

cribnotes

WHAT HOLIDAYS LOOK LIKE AT THE NURSERY

Every day at the Nursery is special. But what about holidays? How does the Nursery handle them? Because so many families celebrate differently, we do not recognize any holidays specifically. That's not to say that we don't make days like Thanksgiving or Christmas feel special — we do. We just don't "name" the day.

We talked with our Children's Services Manager Precious Fritz to learn more.

Tell us more about the "why" behind the Nursery's approach to holidays.

The Nursery is an inclusive environment. It's critical that everyone is comfortable in our space, whether it's families, children or staff, and whether it's a holiday or a "regular" day.

How do you handle Christmas at the Nursery?

Instead of celebrating or recognizing Christmas specifically, we focus on the season with fun winter-themed activities and decor. We acknowledge that this is a season of giving, and we want to make gift-giving possible for families who use our services. That's where our Holiday Helper program comes in. (Learn more about Holiday Helpers on page 4.)

Because you don't mention holidays specifically at the Nursery, how do you respond if a child brings up Christmas, Santa, etc.?

If a child initiates the conversation, we listen and acknowledge and talk about it with them. We want to validate and talk about whatever conversations the children bring up. However, we are careful not to include our own personal beliefs or traditions in these conversations.



What about Thanksgiving and other non-religious holidays?

We handle these days just like we handle religious holidays. On Thanksgiving, for example, we may have Fall or harvest-themed decor. Our kitchen manager or Cook for Kids volunteers typically prepare a more traditional Thanksgiving meal (turkey, rolls, stuffing and pie), but we don't identify it as a holiday. For Halloween, we may offer the kids treats or small trinkets and let them dress up in costumes, but we don't call it "Halloween" or acknowledge the holiday.

How do you make sure parents are okay with the festive activities?

Holidays are meant to be joyful, but we know they can also be painful or sad for a variety of reasons. We are very sensitive to this, so if a child is staying with us during a holiday or holiday season, we explain to parents what that looks like at the Nursery. We always want to ensure we're respecting each family's wishes and traditions, so if a parent prefers their child doesn't participate in a certain activity, we always have alternate activities available so no child feels left out.

Holiday Cards Are Here!

**Send warm wishes to friends and family
while brightening the life of a child.**

When you purchase your holiday cards from Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, you are helping vulnerable children in our community while also sharing the joy of children's art with others.

Every card purchased helps care for children and create strong, healthy families

KID ART CARD



5 x 7, includes white enclosure envelope.

The perfect choice for those who want
their card ready to send.

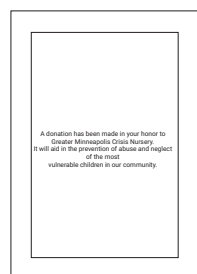
Inside Message:

Warm wishes for a holiday season filled with peace and joy.

A donation has been made in your honor to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, which will help care for children and support families in our community during times of crisis.

Artwork made by little hands at the Nursery.

VELLUM INSERT



4 x 6

The perfect choice for those who prefer to send their
own card or letter, but want to share with the recipient
that a donation has been made in their honor.

Message:

A donation has been made in your honor to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. It will aid in the prevention of abuse and neglect of the most vulnerable children in our community.

TO ORDER

**Visit crisisnursery.org/holidaycards
or call 612-767-8468**

Orders must be received by Thursday,
December 2, 2021.

Your cards or inserts will be shipped to you the
Tuesday after placing your order.



HARVESTING HOPE

Thanks to everyone who participated —
either in person or virtually — in our 17th
annual Harvesting Hope event this October.
Guests joined world-renowned Master
Sommelier Andrea Robinson as she led us
through a wine tasting featuring some of
her favorite wines that paired beautifully
with custom curated food. Thank you to
everyone who attended, made a gift, or
sponsored the event. Your generosity is
providing critical resources for children and
families in our community.

Special thanks to Our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor:



**Wealth
Management**

Gold Sponsors:



give **TO THE MAX**
Nov. 18, 2021

**YOU CAN MULTIPLY
YOUR GIFT!**

Give to the Max this November 1-18, and your
gift will be doubled! How? It's simple: Just make
a gift between November 1-18 and the Richard
M Schulze Family Foundation will double your
donation, matching all gifts, dollar for dollar,
up to \$20,000.



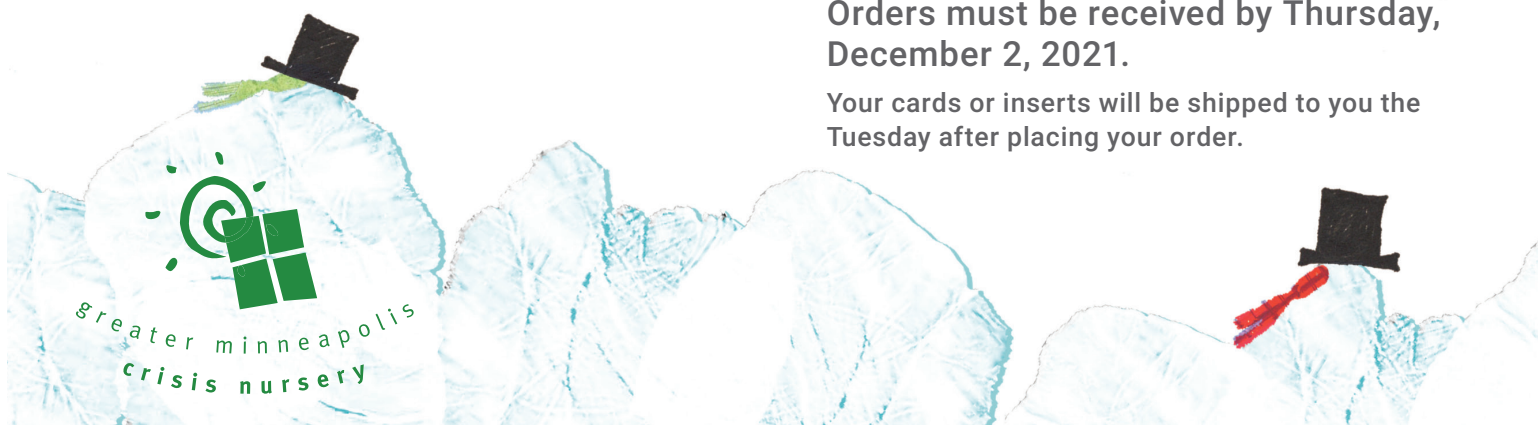
MAKING A GIFT IS EASY!

Visit www.crisisnursery.org/GTMD between November 1-18.

TRIPLE YOUR DONATION!

Many employers offer matching gifts to help their
employees make a difference in their communities.

Visit www.crisisnursery.org/donate to see if your
company will also match your gift.



BE A HOLIDAY HELPER

Make a child's season brighter!

The Holiday Helper program makes gift giving possible for families who access the Nursery during the winter season of giving. Donating gift cards is an easy way to make it possible for families to give children presents this holiday season.

★
★ *You assisted with holiday gifts for my children, and I am very grateful. I could not thank you all enough. The kids' faces will be so happy.*

★ *The gift cards help with the holidays for my son. I thank you all for always being a reliable support team for me and my son.* ★

★ *The help with the holiday gifts, what a blessing, brought a lot of smiles to the kids' faces...* ★ ★

To learn more or to donate, go to
www.crisisnursery.org/HolidayHelper

HOLIDAY CRAFTS: TRY THIS AT HOME!

We do a lot of fun crafts with the kids at the Nursery. Here's a craft idea and a snack you can make with your own kids.

HANDPRINT WREATHS

You will need:

Construction paper or cardstock (green for a holiday wreath or brown, yellow and orange for a Fall wreath)

Scissors

Glue/glue stick

Paper plate

Ribbon

Instructions:

- Cut out the inner circle of a paper plate to make a ring.
- Have your kids trace their hand on a piece of cardstock to make a template, and use it to trace several more hands. Cut them out and glue them around the paper plate ring.
- Optional: Cut out red circles to make berries or add ribbon.



BAGEL SNOWMAN FACES

For an adorable, healthy snack that kids can have fun making themselves (or with help from an adult, depending on their age), try making bagel snowman faces!

Instructions:

- Cover a bagel half with white cream cheese, and then use blueberries or raisins for the eyes and smile.
- Final touch: Add a mini carrot stick in the middle of the bagel for the nose.