

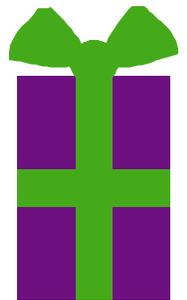
Albany County Adopt-A-Family Program Facts



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. If you would like to receive a copy of our brochure outlining our services, please contact Kaitlyn Rice at (518) 447-4857 or by email to kaitlyn.rice@albanycountyny.gov.

What are the costs involved? This depends on the way in which you choose to help. Any amount of new, unwrapped gifts, any amount of a donated service or any amount of a monetary donation is greatly needed and appreciated. If you choose to adopt a family, 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.

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 (518) 447-4857 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.

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.

Albany County Adopt-A-Family Program

Ways You Can Help

- ♥ **Adopt A Family:** Families, businesses and organizations can pool their resources to adopt a family. We'll give you a list that details the needs and wants of your pre-screened family. You decide how many of those needs and gifts you can fulfill by shopping for and wrapping these gifts. Most donors spend about \$100 for each member of an adopted family. Some donors prefer to deliver the gifts themselves while others ask that we do it. Either way, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference for a family in need. See reverse side of this sheet for more details.
- ♥ **Donate new, unwrapped gifts:** An alternative to adopting an entire family is to donate new, unwrapped gifts, which we will combine with others to help brighten the season for a child or family.
- ♥ **Have a Holiday Giving Tree:** Decorate a tree with tags (bells, angels, stars) that have a gift suggestion on them. Members of your group or organization can pick one or more of the tags and use it to provide a new, unwrapped gift that can be donated to the program.
- ♥ **Donate a service:** You can donate a service or a gift card, or free coupons such as movie passes; hair cut coupons, tickets to a holiday show, the circus or other family-friendly event.
- ♥ **Monetary donations:** We'll use your donations to buy gifts, gift cards, groceries or other necessities for un-matched families at area supermarkets and discount stores; or to help out families who have emergencies around the holidays.
- ♥ **Tell a friend:** Maybe you have already adopted a family or donated to another program; then pass this on to your friends or colleagues.
- ♥ **Schedule an appointment:** A member of our staff would be happy to meet with you to explain the program and discuss ways in which you or your organization might become involved; or you can make an appointment to talk with us by phone. To schedule a visit or phone call, please call Kaitlyn at (518) 447-4857.
- ♥ **Get more information:** For complete details or to download a Donor Registration Form, go to www.albanycounty.com or call Kaitlyn at (518) 447-4857



Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

ALBANY COUNTY
Cares about our families