the 2017 initiative have helped over 168+ individuals and families with personal hygiene, kitchen and bathroom supplies, items needed when a family or individual “start over.” Referrals for donated items come from an array of local prevention agencies including the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Lewis County DSS, North County Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Lewis County Opportunities, Inc, and school districts, to name a few. In 2018 donations also benefitted two families that lost their home due to fire as well as a family who lost the contents of their home due to a bad wind storm. The Youth Bureau also recognizes the importance of helping our Senior Citizens as well as babies, therefore are incorporating donations for two new projects in conjunction with the “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative: **“Loved Twice” Baby Boxes:** Donations of baby clothes (new or gently used) sizes newborn to 24 months to support the “Loved Twice” Baby Boy and Baby Girl boxes. Each box will contain enough clothing for babies first year. **Donations for our Senior Citizens:** Requesting donations of items such as gift cards (Kinney’s and Walmart), as well as other items as listed below. At the end of this initiative, all donations collected for our seniors will be given to Lewis County Office for the Aging to provide to their consumers at their discretion. **Below is the list of items requested for the economically vulnerable; the “Loved Twice” Baby Boxes project and for our Senior Citizens:**

**For our Homeless:** Deodorant, Toilet Paper, Sheets (Twin and Full), Manual Can Openers, Pillows/Pillowcases, Soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes, Bath Towels/Washcloths, socks, and Cleaning Supplies. **Baby Items including:** Baby Wipes, Shampoo/Powder, Clothes (newborn to 24 months), Diapers (all sizes), and blankets. **For our Senior Citizens:** Gift Cards, Adult Diapers, Socks, Denture brushes, adhesive cream, and cleanser tablets. Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be utilized to replenish items we run out of throughout the year.

Donated items can be dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce beginning November 19<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup> Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm, or contact Penny (Demo) Moser at 315.376.5411 to make other arrangements.

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE....THANK YOU!**