



All About Drive-2-Thrive

**We'll make YOUR drive to help Starfish kids to thrive as easy as possible.
We're also dedicated to making your experience as beneficial as it can be!**

What is Drive-2-Thrive? Community families partner with Starfish Family Services to achieve positive and lasting change in their lives. We are known for providing the essential resources families need for success and dedicated staff ready to help them achieve it. YOU can be part of this journey by joining in one, two, or all three of our concentrated "wish-list drives" throughout the year.

Will we have a primary Starfish contact? Yes. Your point of contact will be available to answer any questions you may have. They will also connect with you throughout the drive.

What items should we collect? Please see our Drive-2-Thrive wish list provided by your contact, which includes specifics associated with donated items. We've taken out the guesswork for you! In addition, we have worked with classroom teachers and specialists to determine the types of items that will have maximum benefit.

Should items be new? Yes, please.

Do you provide collection boxes? Of course! Please work with your Starfish contact to retrieve.

How should we deliver collected items? Your contact will work with you to coordinate. Each drive may require different arrangements. For example, for the backpack drive, we would prefer that pre-filled backpacks be delivered prior to the on-site engagement activity if your group will not be involved in distribution.

Can we provide a monetary donation instead of items? Either or both would be wonderful. If you choose to donate monetarily, your Starfish contact will work with you to identify correlated cost of drive items. Plus, your donation may be tax deductible.

Is there a way for our volunteer team to be more involved in a drive? We would love that---and so will you! Your volunteers can be integrated as much as possible when it is possible. For example, during the backpack drive, volunteers may attend a pre-set orientation date for parents/children for a few hours and participate in the day's activities. What a meaningful way to see your donations at work.

- *Note:* Your volunteer hours may count as a match associated with federal grant-funding
- *Note:* If you do attend a Starfish activity, for the privacy of our families, please do not take photos.

What does “adopting” a classroom mean? To maintain an ongoing connection, you may choose to collect donations for a particular school site across all three drives. In addition, classrooms have ongoing needs throughout the year; not just at “Drive time.” In either case, adopting a classroom means an ongoing commitment. Choose based on your preferred location or on your capacity. For example, Hiveley in Inkster is our largest site, with more than 130 children, while Fort St. in Detroit serves 46 children. Note, we will assign partners on a first-come, first served basis or we can work with you to “share” a site with another supporter.

Is Starfish a 501(c)(3) nonprofit? Yes. You will receive an official thank-you for your donations (monetary or in-kind).

Will our company/group be promoted? Yes! Throughout the drive, Starfish will:

- Display your logo on the Drive-2-Thrive page of our website
- Spotlight you in story features/posts on social media

How can we help you promote us?

- Tell your Starfish contact about your “drive journey”: what worked well, how did you motivate your team/colleagues (e.g., perhaps you hosted a “friendly” cross-department competition).
- Take pictures of the drive-in-progress so we can share, share, share.

Thank you for brightening the lives of children in our community!