



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
Community Resources Commission  
July 10, 2024

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. CONSENT AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2024
4. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Recent Events
    - i. Protect the Pack
    - ii. Celebrate Meridian
    - iii. #Sockoutsuicide
  - B. Intergenerational Art Project
5. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Ambulance Waiver Request
  - B. Ride YourWay Cost for resident
  - C. Back to School Supplies with Rotary and Kiwanis donation
  - D. Public Service Application to join the CRC.
  - E. Coat Drive: September /Fall Electronics Recycling Day September 21 9am-1pm. Possible Okemos Community Church collaboration.
  - F. November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Date
  - G. Holiday Food Assistance
6. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT
7. BOARD LIAISON REPORT
8. OPEN FORUM
9. ADJOURNMENT

**Next meeting: September 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.**

**No August Meeting**

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Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Interim Township Manager Tim Schmitt, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
meridian.mi.us

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION  
MAY 9, 2024  
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Maingu,  
Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Langhals

ABSENT: Chair Styka, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A: Vice-Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Accepted as written.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Corrections:

4B. 5<sup>th</sup> bullet point "so commissioners know (*how*) the day will run."

4C: communications commission should be capitalized to *Communications Commission*.

**Commissioner Langhals moves to approve the April 10<sup>th</sup> minutes with the above corrections. Seconded by Commissioner Webster. Motion Carried 4-0**

**4. BOARD LISASON REPORT**

- On Thursday, May 9, 2024, there will be a regular meeting of the Township Board.
- Trustee Wilson encourages people to attend if available or watch LIVE.
- Trustee Wilson shared details about the Community Center incorporating a senior center presentation that will be brought before the board during the meeting.

The proposed center may include.

- A dedicated senior center
- Full court gyms
- Auditorium
- Warming kitchens
- Bathrooms/Locker rooms
- Meeting Space
- Low impact work out space
- Offices for the Senior Center staff and Parks and Recreation staff.
- Etc.

- This summer there will be listening sessions for the community.

- This project, if approved by the Township Board, would appear on the November ballot.
- There will also be discussion regarding the Village of Okemos Concept Plan.
- Discussion took place regarding affordable housing.
  - Specialist Love will investigate the contact information for the developer of Woodward Way in Meridian Township. There was discussion by the CRC about potentially inviting him/her to a future CRC meeting to talk about how and why they choose to build low-income housing and how the Township might appeal to other developers to do the same.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### A: Fundraisers

- Biggby Coffee Celebration April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - o Biggby selected Meridian Cares to donate the “roundup” money that was collected at their birthday celebration on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Biggby sent a check for \$64.19 for the emergency needs fund and Specialist Love sent around a thank you letter to be signed by the commissioners.

### B: Community Resource Connection: April 23, 1-3 p.m.

- Commissioner Langhals coordinated a donation from Nothing Bundt Cakes for the event. Specialist Love sent around a thank you to have signed by the commissioners.
- Over 70 people were in attendance representing 40 organizations.
- The event went very well. The feedback has been positive and will plan to do it again in the future.
- Specialist Love will send a thank you card to community member Laura Thompson who assisted packing the bags at the event.

### C: Protect the Pack: June 12, 5-7 P.M.

- Protect the Pack is a community event to support the physical and mental health of Okemos students. Last year they hosted hundreds of students and their families.
- This event will take place at Kinawa Middle School in the front lawn and bus circle.
- Meridian Cares will have a table at the event.
- Vice-Chair Robinson will work on a coloring/activity page that can be handed out to students. Specialist Love will include Meridian Cares information on the back of the coloring page and print when ready.
- Vice-Chair Robinson will give the coloring sheet to Specialist Love by Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> so they can be printed at the Township offices.
- Commissioners will send Specialist Love their availability during the event.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

### A: #Sockoutsuicide

- Specialist Love sent out an email to the Commissioners a few weeks ago to gauge their interest in Meridian Cares being an event partner for the #sockoutsuicide campaign.
- Commissioners were all in agreement to participate.
- #sockoutsuicide will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024. This annual campaign raises awareness and starts important discussions about suicide prevention and mental health. On May 17, Meridian Township community members are encouraged to wear fun, brightly colored socks and join OHS ACTION in taking the #SockOutSuicide pledge:
  - By Participating in #Sockoutsuicide, I pledge to:
    - Seek help or call 988 if I am having self-harming thoughts.
    - Encourage others to seek help from a professional if they are struggling.
    - Call 988 or 911 if I think someone is in danger of self-harm.
- Commissioners took a fun sock photo to be used on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### B: Intergenerational Art Project discussion.

- Commissioner Webster along with Commissioner Whiting-Dobson had previously brought up the idea of an art/note project that would bring together children's art with those in our community who are socially isolated.
- The idea would be to do this project in the winter of 2025, perhaps around Valentines Day.
- Specialist Love will reach out to Jen Baker, Bennett Woods art teacher as well as Jenny Cronin, Kinawa art teacher about this idea and how we might be able to partner with them and what if anything material wise, they would need from us. Specialist Love will pass along the information to Commissioner Webster and Whiting-Dobson for follow up.
- We could then take the artwork/notes to those in our community who are socially isolated.

**Commissioner Maingu moves to approve moving forward with an intergenerational art project. Seconded by Commissioner Turimella. Motion carried 4-0.**

## 7. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

A: Emergency Funds used in April 2024 were \$3,821.95

B: We have used \$14,146.95 out of our budgeted \$40,000 for the year.

C: The ending balance of the emergency needs fund is \$27,816.72.

D: We have \$1,060.78 committed to the emergency needs fund from water bill and property tax round ups that have yet to hit our account. Hoping this is completed in May.

E: We currently have \$3,768.74 sitting in our PayPal account ready to be transferred.

**Commissioner Maingu moves to approve the transfer of available funds that are currently in the PayPal account. This amount is \$3,768.74. After the transfer to Horizon bank, \$254.87 will be transferred to account 272-000.000-674.077 the Deschaine Memorial fund and \$3513.87 will be transferred to 272-000.000.674.060 to the emergency needs fund. Seconded by Commissioner Webster. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **9. OPEN FORUM**

Commissioner Webster provided the board with 3 articles related to low-income housing.

1. House First article.
2. Blog by CATO institute about Housing First.
3. Joh Bon Jovi Soul Foundation.

## **10. ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Maingu made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. with no opposition.

July Mtg.

# Daiah Williams

## OBJECTIVE

I am a recent Michigan State University graduate, pursuing a Master of Public Administration from Wayne State University. I am seeking potential career and educational opportunities in order to build my experience and knowledge.

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.

## ADDRESS

1460 E. Pond Dr., Apt. 35  
Okemos, MI 48864

## PHONE

(248) 595-2626

## EMAIL

Williamsdaiah9@gmail.com

## EXPERIENCE

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### APR 2025 - PRESENT

Communications Fellow | MI House Democratic Communication Team | Lansing, MI

### OCT 2022 - DEC 2023

Phonebank Advisor | MSU Office of Financial Aid | East Lansing, MI

### NOV 2022 - SEP 2023

Legal Assistant | Augustin Law Offices, PLLC | East Lansing, MI

### MAY 2021 - MAY 2023

Leasing Agent | DTN Management | Okemos, MI

## EDUCATION & COMMISSIONS

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### Wayne State University | Detroit, MI | JAN 2024 - DEC 2025

Master of Public Administration; Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate

### Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI | AUG 2020 - DEC 2023

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with minors in Sociology and Law, Justice, and Public Policy.

### Notary Public | MI | JUL 2023 - OCT 2029

Master of Public Administration; Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate

## ACTIVITIES

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Currently, I am a member of ICMA, Wayne State University Chapter, and Black Student Union. As a student at Michigan State University, I was part of the Michigan Government Semester Program and the Legal Internship Program in Spring 2023. These were two rigorous programs offered by the Political Science Department at Michigan State University. Additionally, I participated in a study away program, focusing on DEI in Marketing and PR, to New York.

## LEADERSHIP

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### Alumni Chair | MSU Black Celebratory | JAN 2024 - PRESENT

### Vice President | MSU Black Celebratory | JUL 2023 - DEC 2023

### Historian | MSU Black Celebratory | AUG 2022 - JUL 2023

### Secretary | MSU Sociology Club | AUG 2022 - JUL 2023

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## ABOUT

Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club is donating \$2500.00 & Kiwanis Club of Haslett-Okemos is donating \$2500.00 to be used towards the purchase of priority school supplies and snacks to meet the needs of the Meridian Township schools.

## RESEARCH

Surveys were sent to teachers, admin, and staff at all 12 of the Meridian Township schools. 45 responses were received representing all 12 schools. Based upon the information collected a list of priority needs were compiled and priced.

## PURCHASES

Between July 15-August 5th purchases will be made finding the best prices and using coupons

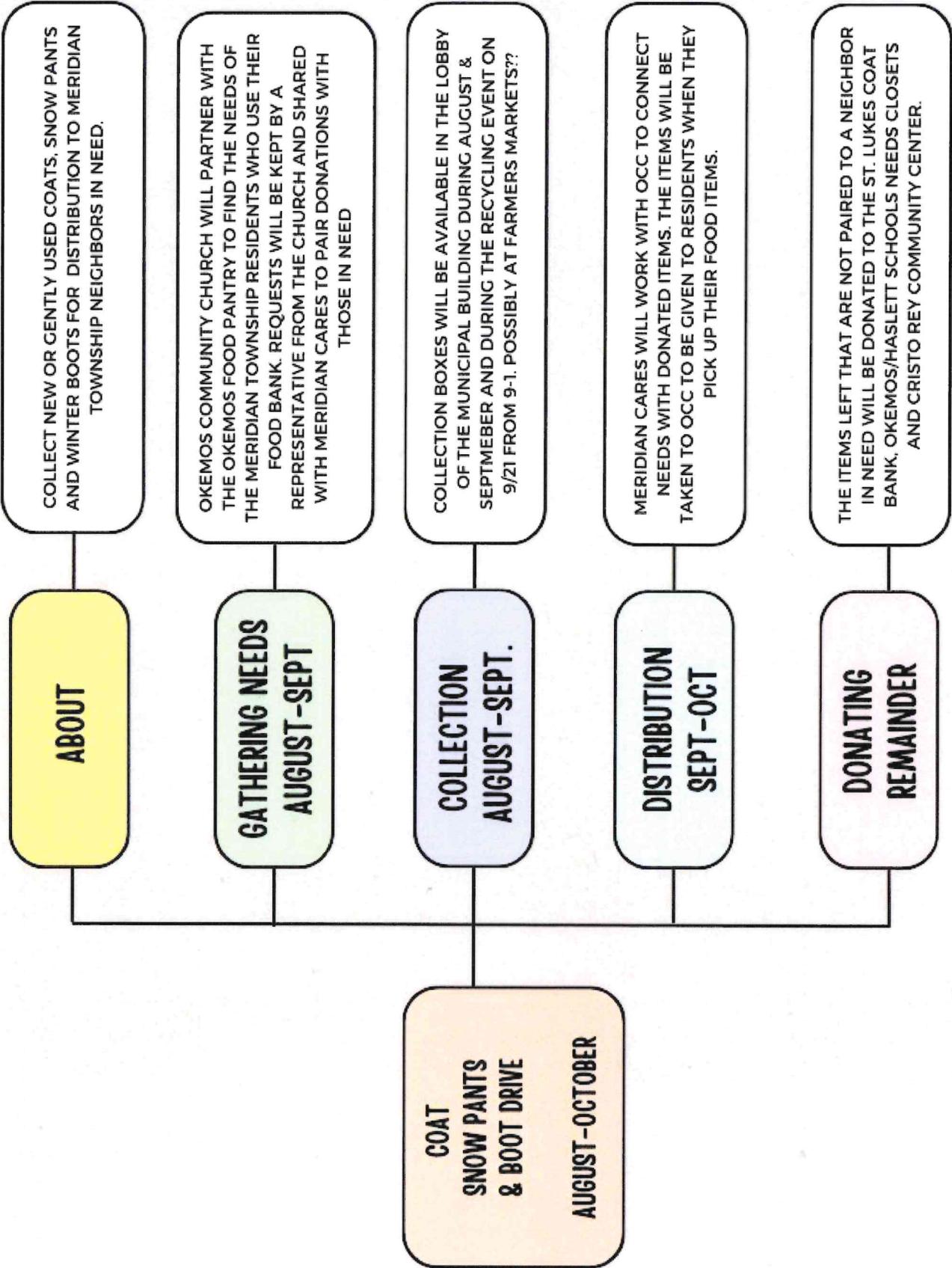
## PACKING

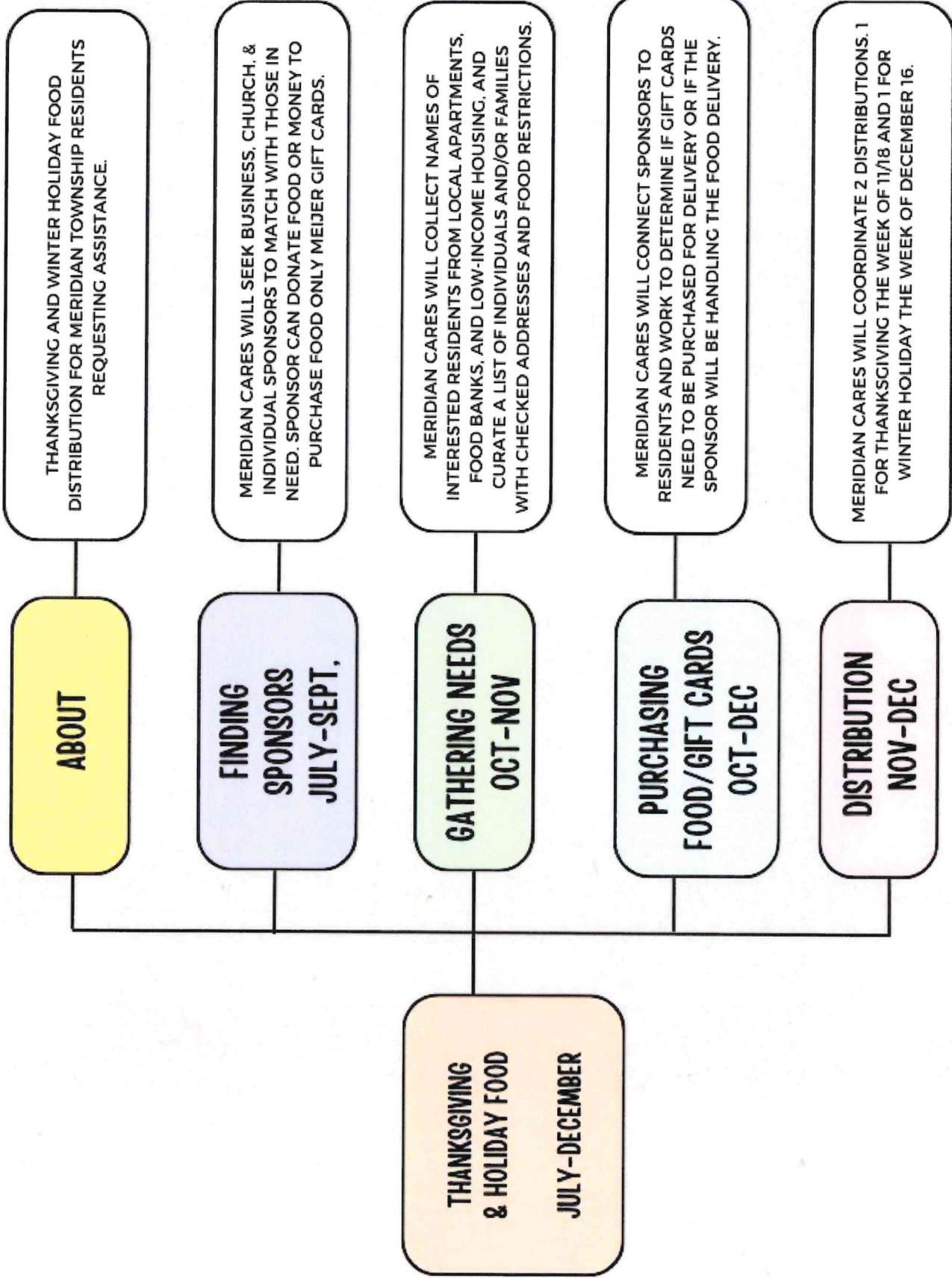
Packing will take place in the Town Hall Room the week of August 12th for distribution to the schools before orientations.

*August 13th 10:30-11:30 a.m.*

## DELIVERY

Delivers will be made to all schools the week of 8/12 preferable early in the week.





**ABOUT**

THANKSGIVING AND WINTER HOLIDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE.

**FINDING SPONSORS  
JULY-SEPT.**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL SEEK BUSINESS, CHURCH, & INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS TO MATCH WITH THOSE IN NEED. SPONSOR CAN DONATE FOOD OR MONEY TO PURCHASE FOOD ONLY MEIJER GIFT CARDS.

**GATHERING NEEDS  
OCT-NOV**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL COLLECT NAMES OF INTERESTED RESIDENTS FROM LOCAL APARTMENTS, FOOD BANKS, AND LOW-INCOME HOUSING, AND CURATE A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND/OR FAMILIES WITH CHECKED ADDRESSES AND FOOD RESTRICTIONS.

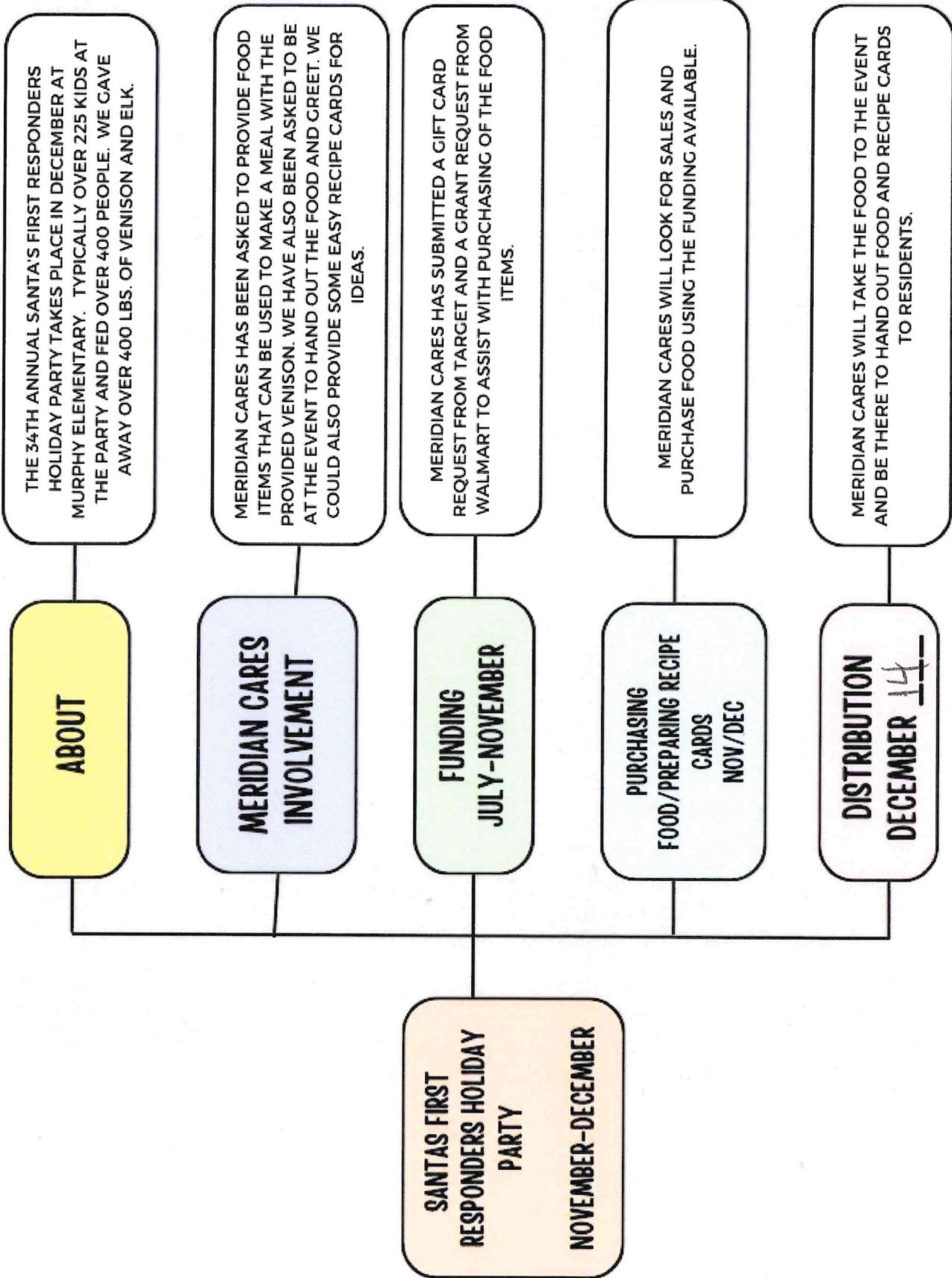
**PURCHASING  
FOOD/GIFT CARDS  
OCT-DEC**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL CONNECT SPONSORS TO RESIDENTS AND WORK TO DETERMINE IF GIFT CARDS NEED TO BE PURCHASED FOR DELIVERY OR IF THE SPONSOR WILL BE HANDLING THE FOOD DELIVERY.

**DISTRIBUTION  
NOV-DEC**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL COORDINATE 2 DISTRIBUTIONS. 1 FOR THANKSGIVING THE WEEK OF 11/18 AND 1 FOR WINTER HOLIDAY THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16.

**THANKSGIVING  
& HOLIDAY FOOD  
JULY-DECEMBER**



**ABOUT**

THE 34TH ANNUAL SANTA'S FIRST RESPONDERS HOLIDAY PARTY TAKES PLACE IN DECEMBER AT MURPHY ELEMENTARY. TYPICALLY OVER 225 KIDS AT THE PARTY AND FED OVER 400 PEOPLE. WE GAVE AWAY OVER 400 LBS. OF VENISON AND ELK.

**MERIDIAN CARES INVOLVEMENT**

MERIDIAN CARES HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE FOOD ITEMS THAT CAN BE USED TO MAKE A MEAL WITH THE PROVIDED VENISON. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO BE AT THE EVENT TO HAND OUT THE FOOD AND GREET. WE COULD ALSO PROVIDE SOME EASY RECIPE CARDS FOR IDEAS.

**FUNDING JULY - NOVEMBER**

MERIDIAN CARES HAS SUBMITTED A GIFT CARD REQUEST FROM TARGET AND A GRANT REQUEST FROM WALMART TO ASSIST WITH PURCHASING OF THE FOOD ITEMS.

**PURCHASING FOOD/PREPARING RECIPE CARDS  
NOV/DEC**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL LOOK FOR SALES AND PURCHASE FOOD USING THE FUNDING AVAILABLE.

**DISTRIBUTION DECEMBER 14**

MERIDIAN CARES WILL TAKE THE FOOD TO THE EVENT AND BE THERE TO HAND OUT FOOD AND RECIPE CARDS TO RESIDENTS.

**SANTAS FIRST RESPONDERS HOLIDAY PARTY  
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**



Celebrate

# Christmas in July

By Sponsoring Local Families' Holiday Meals

Each year, Meridian Township's human services program, Meridian Cares, coordinates the gifting of food and food-only gift cards to local households in need during the holiday season. In 2023, this program supported 529 Meridian Township households between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays.

This **donation-based program** is ONLY possible with the help of our generous local businesses, churches, and families whose support makes sure that no neighbor goes without food for the holidays.

This "Christmas in July", we invite you to step into the holiday spirit and consider supporting this program. Sponsors may:

- Donate funds to support the program
- Provide food for our neighbors
- Donate Meijer food-only gift cards
- Sponsors have the option of delivering food baskets to assigned families

*By September 1, please indicate your interest in participating in this program using the the form link on the right.*

To learn more or indicate your interest in sponsoring, visit [bit.ly/MeridianCaresForm](https://bit.ly/MeridianCaresForm) or scan the following QR code:



**MERIDIAN**  
*Cares* Making a Difference

To learn more about Meridian Cares or the Holiday Food Basket program, contact the Human Services Specialist at 517.853.4204.

# Sponsorship for 2024 Thanksgiving & Holiday Food Assistance

For the 2024 Holiday Season, Meridian Cares will be connecting local churches, businesses, organizations, and groups "sponsors" with Meridian Township community members who could use a helping hand getting food for their holiday meals. The need is great, and in the past our community has sponsored over 500 households each year.

## Here's how it works.

Meridian Cares will collect names of interested Meridian Township residents from local apartments, food banks, and low-income housing. A list of individuals and/ or families with checked addresses and food restrictions will be compiled.

Meridian Cares will then connect the individual/family to a "sponsor".

Sponsors can help in several different ways.

**1. Sponsors can simply donate money to Meridian Cares. Meridian Cares will use the money to purchase Meijer Food Only gift cards in bulk.** Sponsors can then choose to help deliver the gift cards to families or Meridian Cares will deliver them.

**2. Sponsors can be more "hands on" and purchase food to be taken directly to the families in need.** (Meridian Cares will help the sponsor with what food to buy and let the sponsor know of any food restrictions the family might have). If a sponsor chooses this option, timelines for delivery can be decided by the sponsor. Meridian Cares just asks that sponsors communicate their timeline and delivery/pick up options with their specific list of residents.

**\*\*FYI Formula for Allocation Meijer Gift Cards\*\***

Family Size/Dollar Amount

1-2/\$65.00

3-4/\$75.00

5-6/\$85.00

6+/\$95.00

If your organization would like to support and sponsor families in Meridian Township, please use this online form. If you would prefer to complete a paper form, please contact Katie Love at 517.853.4204

5. Our group would like to (please select one) \*

- #1 Donate money to have Meridian Cares purchase Meijer Food only gift cards. (We would like to help deliver the food cards to families in need)
- #2 Donate money to have Meridian Cares purchase Meijer Food only gift cards. (We would like Meridian Cares to deliver the cards to families in need)
- #3 Donate food to make baskets to deliver to families in need. (a food list will be provided for you)
- #4 We are not sure yet, but we do want to help
- #5 We are unable to help this year but please ask again next year.

6. If you selected #1 or #2 to question 5, please answer the following

- We will be writing a check for a set amount
- We will be raising money and will donate what is raised. We will donate the money by October 15th.

7. If you Selected the "#3 Donate Food" Option to question 5, What holiday would you like to provide food for?

- Thanksgiving
- December Holidays
- Whatever is most needed

8. Please include any other information that would be helpful for Meridian Cares. Thank you for your generosity. \*