



## Citizen Patriot staff working hard to fulfill nonprofit wishes, asks area businesses to join the effort



The Citizen Patriot adopted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County as part of our annual Wish List initiative. To raise funds we held a bake sale at One Jackson Square, downtown Jackson Tuesday, Dec. 10, and raised \$370 towards our goal. *(Courtesy of Amy Schuster)*

By [Lisa Satayut| Lsatayut@mLive.com](mailto:Lisa.Satayut@mLive.com) on December 11, 2013

JACKSON, MI— Baking, asking and even a little begging has helped the Citizen Patriot staff fulfill holiday wishes for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County. While we are still working to gather the complete list of items needed, progress is being made, and we hope local businesses and individuals will join our annual [Wish List initiative](#) and adopt a nonprofit.

Some nonprofits have had a few wishes fulfilled, but a majority are still hoping and waiting. [The Wish List, published annually online](#) and in the Citizen Patriot, is a compilation of items needed by those groups who play such a critical role in helping those in need. Items range from notepads and pens to some larger items, such as computers or paper shredders. We chose to adopt Big Brothers Big Sisters.

While Citizen Patriot staff can write, edit and interview sources, coming up with fundraising ideas was not an easy task. Personally, I had many great ideas like auctioning off our two interns, Justin Hicks and Justin Dacey to the highest bidder; that idea was quickly shot down by one of my editor's. "We don't sell our staff, if we can help it," Managing Producer Shannon Murphy said laughing. The interns worried no one could afford them anyway. Our next idea was to hold a bake sale. Asking a group of reporters and editors to bake is not an easy task. "I can't bake," said Editor Sara Scott, as she threw down some cash instead. Cops and courts reporter Danielle Salisbury stepped up to the plate and baked cookies, business reporter Tarryl Jackson stayed up all night before the bake sale making chocolate chip brownies and I threw together some chocolate covered pretzels. But, the "master bakers" of the Citizen Patriot, are not the writers or editors. They work in customer service and sales and really stepped up to the plate with treats like rice pudding, gourmet cupcakes, s'mores bark and an assortment of breads.

We held the sale inside the lobby of One Jackson Square downtown Jackson, Tuesday, Dec. 10, and were overjoyed to learn we raised \$370. People in Jackson love their baked goods and were very generous. When thinking about fulfilling wishes, keep in mind not all items need to be new. A lot can be found while digging through the basement, the attic or garage.

For example, does anyone have a color printer to donate to the Jackson School of the Arts? One is desperately needed, and so far, this wish has been left unfulfilled. The American Red Cross, South Central Michigan Chapter, could use a large paper cutter and some nonprofits simply need volunteers. The Citizen Patriot is hoping a reader with season tickets to the Detroit Tigers or Lions games would be willing to part with a few and donate them to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Movie tickets and bowling tickets would come in handy, too.

The Michigan Theatre of Jackson was accidentally left off the Wish List that ran in the print edition of the Citizen Patriot, but [has been included online](#). Besides "goodwill towards humanity," theater officials asked for a volunteer graphic artist, two "beautiful" office chairs and a "copy machine that does it all." None of these

wishes have been fulfilled yet. I'm working on the goodwill towards humanity, but it could take some time. Family Services and Children's Aid have received new infant car seats and toddler booster seats, but could really use a wall-mounted infant changing table. [Here is the complete Wish List broken down by nonprofit.](#) With Christmas just a few weeks away, some nonprofits that have not been adopted have prioritized what wishes individuals or businesses could fulfill.

Below are the prioritized wish list items for those nonprofits that provided an update to the Citizen Patriot:

**Allegiance Hospice:** Baby wipes, unscented lotion and large-size night gowns

**The American Red Cross, South Central Michigan Chapter:** Monetary donations

**Anew Horizon Childcare and Family Development, Inc.:** 12 kid-sized blankets for naps.

**Aware Shelter:** New socks for children and adults, diapers of all sizes.

**Birthline of Jackson:** An honest person of faith who knows Quick Books and can act as a treasurer for four to six hours a month.

**Cascades Humane Society:** Plastic shelving for storage

**Center for Women:** Prenatal vitamins (30 day supply), New or used in-style maternity clothes and infant clothes (sizes 2T and up for infants.)

**Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect:** Copy paper

**Community Action Agency:** Hats and mittens for preschoolers, infants and toddlers.

**Do'chas:** Laundry soap and flash drives

**Dove Health Alliance:** High speed scanner (not a flat-bed one)

**Ell Dwe Koda Animal Sanctuary:** Hay

**Family Services and Children's Aid:** Loving foster and adoptive parents, wall-mounted infant changing table, gift cards for Office Max, Office Depot, Meijer, Walmart etc.

**Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity:** Volunteers for customer service and sales at the Restore.

**Jackson Angels Network:** Receipt books, bus tickets and gas cards.

**Jackson School of the Arts:** Clorox wipes and facial tissue

**John George Home:** Oscillating tool kit.

**St. Luke's Clinic:** Spirometer machine and facial tissue

**The Reading and Writing Connection:** Water dispenser (2-5 gallon bottle and cooler)