



# City of Independence

*“Our Fame is in our Name”*

## “Just for Kids” Holiday Store- Special Event, Independence Parks & Recreation

On December 13th, the Independence Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting the 11th Annual “Just for Kids” Holiday Store. Over the past 10 years, we have successfully averaged around 150 children who attend this event.

The goal of this very special event is for children of all ages from this community and the surrounding to come to our “store” and buy Christmas gifts for under the tree without letting mom and dad know what they have purchased. We have 7-10 craft show vendors who sell their homemade craft items at reduced prices. All items sold range between \$ .50- \$5.00 per item. We also have volunteers on the day of the event who assist the children with their shopping, wrap gifts and provide treats and beverages for those who attend.

Adults bring the children to the “store” which is located in the Falcon Civic Center Gym, hand them their list of who they need to buy for and the amount of money they will be spending and volunteers take the children into the store to shop. The children may buy gifts for mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandmas, grandpas, and anyone special on their list. Treats and beverages are provided for the adults as well as the children. In the festively decorated waiting area, we set up tables and chairs, play Christmas music, supply pictures to color and a special mailbox for the children to send their “Letters to Santa”.

Over the past 8 years we have involved local businesses by asking them for donations for this special event. Since the gift wrapping is done at no cost to the child, we need donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper, gift tags, ribbons, bows, tape, and boxes in order to successfully wrap the approximately 300 gifts that are purchased by the children. We have had wonderful response from several businesses in the community and many of them approach the Parks & Recreation Department in October to see when we will begin to accept donations.

In order to get the word out about this special event, we also get in touch with the local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations to donate free or reduced rate advertisements. Community Calendars provide excellent opportunities for local non-profit agencies to spread the word about special events around the area.

We are very proud of this event and look forward to offering it to the children each and every year.

For additional details, please contact Angie at (319) 334-6711 [angieiprd@indytel.com](mailto:angieiprd@indytel.com)