



THANK YOU so much for your interest in adopting a family for the holidays!
Your support and generosity means the world to us and the families we work with.

Timeline & Important Dates:

- **Week of October 19:** staff will begin completing Holiday Wish Lists with families.
- **Beginning October 23:** wish lists will be distributed to donors as requested.
- **Friday, December 15:** We ask that all gifts be delivered to our office so we can begin distribution and ensure all gifts make it under the tree by Christmas Eve!

How many families do you match with donors annually?

- We facilitate one of our County's largest holiday adoption program for families, and each year the need grows.
- In 2016 we directly matched 200 families with donors (318 parents and 519 children). We served an additional 145 families through our "Santa's Workshop" which included toys, books, clothes, jackets, and blankets donated through various drives throughout the community.

The wish list is HUGE. Do I have to get everything?!

- No! We ask our families to dream when we're filling out the sheet. We try to paint the best picture of the family, their current situation, what the kids like, and what they need so you are able to shop accordingly.
- Know that no matter how big or small the gift is that you give the family, it makes the world of difference, and brings so much joy to the kids and parents.

I'm not delivering to the family, so when and where do I drop off the gifts?

- All gifts should be delivered to the Family Support Center no later than Friday, December 15th. This will give us time to contact the family for pickup.
- When you know when you'll be delivering, please email or call Whitney so we are ready for you.
- Our address is 201 Capitol Way N, corner of State Ave & Capitol Way downtown. We have a loading zone out front of our office- pull on up and we'll help unload!

Do I need to box or bag the gifts up? How do you know who's who?

- Yes please!
- Please put all items for the family in large garbage bags or boxes, and on a large piece of paper write the family number (found at the top of the referral) and ___ of ___. So, if you have 6 bags, each should be labeled "1 of 6", "2 of 6" and so forth, with the family number on each bag.



What is the typical family size?

- We work with single pregnant women and larger blended families with multiple adults and kiddos.
- Let Whitney know how big of a family you would like to adopt, and we will match you with a family that fits your interest and ability.

Can I adopt more than one family?

- Of course! We have many individual donors who will take one or two families, and businesses who sometimes take up to as many as 50 families. Yes! 50!

Can we have the kid's names?

- If the families are OK with their names being shared, we will provide you with first names. Some of our clients prefer to remain anonymous, so in that case you will have age and gender of each family member.



If I have a question about the family, who do I contact?

- If you have questions about the referral, you can email Whitney (whitneyt@fscss.org). Please include the family number (found at the top of the referral form). Whitney will then reach out to the family's case manager or the family directly to get your question answered.
- We will do our best to get back to you with an answer ASAP, though sometimes it takes a day to reach a family.

Can we deliver gifts to the families?

- We ask each family if they are open to the gifts being delivered by the adoptive family. If they are, it will be marked on the referral form and you will be given the family's contact information.
- Please let Whitney know if you plan to deliver gifts directly to the family. She will contact the family and let them know to expect contact from you and will indicate it on our master list.
- Even if the family says they are open to having gifts delivered, you are not required to do so.

But this family is homeless; where will they keep their gifts?

- Many of the families who are matched with donors are currently experiencing homelessness; this includes families living in their cars, our shelter Pear Blossom Place, in a friend's basement, or a different place every night. The holidays are especially hard on homeless families.
- If you are matched with a homeless family, we ask that you get some of the most needed items, and those that can be easily transported (ie: a TV would be difficult!).

Can I give gift cards?

- Yes! On our wish list we ask each family where they shop- this way you know what store is the most convenient for the family.
- Families often really appreciate having the gift card so they can shop for their kiddos, or buy some of the family's necessities.

Can I wrap the gifts?

- Sure! If you are provided the children and parent's names we ask you label the gifts with their names. If not, please label by age and gender, or mom/dad.

Do you also accept general toy/clothing drive items?

- Absolutely! We ALWAYS need new items for all ages- coats, clothing, blankets, toys, etc.
- For families who have not been adopted we distribute all extra gifts and items on December 21st.



What about food?

- We have had donors give families all of the items needed to make a full Christmas dinner, and we welcome that. Please check with Whitney ahead of time to make sure the family has access to a kitchen and to coordinate drop off / pickup time so nothing spoils.

I want to do more. Who can I talk to about becoming involved?

- We would LOVE for you to become more involved, and have lots of different opportunities throughout the year that you can become involved in.
- Give Whitney a call and she'll gladly talk to you more about ways to engage with us! 360-754-9297 x 217