



Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Monroe County

2449 Saint Paul Blvd
Rochester, NY 14617
p. 585.753.2550 f. 585.753.2560
e. monroe@cornell.edu
monroe.cce.cornell.edu

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For more information, contact:

Destiny Draggett
585.753.2568
dpd66@cornell.edu

**Holiday Gift Buckets for Rochester Youth
Monroe County 4-H organizes gift donation for youth and families**

The holidays are a busy and exciting time of the year for everyone. This year, more than any, stress and uncertainty may have affected many families as they prepared for the holiday season. With that being said, it is important to give back when possible, and spread cheer to those that may need extra support.

A 4-H volunteer brought up the idea of adopting a family during a recent 4-H Steering Committee meeting, and the 4-H team brainstormed from there. During the past few months, 4-H has established a UNITY (Urban Neighborhoods Improved Through Youth) group with Agape Haven of Abundance. Reaching out to the head of Agape, we gathered a list of 28 youth and 5 families from the UNITY group that could use extra support during the holidays.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors and staff, 4-H clubs, and volunteers filled buckets to the brim with toys, games, puzzles, and various other items. Family buckets were filled with toiletries, hygiene products, and various other home supplies.

Once filled and organized, the buckets were delivered to Agape Haven of Abundance and distributed to the youth. Agape founder, Julia Polidore, expressed her gratitude for the generosity shown, and said, "The children were so astonished to see what they received from 4-H. I know this Christmas will be one of the best Christmases they have ever had."

The 4-H team sends a huge thank you to all who participated! Thank you to Runnings of Brockport who generously supplied the buckets.

The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth aged 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about things that interest them.

Learn more at <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>

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Left: Two happy recipients of Christmas buckets donated by Monroe County 4-H Program (photo provided)
Below: Buckets ready to go to Agape families (photo by Destiny Draggett)



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