

Dear Friends,

Here at Branford Counseling & Community Services, our top priority is the health and safety of our Secret Santa Program recipients, donors, and volunteers. We have been closely monitoring the situation with COVID-19, and after much consideration, we have made the decision to limit overall exposure by giving out only Walmart gift cards to families in the program this year. Families can choose to shop for their own personalized gifts in whatever method they are most comfortable - in person, online delivery or online pick-up.

Following increased and overwhelming concerns about the COVID-19 virus, we felt this was the best way to proceed during such an unprecedented global situation. We are disappointed that our participants will miss out on the familiar practice of holiday giving, but we know it's the right decision based on the information we have today.

If you are able to donate, we ask that you kindly donate only Walmart gift cards (\$25 dollar increments preferred). Unfortunately, due to the formatting of this year's program, we will not be able to match up donors with particular recipient requests (e.g., number of children in a family, ages, etc.). In addition, we are not able to accept any donations of actual gifts or supplies such as wrapping paper. We recommend making your donation by no later than [Friday, November 20, 2020](#) to allow for shopping and delivery time.

Since Branford Counseling & Community Services remains closed to the public, please mail your donation to: *Branford Counseling & Community Services, 342 Harbor Street, Branford, CT 06405 ATTN: Secret Santa* or drop it in the locked mailbox located outside our rear entrance.

For any questions, please call our Secret Santa Hotline at 203-401-1264. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Cimino".

Peter Cimino, M.S., L.P.C.
Executive Director