



**Michael W. Frerichs**  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

## Treasurer's Note

December 28, 2023

## Looking Back on 2023, Looking Forward to 2024

2023 is rapidly coming to a close, and I wanted to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous new year.

Before working on my New Year's resolutions, I like to take stock of the past year. We have been sharing some of our accomplishments, milestones, and records on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) this month under the theme of "The 24 Days of Christmas." If you would like to see them all, you can follow us on those social media channels.

Some of the highlights:

- Day 2: We have reunited people with nearly \$2 billion in missing money through the I-CASH program. See if we have money waiting for you at [icash.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov).
- Day 6: We celebrated reaching \$600 million in Ag Invest loans this year, helping family farmers and agri-business professionals expand and add value to their operations.
- Day 8: We also topped \$800 million in life insurance benefits finally paid to families after fighting bad actors in the insurance industry.
- Day 10: We returned our 10th Purple Heart medal to the family of a late World War II veteran.
- Day 15: We launched the \$1.5 billion First Fund, investments that will rebuild crumbling roads and bridges while also putting people to work.
- Day 17: We celebrated the more than \$17 billion held in our Bright Start and Bright Directions college savings accounts that help students go to universities, trade schools and apprentice programs.

I know you're busy gathering with family and friends at this time of year, so we'll keep this newsletter short. It will just be this Treasurer's Note, a brief article about last week's "Good Morning America" broadcast highlighting our mission to return money to Illinois residents, and a video of all our "24 Days of Christmas" posts. It is always good to give people their money, but it is especially fun around the holidays. You can check to see if we have money for you [here](#).

It was nice to have our work profiled on national TV on "GMA," but in the coming year, I want to use my social media accounts to tell good stories not just from my office, but from throughout our state. Our state still faces some challenges, but we are making progress. We also have resilient and amazing people who make Illinois the state I want to live in.

I want to highlight the people who are growing opportunities here. Throughout 2024, I will be visiting entrepreneurs who have built some of the companies that have grown through investments from our [Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund](#).

So, if you want to see some great entrepreneurs and innovative businesses, follow me on our social media channels. We really have a lot to celebrate, and I look forward to shining a spotlight on them!

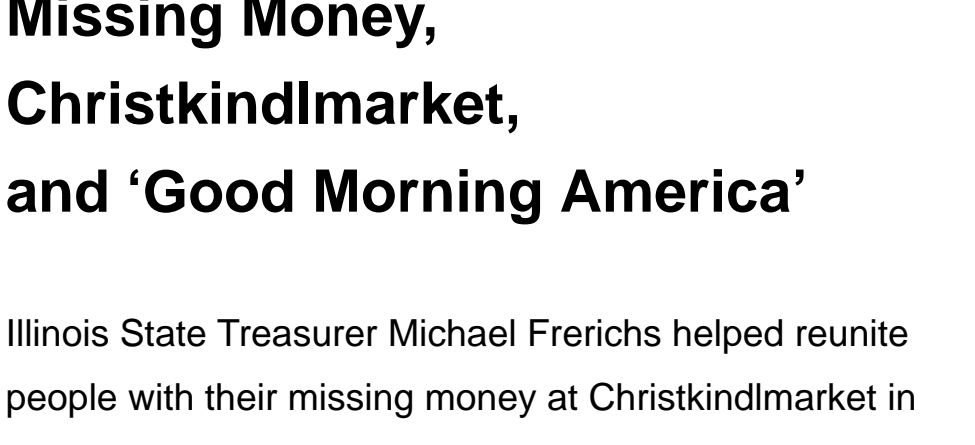
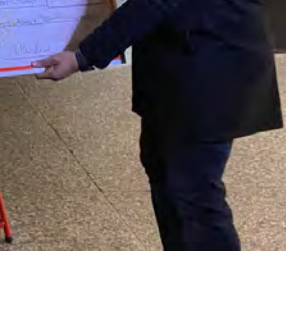
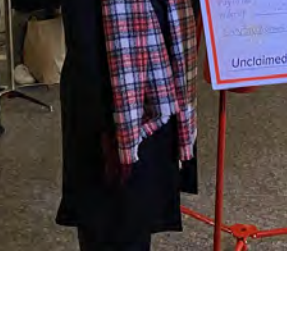
Have a happy New Year!

Sincerely,

**Michael W. Frerichs**

Illinois State Treasurer

## Follow us on Social Media!



## Missing Money, Christkindlmarket, and 'Good Morning America'

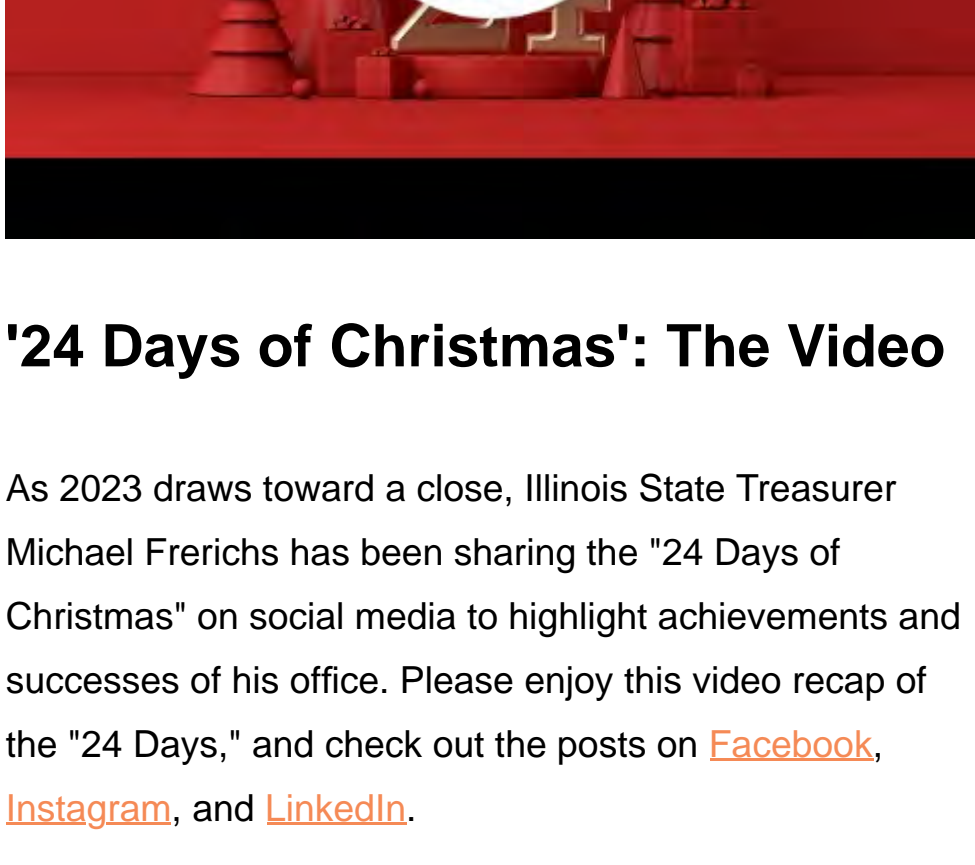
Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs helped reunite people with their missing money at Christkindlmarket in Chicago earlier this month, and ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" was there to document the event for its "Show Me the Money" feature. The [story](#) aired nationally Dec. 20 on the well-known morning television show.

Treasurer Frerichs returned \$64,500 to The Salvation Army of Illinois as part of his office's I-CASH missing money program.

"We place a special emphasis on returning missing money to nonprofits and groups that help others in their time of need, especially during the holidays," Frerichs said. "I am grateful that we found these funds for The Salvation Army, its team of volunteers, and the life-saving services it provides throughout the year."

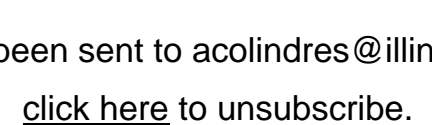
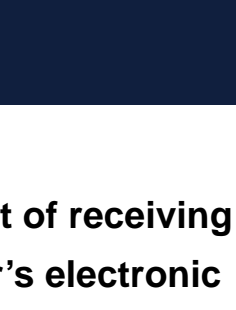
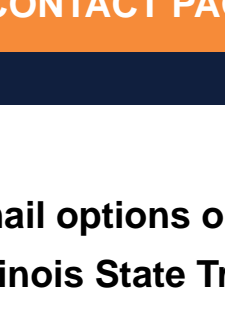
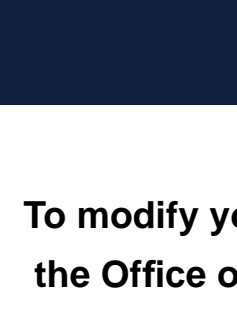
In addition, staff from the Treasurer's Office worked a Christkindlmarket booth and returned nearly \$11,000 to people in about three hours. The largest return was for nearly \$2,000.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is legally required to return missing money to the rightful owners no matter how long it takes. Individuals can search the State Treasurer's database for their name or the name of their business or nonprofit at [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH).



## '24 Days of Christmas': The Video

As 2023 draws toward a close, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs has been sharing the "24 Days of Christmas" on social media to highlight achievements and successes of his office. Please enjoy this video recap of the "24 Days," and check out the posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



**Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs**

1 East Old State Capitol Plaza

Springfield, IL 62701

[WWW.ILLINOISTREASURER.GOV](http://WWW.ILLINOISTREASURER.GOV)

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