

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How often can I make an appointment to shop at the Village Free Store?

Shopping appointments are limited to once every sixty (60) days.

May I get free items and resell them to others?

Reselling is strongly discouraged as our store's purpose is to provide household items for personal use.

May I make an appointment and shop for another person?

No, you cannot shop for them as we prefer the person using the item shops for themselves, but you may help them make their appointment. Please ensure the user is available for the created appointment time.

I need large items but have no access to a vehicle to get them home. Do you provide transportation?

Yes! With advanced notice, we can provide transportation for larger items, but you will need to provide an adult or two to help load and unload chosen items.

Am I able to ask if certain items are in stock and place them on hold?

No, we do not hold items.

If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact us in advance.

CONTACT US



61472 Donald Roadway West
Vandalia, MI 49095



269.476.1257



To Shop and/or Donate Use the "Book Now" button on Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries Facebook Page, to schedule your appointment.



THE VILLAGE FREE STORE GUIDELINES



We happily accept gently used/clean items in the following categories:

Kitchenware

- Pots, Pans
- Roasters, George Forman-like grills
- Kitchen tables with chairs
- Glass and plastic food containers
- Plates, saucers, cups, bowls, and silverware
- Toasters
- Microwaves
- Blenders, mixers, food processors

Bedroom Furniture

- Bed linens: blankets, comforters (size tag attached is greatly appreciated!)
- Bed frames
- Mattresses
- Chest of Drawers

General

- Trash cans, waste baskets
- Ironing boards - mini or full-sized
- Curtains, window coverings, shower curtains
- Bath/ area rugs
- Lamps with lampshades unless designed otherwise

Living Room/Dining Room

- Rockers, lounge chairs
- Recliners, rocking recliners
- Living room chairs
- Couch, loveseat
- Bookshelves, bookcases
- Console, coffee tables, end tables
- Flat-screen TVs only
- Large TV stands
- Ottoman, storage ottomans

All gently used items must be clean, free of stains, tears, or holes, with plenty of life left in them. Small kitchen appliances must be in good working order, with no missing parts. The furniture should be in good condition, with no odors. **Please double-check before you donate!**

Due to allergies and other sensitivities, we can no longer receive furniture from homes with pets or smokers. We are only accepting furniture from pet and smoke-free homes. Thank you for your understanding!

ITEMS WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- Donations that have not been visually inspected, packed, and/or cleaned or without personal knowledge of the residing residence being bug-free
- Punch bowl/ tea sets
- China dishes with metal/cabinet/ buffet
- Photo albums/ picture frames
- Stained, cracked kitchenware
- Medical equipment (crutches, walkers, bath chairs, oxygen accessories, diabetic supplies, etc.)
- Analog telephone sets
- VHS/DVD, cassettes, and/or holders
- Candles(not in candle jar/tin), candle holders
- Plastic, disposable eating plates, cups, utensils
- Lids without matching containers
- Cameras/ tripods or related equipment
- Pots/pans with missing handles required for safe usage
- Computer desks, monitors, computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones, and related cases, covers, and chords
- Mattress skirts
- Toys, games, puzzles
- Cups/ containers with chips, cracks, stains, etc.
- Outdoor furniture, decor
- Large appliances like stoves, refrigerators, and freezers
- Items in need of repairs, not functioning properly, lacking necessary parts, or missing parts
- Plumbing/light fixtures/decor requiring ceiling or wall installation
- Cloth or Plastic Dollies, place-mats, table runners
- Holiday/ party items
- Silver or silver-plated trays, platters, water pitchers, etc

We do not accept clothing, including shoes, boots, and gloves; however, as an environmentally conscious ministry, we partner with many non-profit organizations to recycle the items we do not offer our shoppers. We happily transport the following listed items, to their locations, making our ministry the area's one-stop donation location! Clothing needs to be recently washed and dried. Recyclable items include:

- **Eyeglasses** - Lions Club
- **Clothing/ shoes** - Christian Aid Ministries, Shipshewana, IN
- **Expired car seats** - Recycler in Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, IN
- **Broken, non-working electronics** - Green Earth Recycling, Three Rivers, MI location
- **Crayons that are broken or too small to use** - The Crayon Initiative, Danville, CA
- **Gently used stuffed animals without working or mechanical parts** - S.A.F.E

THE VILLAGE FREE STORE PARTNERSHIPS

At the Village Free Store, we're proud to partner with some of the leading ministries in our area and throughout the world. These partnerships allow us to donate items we would otherwise be unable to accept and deliver to those in need. Below is a list of some of the organizations and ministries we currently work with.

The Lions Club

Accepts eyeglass donations, where they are repaired, cleaned, and transported to third-world countries.

Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) -

<https://christianaidministries.org/> Indiana Clothing Center at **Christian Aid Ministries, 660B S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana, IN 46565**

CAM collects gently used clothing and shoes. Donations are shipped to their Ohio clothing distribution center, where they are flown to needy countries to minister to physical and spiritual needs around the world.

Stuffed Animals For Emergencies - S.A.F.E

<https://stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org/>

An online nonprofit organization with chapters throughout the U.S that will clean and ship donated stuffed animals to other organizations on their ever-changing emergency need list. OFFKM cleans qualified donated stuffed animals and ships them to selected organizations on the "Emergency Need" list.

Car Seat Recycling

All expired car seats are transferred to a recycler who strips the black plastic molds keeping them out of the landfills.

At Village Free Store, we are proud to be the area's one-stop donation location, offering information on the recycling of all your unused and broken items. Please contact us for more details and together, we can serve others and protect our planet!

