

# The Loop Newsletter

## What is First Choice?

First Choice of Saginaw is a non-profit organization that aims to improve the quality of life of individuals living with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Every year, First Choice raises funds to distribute gift cards to these individuals living in Adult Foster Care Homes that are often receiving minimal disability coverage which barely covers their basic housing, necessary care, and supervision costs. Many of these individuals then have less than \$50 per month to cover their other necessities, such as medical co-pays, personal care items, and clothing. Many First Choice gift card recipients do not have family resources to assist with any unmet needs. The goal of First Choice is to provide these individuals with a gift card during the holiday season that can be spent on anything of their choice. They may use the gift card to meet a current need or obtain a personal wish. Many of the past recipients have chosen to spend their cards on a winter coat, new shoes, a radio, or holiday treats that they would have otherwise been unable to purchase.

## 2021 Campaign Impact

Thanks to the help of everyone that contributed to the 2021 First Choice campaign, we were able to distribute \$50 Meijer gift cards to 312 individuals! See the next page for a pictorial of some of the recipients!

Over  
\$20,000  
Raised

*Thank  
you!*

312  
Individuals  
Helped

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## Friends of First Choice

First Choice meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month from 12pm-1pm. These meetings are open to anyone interested in joining the Friends of First Choice Committee. To join, contact Jenna Brown at [jbrown@sccmha.org](mailto:jbrown@sccmha.org) or 989-498-2269.

If you have any ideas on how to improve the program or if you have a fundraising idea, please contact us so that your ideas can be discussed at an upcoming First Choice meeting!



## Anthony

Anthony used his gift card to buy some of his favorite food and pop!



## Chrissy

Chrissy was happy that she received a gift card this year!



## Gwendolyn

Gwendolyn used her card to buy a stuffed animal and pop!



## James

James purchased a new pair of boots with his card!



## Janet

Janet was excited to purchase a new winter coat!



## Kathleen

Kathleen bought a new Christmas sweater with her card!



## Robin

Robin was excited to receive a gift card this year!



## William

William used his card to buy a new book, deodorant, and pop!





# 2022 Upcoming Events

## Spring Candy Grams

**Distributed April 13th and 14th**

Last Day to order is April 8th

Send orders to [jbrown@sccmha.org](mailto:jbrown@sccmha.org)

## Jewelry and Card Sale

**Friday, May 6th 11am-1pm @ A&W**

Jewelry & card donations can be given to Jenna Brown

Month	Event	Location
April	Spring Candy Grams	All Locations
May 6th	Jewelry and Card Sale	A&W
June	Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser	BWW on Tittabawassee
July	Hotdog & Sloppy Joe Sale	Hancock
August 26th	Ice Cream Sundae Sale	Hancock
September	Pampered Chef Sale	TBD
October	Halloween Candy Grams	All Locations (Orders due Oct. 21st)

\*Subject to change depending on rules and regulations surrounding health and safety.

**Rigorous health-safety precautions will be adhered to during the above events. Contact Jenna Brown at [jbrown@sccmha.org](mailto:jbrown@sccmha.org) or 989-498-2269 for more information.**

## Other Ways to Help

- Join **Kroger Community Rewards** or **AmazonSmile** and select First Choice of Saginaw as your organization to support. Donations will be made from Kroger and Amazon at no cost to you!
- Drop off your empty **bottles and cans** at the A&W loading dock on Wednesdays.
- Donate items for fundraisers, like **jewelry & unused greeting cards** for Jewelry & Card Sales, **candy** for Candy Grams, or a silent auction item.
- Cash donations are always accepted and appreciated.
- Volunteer** to help at the Coffee & Cookie Social, Gift Card distribution event on Friday, December 2nd, 2022.

First Choice Phone: (989) 799-6451

Email: [info@saginawfc.org](mailto:info@saginawfc.org)

Website: [www.saginawfc.org](http://www.saginawfc.org)

# 3 EASY WAYS TO HELP

## #1 CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

Donate your empty cans and bottles for return at the SCCMHA A&W building on Wednesdays from 8am-5pm at the loading dock area. If you would like to donate your cans & bottles, please place bags at the loading dock and ring the bell to notify staff. You do not need to wait for someone to come out.



## #2 & 3 AMAZON SMILE AND KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Two of the easiest ways to support First Choice of Saginaw are signing up for [Amazon Smile](#) and [Kroger Community Rewards](#). When you select First Choice of Saginaw as your organization to support, First Choice will receive a donation from either company any time you make a purchase through your account. This donation is at no additional cost to you! See below and the next page for how to sign up!

### HOW TO ENROLL IN AMAZON SMILE

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose First Choice of Saginaw to receive donations
4. Start shopping!
5. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at Amazon Smile

**Support  
First Choice of  
Saginaw.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazon**smile

# Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards in six easy steps and raise funds for First Choice while you shop!

## Step 1

You must have a Kroger Rewards Card. If you do not, you can get one at the Customer Service desk at any Kroger store.

## Step 2

Go to Kroger.com and sign in to your Kroger account.

## Step 3

In the top right corner, select the Account drop down and select My Account.

## Step 4

On the left-hand side select Community Rewards.

## Step 5

Under Find an Organization search First Choice of Saginaw

## Step 6

Select Enroll under First Choice of Saginaw

Find an Organization

First Choice of Saginaw



Organization Name

First Choice of Saginaw

Organization Address

500 Hancock Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48602

Enroll

For a purchase to count towards Community Rewards, you must present your Shopper's Card or provide your Alternate ID at the register.

## Thank you for supporting First Choice of Saginaw!

\*\*\*Signing up for Kroger Community Rewards will NOT affect Kroger Fuel Points\*\*\*



## How to support the First Choice Organization

If you would like to support this very important program you may make donations of any amount to **First Choice of Saginaw.**

Please forward all First Choice donations to "First Choice of Saginaw", 500 Hancock, Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48602.

A First Choice of Saginaw pledge form has been included with this brochure for your convenience.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting:

### **First Choice of Saginaw**

Phone: (989) 799-6451

Email: [info@saginawfc.org](mailto:info@saginawfc.org)

Or by visiting the First Choice of Saginaw website at:  
**[www.saginawfc.org](http://www.saginawfc.org)**

## For additional information, please contact:

First Choice of Saginaw  
Phone: (989) 799-6451  
Fax: (989) 799-0206  
Email: [info@saginawfc.org](mailto:info@saginawfc.org)  
Website: [www.saginawfc.org](http://www.saginawfc.org)



**2022**


## Why this is an Important Need

First Choice of Saginaw serves persons with serious disabilities who have significant life functioning challenges. Persons served have extremely limited resources, and are often receiving minimal disability coverage which barely covers their basic housing, necessary care and supervision costs. These individuals often have less than \$50 per month that must pay for other necessities or needs, including medical co-pays and any personal care items or expenses, including clothing. Many individuals have no family resources to assist them with any unmet needs.

Imagine how you would live your life if you had such limited funds- \$50 or less per month- to cover your necessities and occasional personal wants. Often individuals who suffer from serious disabilities are unable to afford an appropriate and warm winter coat, let alone a small radio, or an occasional magazine or book. Many consumers already take advantage of available local resources for reduced cost or used items, but this often does not adequately meet the individual needs of the person and still involves the use of their severely limited personal funds.

## The Purpose of the First Choice Campaign

The goal of The First Choice of Saginaw organization is to collect enough funds to provide each consumer on a limited income, who is receiving services from SCCMHA (Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority) and living in an adult foster care home, with a gift card during the holiday season. These individuals will then be free to spend this gift card on whatever they want.



Their "First Choice" gift card may be used to meet a current need or to help them obtain a personal wish.

The bottom line is that it's their own Choice!

## The Success of First Choice

The success of the First Choice organization is directly related to the generous contributions made by SCCMHA staff, First Choice of Saginaw donors, volunteers and other stakeholders, and the residents of Saginaw County.

The First Choice of Saginaw organization is very pleased with funds raised through the last seventeen years of campaigns. Over \$255,000 has been raised and converted into over 5,100 gift cards!

The First Choice of Saginaw program appreciates everyone who has made a contribution in 2005 - 2021. Numerous providers and consumers have communicated to the First Choice committee regarding the positive impact this small token has had on their spirit and lives.

We'd greatly appreciate  
your support to improve the  
quality of life for individuals with  
disabilities!



## **Contribution/Pledge Form—2022 Campaign**

Yes, I would like to submit a financial donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ , enclosed.

Yes, I would like to submit a pledge in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be forwarded to SCCMHA by

\_\_\_ March 31, 2022      \_\_\_ June 30, 2022  
\_\_\_ September 30, 2022      \_\_\_ December 31, 2022

I am unable to participate at this time but may wish to participate in the future.

I/my organization would like more information on First Choice of Saginaw, please contact me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please forward completed forms to:**

First Choice of Saginaw  
500 Hancock Street, Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48602

### **Please make checks payable to: First Choice of Saginaw**

First Choice of Saginaw is a legal, charitable, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.