

2024 Free Holiday Market

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The Free Holiday Market gives students and their families an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts for their families and themselves – without the financial burden. Started in 2023, the annual event invites students and family members to shop at more than 50 tables laden with items donated by generous staff, faculty, and administrators.



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The planning committee expanded the market's offerings by handing out snacks and including more children's crafts activities. A new free clothing table was also a popular addition. They even hosted a new door prize, which pulled tickets throughout the event for the opportunity to win large items.

Chef Alison Dolder, head of the Professional Baking & Pastry Arts program, first had the idea to host a free student holiday market and was on the planning committee. She said, "I think it was really nice to see a real sense of community and to see Clark show students how much we care." Referencing the COVID-19 pandemic that drove the community off-campus, she added, "It was nice to see everyone in one place again."

How it works



- Students registered to participate as shoppers. Upon arrival, shoppers were given free tickets so they could shop.
- Students also get a special ticket for a door prize drawing for big-ticket items like giant penguin plushies or waffle irons.
- Employees ran the event and students from various student groups volunteered to help at the event.
- Staff, faculty, and administrators donated new or gently used gift items such as toys, games, puzzles, books, clothing, jewelry, craftwork, and household items. Every item can be 'purchased' with free tickets.
- Departments and individuals from around the campus hosted gift tables.
- Representatives from various support services were present.

Ongoing opportunities to give to students

- **WES Giving Tree:** Collecting new hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, socks, and throws for students and their families through January 10, 2025, in GH1 215.
- **Basic Needs Hub:** Donate here to this brand-new hub

designed to connect students with essential resources for student success.

- **Clark College Foundation:** Check out the many ways our Foundation has set up to support our students through payroll deduction or one-time donation to any specific causes.

Special Acknowledgments

This year's event is sponsored by the ASCC club, NERD Girls & GEEKS, along with the Engineering program and the McClaskey Culinary Institute.

Thank you to this year's organizing committee:

Tina Barsotti
Alison Dolder
Judi Georgeades-Tambara
Stephanie Hall
Carol Hsu
Fay Shorten
Lucy Winslow