

CCSA Adopt-A-Family Program - FAQ's- Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CCSA Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program and how does it work?

This year CCSA sponsors hope to successfully adopt approximately 200-250 families at Christmas time. Eligible families and their children are selected to participate in the program. The families are matched with sponsors who provide the makings of a Christmas dinner. Sponsors may include additional food store or other gift cards for the family. Families may consist of families with children, seniors or singles. The agency staff and volunteers screen interested families to seek out those most in financial need.

Where does the Christmas Program occur? CCSA's annual Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program takes place at **St. Mark's United Methodist Church**, located at 3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego CA 92117.

This year's program dates are:

- **Thursday December 17, 2009 – 8am to 5pm**

Sponsors drop-off their packages to Distribution Site.

- **Friday December 18, 2009 from 8am to 5pm**

Adopted families come to pick up their gifts 8am to 5pm.

What do I do as a “sponsor” for the CCSA Adopt-A-Family Christmas program?

CCSA Adopt-A-Family Program offers each sponsor the opportunity to individually create holiday magic for their adopted family. There are some basic program requirements:

- We ask that each family receive a Family Food Basket with non-perishable items. You may also include a food store gift card. Other gift cards for the families may be included in the basket such as to Target, the movies, Jack in the Box or other forms of entertainment. CCSA asks that a maximum of \$35 per family member be spent for gifts.
- Sponsors do the gift-wrapping for their “adopted” family according to program guidelines. See SPONSOR INSTRUCTIONS & PREPARING FOR DISTRIBUTION DAY.
- Sponsors need to be able to deliver their packages ready for pick-up to the Distribution Site on the designated day and time. The “drop-off” occurs the day before the program giveaway and volunteers are on-site at the distribution area to assist sponsors with unloading all their packages.

How much can I expect to spend if I adopt a family for Christmas? The amount spent for adopting a family varies with each sponsor and family that is adopted. Some common sense principles do apply. For example, if a sponsor chooses to adopt a family with a lot of children, the cost of the adoption will be greater. CCSA asks that a maximum of \$35 per family member be spent for gifts. It may be easier for a group to break up that cost with one general family gift card over and above the non-perishable items and food store gift card.

When is the deadline to adopt a family? There is no exact date when the “adoption” process ends. Each year the task of matching participating families with a sponsor follows a different timeline based upon finding optimal matches between family and sponsor. Our program coordinators try to have most “adoptions” complete by mid-to-late November to ensure adequate time for the sponsors to prepare their packages for delivery

to the distribution site. **REMEMBER** –The target date for sponsors this year is **Thursday, December 17th, 2009**. This is the date that ALL gift baskets for adopted families need to be delivered to the Distribution Site.

How much time does it take to adopt a family? Time-management is the responsibility of the sponsor once a sponsor has “adopted” their family. CCSA is reliant upon sponsors to follow through with their commitment of adoption. One major factor to consider when planning to adopt a family is: How many people are in your sponsor group to share the workload of the project? If you are a large group as a sponsor, delegating tasks to specific members and setting target dates for completion of tasks are important goals towards a positive outcome. Be sure to allow adequate time to prepare your basket.

How do I prepare my packages for the distribution site? Once sponsors are finished with designing and wrapping their family gift baskets, their work is not quite finished but the fun begins as they prepare the packages to be opened by their “adopted” family on Christmas Day. For more information, please see SPONSOR INSTRUCTIONS AND PREPARING YOUR PACKAGES FOR DROP-OFF AT DISTRIBUTION SITE.

Can I meet the family I adopt? We often are asked if a sponsor can meet their adopted family. We recognize that as sponsors choose to adopt a family they have chosen to give a part of themselves and it truly becomes a personal experience. Many sponsors are filled with anticipation of the expect outcome. BUT for effective program management it is not possible to arrange for sponsors to meet their families. With safety concerns in mind we never release the names and addresses of our sponsors nor the last names of the adopted families. **No Exceptions Will Be Made.**

Can I help or participate in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program if I cannot or do not want to commit to adopting a family? Can I still help? Yes!! Absolutely. There are many ways to help during the Christmas season without taking on the commitment or responsibility of adopting an entire family. Please consider one of the following options:

- Co-sponsor a family with another sponsor to combine resources.
- Donate an undesignated gift directly to CCSA Clairemont Service Center. These gifts are given to children of families that were unable to be adopted.
- Volunteer to help during the program at the Distribution Site.

For any questions or concerns, please call Jeanne McAlindin “Adopt-A-Family” program Coordinator, at (619) 276-1169.

Click **HERE** to go Christmas Meal Basket Program

Click **HERE** to go “Christmas for the Homeless” Program