



The December 26th Project: Beyond Christmas Group Information

What is the December 26th Project?

We all love to see faces of excited children opening Christmas gifts on December 25th. It brings us all a sense of joy and community. This year, at Step By Step, we're focusing on December 26th, after a family has experienced the generosity of the holidays yet their daily challenges still remain.

To support our Step By Step families all year, we are launching the December 26th Project. Our goal is to have 100 Step By Step moms sponsored at \$150 each. Each \$150 sponsorship covers:

- A full year of programming for a young single mom at Step By Step, including:
 - Community building and fun at our weekly Revive nights
 - Life skills building at workshops
 - Goal-setting through our Dare to Dream program
 - Ongoing case management and support from SBS staff
 - One-on-one mentoring through our Refine mentoring program
 - Removing barriers such as transportation, childcare, and meals
- Christmas gift bags for SBS moms and Christmas treat bags for their kids

What is my group's role in the December 26th Project?

Step By Step is asking churches and other groups to share this project with your members, and encourage them to sponsor SBS families *beyond Christmas*. Individuals can choose to sponsor a family on their own, or small groups can come together to sponsor a family. Here are the next steps:

1. **Commit to sponsoring SBS Families.** Let us know how many families your group would like to sponsor. We will provide a packet with ornaments representing SBS Families, display instructions, and donation envelopes for groups and individuals to use.
2. **Display the ornaments.** We ask that you display the ornaments (for example, on a small Christmas tree) so your people can easily pick an ornament. We will also provide a sign to put next to the display with information and directions.
3. **Individuals/groups take an ornament committing to sponsor a SBS Mom.** The individual or group will take an ornament and a donation packet, which we will provide for you. Each ornament has a bit of information about a SBS family listed on the inside, so people can remember to pray for the family after they take the ornament home. When people pick an ornament, they should also pick up a donor packet, which includes instructions for them on how to complete their donation and an envelope to send in their donation.



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4. **Individual/group sends in their sponsorship of \$150**, via cash or check using the provided envelope or via credit card using our online campaign.

This project will run from October through November 20. Please let Step By Step know how many ornaments and donor packets your group would like, depending on how many sponsorships you estimate your people would cover. We will be sending out supplies at the end of September.

Is SBS still doing the Christmas Store?

In years past, Step By Step has hosted our annual Christmas Store, where SBS moms could shop for brand new toys for their kids for Christmas. The Christmas Store filled a gap in our community. We are grateful to say that gap no longer exists due to the incredible partners we have in Lexington that have filled it in. This year, rather than host our own Christmas Store, we will be connecting our moms with our partner organizations to ensure they get the support they need to provide a great Christmas for their kids.