



Dear Adopter,

Thank you for adopting a family in need from Touch A Heart Foundation! This tip sheet will provide you with important suggestions to make your involvement in the Adopt-A-Family holiday program more enjoyable.

If you have any questions or suggestions, email us at adoptions@touchaheartfoundation.org

Family Profiles can be found at: www.Roonga.com/TAHadoptions2020

Your family's city/town location and caseworker's information can be found under "Family Description". You can choose a family on the website and begin the "adoption" process right away! As always, you have the choice to meet the family or drop the gifts off with their caseworker.

- 1) Once you have selected the family you wish to adopt, contact them or the caseworker to notify them of the good news - they will be anxious to hear from you! If calling the family directly, you can use *67 on your phone when dialing to keep your number private. Please notify Touch A Heart or the family caseworker to confirm you have spoken to them and have set up visitation or dropoff.
- 2) You don't have to get all of the items on the list. Some or all of the wishes may be necessities like socks, towels, blankets etc. We try to purchase these necessities and at least one "wish" gift for each child and parent/guardian.
- 3) Some families may want to open the gifts with you there. For many families, these gifts may be the only things they receive, so they might prefer to open the majority of the gifts at home on Hanukkah or Christmas Day.
- 4) Please provide the means for a holiday meal for the family. You can give a supermarket gift card or bring a meal or food basket. If you are bringing a meal/food, ask about allergies and preferences and if they have means to cook the items you are providing (ie: stove/oven to heat up.)
- 5) Consider bringing a Christmas tree, menorah or other holiday decorations for the family if they tell you they do not already have these items.
- 6) Schedule a date and time of visit/delivery to either the family or the caseworker. Try to do this a few weeks before the holidays, as it is a very busy time for everyone. Always get specific directions.

IF YOU PLAN TO MEET THE FAMILY: Due to Covid concerns, confirm your family is ok with you dropping off the gifts at their home or at a public location like a park (but remember they will have to get their gifts back home). Plan visits in daylight hours, wear masks and when possible meet outside.

Remember that families have work and school schedules, so please try to be accommodating. Be sure to confirm and reconfirm the delivery/visit in advance to make sure that there is no confusion.

Greet them with Cheer and Enthusiasm. Guide your children to make conversation by introducing themselves, and telling them their age, grade, hobbies, etc. Be prepared for homes that may have little furniture, children sharing beds, etc. Even though these families are all lower-income, don't be surprised if they own large TVs or electronic games due to previous donations.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE ITEMS DELIVERED TO YOUR FAMILY ANONYMOUSLY: set up a drop-off date to meet their caseworker and they will arrange to get the items to the family. As mentioned, the holidays are a busy time for everyone - including caseworkers - so please do this well in advance of the holidays.

If you ever feel uncomfortable about a situation or request your adopted family has made, please contact the caseworker or Touch A Heart Foundation directly.

Community service hours will be given for all adoptions if applicable.

Touch A Heart Foundation has been facilitating the Adopt-A-Family holiday program since 2004. Year-after-year our generous volunteers tell us that this is the most rewarding experience they have ever had. We hope you feel the same. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Jennifer Kaufman

Deborah Perlman

Jennifer Kaufman, Executive Director

Deborah Perlman, Founder

and all of the children and families who will benefit from your generosity!