



Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive

# 2013 Adopt A Family Program

## It's all about making a difference...

The Adopt a Family Program assists hundreds of families each year, which lessens the stress for families that surrounds the holiday season. Many of the families served by our department have little or no financial resources. Your hard work and kind efforts make a significant difference creating a holiday that will be remembered over a lifetime. Please feel proud in your efforts to make a difference



It is hoped that your participation in this program will enrich your holiday celebration. Outlined on the reverse side of this sheet are some facts about our program.

### Donors share their experiences:

*"It was amazing...we went to drop off the car load of presents to the family. As we walked in, I noticed that this family was heating their house with the oven. This family definitely more than deserved to have a beautiful Christmas. I was so happy to be able to help her give that to her children. She was so happy that her kids would have presents that Christmas morning." - Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood*

*"The first year we participated, the mom did not even have a bed for her child...the look on the child's face when she saw the toys and bed was priceless. She now has a bedroom full of things instead of an empty room. That made our Holiday!" - Danielle's House of Hair*

*"Participating in the Adopt-A-Family program is an opportunity for the agency to work as a team toward the common goal of helping others. As gifts are donated and put on display, it's a heartwarming reminder of what we can accomplish by working together. It helps to build a sense of community among employees and serves as the foundation for our work throughout the year." NYS Homes and Community Renewal*

Contact: Sherri Chromik at 447-5659 or by e-mail to [Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com](mailto:Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com)

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# Albany County Adopt-A-Family Program Facts



**How can I be sure these families are really in need?** The families participating in our program have been identified by the Department's staff as being families in need. You are invited to acquaint yourself with the services we provide by visiting our website - [www.albanycounty.com](http://www.albanycounty.com). If you would like to receive a copy of our brochure outlining our services, please contact Sherri Chromik at 447-5659 or by email to [sherri.chromik@albanycounty.com](mailto:sherri.chromik@albanycounty.com).

**What are the costs involved?** For first time participants, a small family is recommended - one child/one parent. To provide a point of perspective, \$100 per family member may be used as a guide in establishing a cost base.

**How will I know what to purchase?** After registering, the donor will be provided with information regarding clothing, toys, and possibly house-hold items on their family match. After review of the information provided, the donor will decide what they would like to present in their holiday gift package. Consultation with a staff member is always suggested in an attempt to gain insight as to what the family may need most. However, items such as food, basic toiletries, and outwear are always useful.

**Do I have to buy everything on the list?** Absolutely not. Sometimes families list a great deal of information, and in some cases expensive items such as appliance, beds, tech equipment and games. In many cases, donors may coincidentally have a match for these large ticket items in their home, in good condition, and are happy to offer them for recycling. The donor is in no way expected to make excessive or expensive purchases.

**What if I'm not able to take on the task of shopping but would like to contribute?** Monetary donations are accepted and used to purchase gift cards to local super market and department stores to assist families who were not formally adopted.

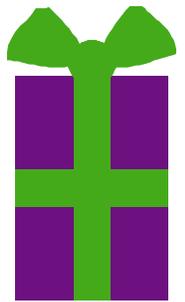
**What happens if I realize I am unable to participate after being matched?** We would need to know this as soon as possible. News of being adopted for the holiday brings tremendous relief from many stresses experienced by families, and efforts to locate another donor would be very important.

**Should the family be contacted directly?** Not without checking with us first. In most cases, communication should be directed to the Department staff. If you are unable to connect with the staff member, call 447-5659 for assistance. There may be some situations in which direct communication with the family would be OK; however, clearance should first be received from the staff member.



**What are the delivery requirements?** The method of delivery is the donor's decision. Some donors feel that delivering directly to the family completes the special holiday connection. In this situation, the donor would be matched with a family that is open to accepting delivery directly from the donor. A special note on delivering directly - as with any type of travel to unfamiliar locations, general precautions should be taken regarding safety. For example, it's best to conduct business during the daylight hours, as well as with a travel partner. Some donors prefer to remain anonymous to the family and choose to deliver the gifts to a neutral location. If delivery by the donor is not possible, arrangements can be made for the gifts to be picked up from the donor's location. Delivery and any concerns should be coordinated with the Department staff worker.

**Should the gifts be wrapped?** Yes, unless otherwise specified, wrapping the gifts is a welcomed resource for the families. As an extra measure to protect the privacy of the family, we share only the parent's first name, and only the children's first two letters of their first name will be disclosed. If there are any questions as to what toys are safe and/or age appropriate, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides information regarding toy safety - [www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/toy\\_sfy.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/toy_sfy.html)



# Adopt a Family Program - Holiday Season 2013

Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families

112 State Street, Room 300, Albany, NY 12207

[Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com](mailto:Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com) Phone 447-5659 Fax 447-5686



## Donor Registration Form

Name of Group/Individual \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family size you would hope to be matched with:

### STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

(I)(We) agree to maintain confidentiality of the family selected by your staff and will use the information given solely for the purpose of participation in the Adopt-A-Family Program.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(I) (We) would like to take part in the delivery aspect of this donation:

Yes

No

### MONETARY CONTRIBUTION

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make check or money order payable to the *Albany County Children's Fund*. (Send no cash through the mail.)

Check/Money Order is Enclosed

Amount

Please return via fax or mail to our location listed above.

Please indicate how many years you have participated in this program:

Check here if new to the program:

**For further information or questions call Sherri Chromik at 447-5659 or by e-mail at [Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com](mailto:Sherri.Chromik@albanycounty.com)**

Please tell us how you heard about the program:

A friend  Television  Albany County website  Other \_\_\_\_\_