

Unity in the Community to Sponsor Thanksgiving Dinner, Toy & Clothing Drives

by Sydney Sinks, News Reporter
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ALTON - Kennedy Smith and his nonprofit Unity in the Community will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and several other events as the holiday season approaches.

“I rode in on the bus, and just coming through the town of Alton, there are so many people homeless, hungry, and I feel that the community shouldn’t be like that,” Smith said. “It never stops for Unity in the Community. It’s that time of the year that Unity in

the Community and a couple of other organizations that I'm partnered with this year, we're giving back to the community."

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, community members are invited to gather at [Millennium Temple Church of God in Christ](#), located at 801 Blair Avenue in Alton, for a community Thanksgiving. Smith will be wearing the apron, and he thanks his wife, Tiffany L. Thomas-Smith, and his brother and community partners for supporting the dinner. He named Alderwoman Rosetta Brown, Mayor David Goins, First Lady Sheila Goins, Sarah Porter and Kim Brice-Hollis with the [Christina L. Brice Foundation](#) as a few of the people he regularly works with.

"This is going to be an awesome dinner," he added. "We're just trying to give back to the community and let somebody know that you are loved and you can come and get a warm meal."

Unity in the Community is also sponsoring a toy drive for the holidays. All donations will go to children who have an incarcerated parent. Smith spoke to a few kids, and the main items on their wish lists are board games, remote control cars, dolls, bicycles, clothing and winter gear.

"We're not asking for expensive items. I mean, Big Lots has toys. Dollar General has toys. Just something — a baby doll or something — to let a kid know that they are loved," Smith said. "But, you know, it's just not about toys. It's reaching out to the community and helping someone. If you've never been in this situation, you don't know how it feels."

Smith started Unity in the Community in 2018. Since then, he has completed several grassroots projects to meet needs in Alton and surrounding areas. He said the organization is "really going to elevate" next year.

"That was the reason for me creating Unity in the Community, because when I was hungry, someone fed me. Somebody gave me a jacket. So now it's my time to give back," Smith explained. "And it takes funds to generate this, people. It takes funds to feed the hungry. It takes funds to take care of a family. It's about giving back and showing someone that they are loved."

Those who can bring food to the Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, are encouraged to. The nonprofit will also host a Christmas dinner next month. In addition to the toy drive, they are currently sponsoring a blanket drive for unhoused Riverbend residents. You can drop off blankets, clothes and personal care items at 204 Big Arch Road in Godfrey.

Donate to Unity in the Community through Cash App at \$KjSmith0531. You can also contact Smith at 618-737-3425 for more information, or [follow him on Facebook](#) for updates.

JOIN US FOR A

Thanksgiving Dinner

11:00AM 18 November

HOSTED BY MILLENNIUM TEMPLE COGIC and
Rosie Brown and Unity in the Community Kennedy
Smith, Tiffany L. Thomas-Smith Kim Brice-Hollis
CLB Foundation Tiana Gipson If you would like to
contribute Please send to 801 Blair Ave Alton, IL
62002 or Cash app \$ MTCHURCCH20 Zelle 618-
410-3345 810 BLAIR AVE ALTON. IL 62035

**UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY
A NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION L L C**

**A TOY DRIVE FOR KIDS IN
NEED NOVEMBER 10, 2023
TO DECEMBER 15, 2023**

Kids are asking
for hats gloves
coats and clothes
all size



A boy and girl bike



**Remote control
cars**



**Electric riding
car ages 3 to 8**

**For kids that
parents are
inconcerated**



Baby dolls

**Thank you for
your support in
advances**



**Kennedy Smith
And Tiffany
L.Thomas-Smith**

618-737-3425



**Connect four and
other Board games**

Share The Warmth



Help Share The Love Of Christ
One Blanket At A Time.

please support our
blanket drive for the
homeless

Please bring your donation of
new blankets to:

Unity In the Community
Brother Kennedy Smith

204 Big Arch Rd. Godfrey, IL. 62035
For more info call (618) 737-3425