



# CAPtions



A publication of FiveCAP, Inc.

November-December 2020

## The **GRINCH** did **NOT** steal Christmas!!



*Volunteers Justin (Grinch) and Amber Sedelmaier (Elf) added to the sense of festivity in Manistee.*

## Toys for Tots / Gifts for Teens puts gifts under Christmas trees for 814 children!!

See article and photos on pages 2 & 3.



*Pictured: Masks displayed at Mason County TFT/GFT distribution for parents to choose from.*

## TFT/GFT gifted masks from Hollywood!

Manistee raised actress Toni Trucks (Co-Star in the CBS series Seal Team, character Lisa Davis), partnered up with celebrity fashion designer Patrick “Fresh” Henry and his brother Chase Morgan of Henry Mask Co. to donate 850 child and adult size masks to area children.



*Toni Trucks, AKA Lisa Davis of Seal Team!*

Boxes of the cheerful individually packaged designer masks showed up on FiveCAP’s doorstep on December 16th just in time to be handed out at our Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens distributions for parents to include with their children’s gifts on Christmas morning.

The Los Angeles, California Henry Mask Co. was launched by the two Memphis, Tennessee brothers in April 2020.

“HENRY was created as a solution for a real problem. This



*Pictured: Patrick “Fresh” Henry and his brother Chase Morgan of Henry Mask Co.*

started as response to the U.S. mask shortage and within a few months become everyone’s favorite mask brand. Understanding the lack of resources for frontline workers and dire conditions many families were put in, we knew we had a responsibility to give back.” stated Patrick (AKA Fresh) Henry. “We’re grateful to be able to support Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens, and applaud FiveCAP for their dedication to helping kids.”

“We are so thankful for this special donation. It shows her (Toni’s) heart is in Michigan”, stated Mary L. Trucks, FiveCAP Executive Director.

### FiveCAP, Inc. County Office Locations

Mason County (Main Office), *Scottville*—(231) 757-3785      Lake County, *Baldwin*—(231) 745-4617  
Manistee County, *Manistee*—(231) 723-8327      Newaygo County, *White Cloud*—(231) 689-6688



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.fivecap.org](http://www.fivecap.org)**

Visit the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center website: [www.historicidlewild.org](http://www.historicidlewild.org)

## FiveCAP Toys for Tots/ Gifts for Teens distributes Christmas gifts to **814 children**

Christmas morning was brighter for hundreds of children in Manistee and Mason counties, thanks to the 48<sup>th</sup> Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens and the generosity of the community and area businesses.

The Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens program, spearheaded by FiveCAP, Inc., along with Synergy Media, Inc., makes sure children ages 0 to 18 in low-income homes in the area have new presents to unwrap on Christmas morning.

This year, a total of 814 children in 312 families were served; with 465 children (174 families) in Mason County, and 349 children (138 families) in Manistee County.

Smiling faces and holiday cheer greeted parents and guardians who came to pick out gifts for their children on Dec. 16 and 17. They were able to choose a major gift and several small ones for each child, along with stocking stuffers and a family game.

We are very thankful to the Holiday Inn Express Graystone Event Center in Ludington and the Manistee VFW Hall in Manistee County for their support in providing distribution sites large enough for screening and social distancing.

The success of the annual Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens program depends on so many facets of the community coming together to donate time (volunteers), toys/gifts and money to the program. Cash contributions help so we can shop to make sure there are enough gifts to distribute to all families registered in the program.

The West Shore Bank Spirit of Giving Fund of the Community Foundation for Mason County donated groceries for 40 meals for Christmas dinner which were given to families at the Mason County distribution.

“As Santa’s helpers, Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens each year allows us to experience the amazing hearts and giving spirit of our community”, said FiveCAP Executive Director Mary Trucks. Trucks reported that the single largest donation was \$5,000 from a local company and that several business gave over \$1,000. All purchases are made locally and helps to support our local economy.

Each donation made in Mason and Manistee counties stays in that county. Essentially, the generosity of businesses and individuals brought cheer to their neighbors, reflecting what the Christmas season is largely about, thinking of others.



*Above: Graystone Event Center in Ludington ready for distribution!*



*Above: Mason County staff and volunteers. During the distributions, safety precautions due to COVID-19 were observed. Volunteers were required to wear masks and gloves. Upon arrival, parents and guardians had their temperature checked and were required to wear masks. Those who didn't bring a mask were given one. A limit of four shoppers at a time were guided through the shopping area.*



*Above: On Monday, December 14, Ludington Meijer presented a check for \$2,500 to the Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens program. (Photo courtesy of the Ludington Daily News.) Just one of MANY generous donations received this holiday season.*

# TOYS FOR TOTS / GIFTS FOR TEENS 2020

## Making Christmas a little **brighter!**



Another success thanks to our **VOLUNTEERS!!**

*Above: Manistee staff and volunteers gather together for a quick photo; and arranging/sorting masks donated by Henry Mask Co.*

*Below: Manistee—Large tables were packed with so many fun gift items to engage the interests and needs of children age 0-18...from art supplies and crafts, dolls, toy cars and trucks, electronics, care products for teens, puzzles and family games, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers, coloring books, and so much more.*



*Below: In Manistee County, Five Star Realty donated 28 bikes; Oaks Correctional Facility donated 2 bikes; and an anonymous individual donated 5 bikes and 3 scooters.*

*Kenner McKie of Big "K" Construction donated 4 bikes to the Mason County distribution which were raffled off and picked up in time for Christmas.*



**Bikes Galore!!**

### Blue Earth Tree Farm donates Christmas Trees

Thanks to Chris Frederick, owner of Blue Earth Tree Farm in Ludington, who again donated Christmas trees to FiveCAP, many families facing hard times didn't have to forego the tradition of having a Christmas tree.

On December 5th, Frederick gathered a band of volunteers to cut 80 trees, which were then loaded up by FiveCAP staff and volunteers and taken back to each of the four counties in FiveCAP's service area to be given free of charge to area families.

For over a decade, Blue Earth Tree Farm has provided us with trees to give to families who cannot afford to buy one. It's really wonderful that we have trees available for these families so parents can build traditions with their children, and have that centerpiece for their holiday celebrations.



*Photo courtesy of Ludington Daily News*

## FiveCAP Head Start providing quality in-person and remote learning

Parents take part in a great opportunity in these times when routines are drastically disrupted due to COVID-19. FiveCAP Head Start offers four (4) days a week, Monday thru Thursday services. Using technology, we are meeting children's needs to create early critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence with in-person classroom and remote learning.

Despite temporary closure of in-person classroom learning mid-November through Christmas break because of the State Order and pandemic, remote learning continued to be provided to all children.

Remote learning is structured so each day parents call in for attendance. Teachers follow lesson plans with daily contact using FaceTime, Zoom and/or YouTube for activities and daily lesson plans. Parents also can log in through their email to access suggestions of activities to do at home.

In preparation for remote learning, age-appropriate learning tablets were purchased and issued out to parents for all children in the program that are remote learning. The special touch-screen tablet allows the teacher to track and access each child's progress in real time. New activities are uploaded weekly to help the student move to the next level, moving towards their readiness for kindergarten.

Kindergarten readiness is measured through seven childhood development domains: Social/emotional, physical, language and communication, math, phonics, social studies, science and technology. With activities and lessons focused on these domains, teachers assess whether a child is not there yet, making progress, or is ready for kindergarten.

Parents enrolling their children in a classroom at a FiveCAP Head Start Center can be assured all precautions are being taken to observe COVID-19 protocols to keep children, families and staff safe, while providing the best normal learning environment possible. Screening and temperature checks are taken prior to entering the center or riding the bus. Close contact is minimized in the classroom and during transportation, and parents are not allowed in the centers. Masks are worn during transportation and in the classroom by both students and staff. Each classroom undergoes extra cleaning and sanitization protocols several times a day and as needed.

The free program is open to families eligible whose household income is up to 130% of the federal poverty level. Support services such as transportation are available at no cost.

Openings are available at FiveCAP Head Start Centers in for both in-person classroom and remote learning. In-person classroom size is limited to 10 children and two adults, in compliance with State Child Care licensing rules to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

For more information, contact the FiveCAP Head Start Center in your area, call (231) 757-3785 or visit our website [www.fivecap.org](http://www.fivecap.org).

### IN-CLASSROOM LEARNING



*Above and Right: With masks and protocols in place, children participate in activities and their daily routines in the classroom.*

### REMOTE LEARNING



*Left and Below: Along with daily lesson plans, children have fun and explore their creativity in the comforts of their home.*

*Parents/guardians are provided the materials and guidance for activities to do with their children.*



*Right: Technology, Technology, Technology! Age-appropriate Hatch Ignite tablets are programmed with many fun activities and lesson plans individualized for each child.*



## **WALK FOR WARMTH** planned for **Saturday, February 20th**

Help us ensure that funding is always available to keep the heat on for local residents that may fall through the cracks of other programs and are facing having their heat shut off. Join us for our annual Walk for Warmth events in Lake, Mason, Manistee and Newaygo counties to raise funds and public awareness.

Community groups and individuals are asked for their support and participation. The annual Walk for Warmth events, with masks and social distancing, will take place on **Saturday, February 20** from 10 a.m. to noon in **Ludington, Manistee, Baldwin, and White Cloud.**

Organizers ask that participants get their friends, families, co-workers, community and church groups involved with the event. Ask your employer to pledge matching funds to what you and your co-workers raise! Or make a direct contribution, accepted year-round. **Pledge sheets and charitable contribution forms are available on our website [www.fivecap.org](http://www.fivecap.org) or call your County FiveCAP Office.**



## **December food distributions help 1,891 households**

Distributions took place on Dec. 3, for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) which served a total of 1,017 families in need, and on Dec. 9, through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) distribution, which helped put food on the shelves for a total of 874 senior citizens.

Safety measures due to COVID-19 are a priority during the no-contact distributions. Volunteers wear masks and boxes are delivered right to people's vehicles.

Both the TEFAP and CFSP programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) through the Michigan Department of Education.



## **Seniors and families receive Quarantine Kits**



FiveCAP made sure Early Head Start and Head Start families, and low-income seniors, were provided with Quarantine Kits of essential supplies for emergency preparedness to help get through this COVID-19 pandemic.

Recipients were contacted by letter which informed them about the Quarantine Kits which were then delivered to their door via UPS by the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) to reduce the amount of times people have to go out for supplies and possibly be exposed to the virus. Kits also provide supplies which may be otherwise difficult to find on emptying store shelves.

RRT made deliveries of food boxes and home essential boxes filled with household cleaning products to 234 Early Head Start and Head Start families in the FiveCAP four county service area. Home essential boxes also were delivered to 160 seniors in the four counties.

Funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) program through Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).



## **Addressing the Digital Divide with devices and internet**

Internet connectivity is necessary for health, education, employment, and access to resources. FiveCAP received a Digital Divide Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) grant to provide devices and up to 12 months internet connectivity to those that do not have and cannot afford (need and income eligibility required). FiveCAP purchased 50 laptops and 133 tablets. We are determining recipients most in need and planning distribution and service details.

## **Water & Plumbing Repair program extended to Feb. 15**

FiveCAP offers assistance with water plumbing, well repair/replacement, and septic repair/replacement. This Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) program funding has been extended to February 15, 2021. To apply for assistance, call your County FiveCAP Office.



602 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 67, Scottville, MI 49216

Return Service Request

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Scottville, MI 49454  
Permit No. 46

## CAPtions

**Anita Brown**  
Chairperson,  
Board of Directors

**Mary L. Trucks**  
Executive Director

*CAPtions* is published by FiveCAP, Inc., a non-profit corporation providing services to the people of Lake, Mason, Manistee and Newaygo Counties. Production is supported by Agency discretionary funds.

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## Mark Your Calendar

**Note: Due to COVID-19: Offices staffed but open by appointment only. Please call. Secure drop boxes provided for documents at all FiveCAP locations.** Board of Directors and Policy Council Meetings held via tele/video conference until further notice.

### JANUARY

Jan 1 *New Years Day Holiday—Offices Closed*  
Jan 4 Head Start children return from holiday break  
Jan 12 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
Jan 18 *Martin Luther King Day Holiday—Offices and Centers Closed*  
Jan 28 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

### FEBRUARY

**FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION: Call your County FiveCAP Office!**

Feb 9 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
Feb 10 CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution  
Feb 20 WALK FOR WARMTH—contact County Office for more info.  
Feb 25 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

### MARCH

Mar 4 TEFAP Quarterly Food Distribution  
Mar 9 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
Mar 18 & 19 HS/EHS Grant Planning Meetings—to be advised  
Mar 25 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm  
Mar 29-Apr 2 Head Start Centers Spring Break (Mason/Manistee/Lake Co.'s)

### APRIL

Apr 5-9 Head Start Centers Spring Break (Newaygo County)  
Apr 13 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am  
Apr 14 CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution  
Apr 23 Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting—to be advised  
Apr 29 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

## FiveCAP Programs & Services

- Head Start**
- Early Head Start**
- Weatherization**
- Home Ownership Counseling**
- Foreclosure Prevention**
- Single Family Housing**
- Multi Family Housing**
- TEFAP**
- CSFP**
- Garden/Food Preservation**
- Educational Workshops**
- Food Pantry**
- Tax Preparation Assistance**
- Energy/Utility Assistance**
- Walk for Warmth**
- Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens**
- Information & Referral**
- And more.....**