



Although it's early in October and Christmas probably isn't on your mind yet, the purpose of this message is to get you thinking about exactly that! Fall décor is going on sale and Christmas decorations are starting to appear in the stores so we know the holidays aren't that far away.

As you may know, the Whitehall Area Chamber of Commerce started the **Helping Hands** program a few years ago and has partnered with the Whitehall School District to lend a "helping hand" to provide Christmas gifts and food for a holiday meal for selected students and their families.

Last year the Chamber was successful in meeting the goal of \$2500 and the collection boxes are out at five locations to aid in this year's fundraising effort. Sweet Temptations, Countryside Cooperative, State Bank of Arcadia-Melby Branch, Waumandee State Bank and Royal Credit Union each have a collection box available for donations from the community.

Now is the time to be thinking about how you or your business can help raise funds for this program! Get employees involved by sponsoring a Jeans Day where employees contributing a specific amount can wear jeans to work for a day; sponsor a bake sale and donate the proceeds to the program; hold 50/50 raffles or have a used book sale! There are lots of possibilities! Use your imagination or ask a creative employee to come up with something that's fun for everyone!

Help us make this Christmas a special one! For more information, contact Rosanne Hoff, Helping Hands Chairman, at Bank of Whitehall, rhoff@bankwhitehall.com or phone 715-538-1500.

