

TEXARKANA -- Domestic Violence Prevention Inc. is gearing up for its 2021 Santa Store program, which provides its clients the opportunity to Christmas shop for their children.

DVP will fill the store with new, unwrapped, age-appropriate toys and items, and parent will be able to choose gifts for their child at no cost to them. DVP is asking for the community to help make this project a success by donating toys or making a financial contribution so that they can help provide an entire Christmas for these kids in need.

"Without this program, a lot of the kids we see wouldn't get to experience Christmas this year. This store truly provides pride for the parent and gives the kids the Christmas they deserve. They've been through so many bad days, and we aim to make Christmas one day they can remember for the good reasons," said James Roberts, DVP director of operations.

"Our goal is to collect \$25,000 in donated toys and cash to make sure we are able to provide for these families in need," Roberts said.

The community can donate new toys or make a financial donation and DVP will do the shopping. One-hundred percent of the money donated goes toward this project.

The opportunity to shop in the Santa Store will be available to families who've stayed at the DVP shelter or whose parent has received outreach services in the past year. The Santa Store will be in a secure location in the weeks before Christmas.

Financial donations or donations of new toys can be dropped off at DVP's office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at 424 Spruce St., Texarkana, Texas, or mailed to the same address. All donations should be in by Dec. 10.

Needed items include bicycles, skateboards, craft sets, art supplies, fishing poles and tackle, portable chargers, Bluetooth speakers, hair scrunchies, lava lamps, cologne or body wash sets, head phones, Paw Patrol, PJ Masks, wallets, etc.

(Fore more information, call DVP at 903-794-4000. Anyone who needs help escaping a violent situation can call the 24-hour crisis line at 903-793-4357.)