

## Who are the Livonia Goodfellows?

A group comprised of all volunteers working on one very large task...to ensure there is “No Child Without A Christmas in Livonia”...an equal opportunity organization that affords the fairy tale enchantment of Christmas to all children in our community.

Goodfellows clubs began as early as 1911 in Houston, TX and seemed to spring up simultaneously in many cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Stories abound of the tattered child selling apples or shining shoes on the street corner to help feed the family. One such story tells of an eight year old shoeshine boy in despair on Christmas Eve, because there was no work, and his family was hungry. When he passed the local newspaper office, a reporter exiting the door bumped into the boy and noticed his anguish. The reporter returned to the office, passed around a hat, and collected enough money for the boy and his family to have Christmas gifts and a holiday dinner. Thus, the “Old Newsboys” (predecessor to the Goodfellows) was born.



## History of the Livonia Goodfellows

The Livonia Goodfellows began in 1936, with a group of old newsboys and continues with a contingency of several hundred volunteers...men, women and children who are motivated by reminiscence of their own Goodfellow Christmases, or because they are just plain Good Fellows with the desire to help others who are less fortunate.



## Livonia Goodfellows Organization

The Livonia Goodfellows is a federally recognized 501.C.3 organization and run by a 25-member Board of Directors. There is no membership in the Goodfellows, per se; however, anyone who makes a donation, sells a newspaper, contributes food or toys, or helps in gathering or distributing items is a GOODFELLOW. Volunteers are needed from September through December to help in the many facets of the Goodfellows program. Just call the Voice Mail number, 313-438-0862 today to volunteer.

## Who Receives Assistance And How Funds Are Spent

Recipient families must live in Livonia and have children at home through high school age. Family income is considered, as well as other extenuating circumstances.

In recent years, the Livonia Goodfellows have received over \$100,000 in donations, and have assisted upwards of 250 families with 600-700 children. From the donations received, a clothing voucher for \$100 or more is given for each child, and a voucher for fresh food is given. Toys are also given to the children.



Requests for monetary donations are mailed to every home and business within the city. Canned food drives are held by Livonia and Clarenceville school students, which are then brought to the distribution site. Groups of volunteers, including scout troops and youth groups, work feverishly for several days to sort and box the canned goods and toys, preparing them for distribution.

## Adopt A Family

Some churches, business groups, and families choose to adopt a family to provide additional assistance beyond what the Goodfellows are able to do. This is an acceptable way to involve a number of persons in sharing the Christmas spirit.



## Livonia Youth Commission and Community Choice Credit Union

The Livonia Youth Commission and the Community Choice Credit Union provide back packs each summer for many of the school age children who have received assistance from the Goodfellows.

The Youth Commission sponsors a party for the children in November, while a parent is being interviewed for possible assistance.

## Notes of Appreciation

Many notes of appreciation are received from recipient families. An example read, “Words alone cannot describe the joy our family experienced during the holidays through the generosity of your group. Thank you for our children’s gifts and the food basket...”

## How to Assist the Goodfellows

- Make a Monetary Contribution
- Sell the Goodfellows Newspapers
- Donate Canned or Boxed Food
- Contribute a new, non-wrapped toy or put a toy collection box in a business location
- Interview potential recipients
- Help sort or pack food or toys

## How To Donate

Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

Livonia Goodfellows, Inc.  
P.O. Box 51982  
Livonia, MI 48151

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



“No Child Without A Christmas”



P.O. Box 51982  
Livonia, MI 48151  
Voice Mail: 313-438-0862

[www.livoniagoodfellows.org](http://www.livoniagoodfellows.org)