



Adopt-A-Family Instructions

2007 Holiday Season

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Merry Christmas and thank you for your interest in adopting a family.

The Salvation Army once again expects to serve nearly 1500 families this Christmas and your participation is an inspiring piece of it. The personal gifts of time and resources are unforgettable to many clients and truly capture the spirit of the season.

If you decide to participate, you're agreeing to the following:

- 1) To avoid donating recalled products. Each store avidly removes items from their shelves days before the media receives notice of a recall. However, something you may have already purchased may later become recalled. Before giving it away, refer to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Web site: www.cpsc.gov, or call CPSC at its toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772 to check. Keep your receipts just in case.
- 2) To provide at least the following:
 - a. Food that covers one holiday meal for the family. (For example: A ham or turkey, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls, vegetables, dessert.) *This year the food will sit overnight before the adoptees pick it up; we will probably not have freezers or refrigerators. Consider a gift certificate.*
 - b. Supplemental food, acknowledging that when children aren't in school, more food needs to be in the home. (For example: cereal, juice, crackers, mac & cheese, ramen, peanut butter, or other snacks.)
 - c. 2-3 *new* toys plus minimal stocking stuffers for each child.

The above is the minimum requirement for you to provide. You're free to give more.

- 3) To abide by our timeline. That is,
 - a. Making sure I've received a basic "Inventory List" of what you've purchased no later than **Wednesday, December 12 at 5:00pm**.
 - b. Delivering the gifts and food to our South Bend office (see address above) between **7am and 6pm on Friday, December 14**. We also ask that each item you bring – whether wrapped or not—be labeled with the adoption # and first name of the intended recipient.

Once you agree to these 3 stipulations, I'll assign you a family. This year, I will give you the first names, ages, sizes, and gift ideas for your adopted family. Bear in mind: we try our best to screen the clients and to accommodate any preferences you may have alerted us of. But, considering the volume we're dealing with, perfection is impossible.

In addition, if you would like to have more direct contact with the distribution, your help is welcome. The opportunity to anonymously meet the adopted families will occur the day after you deliver: Saturday, December 15. Please contact me (email is best) about that, or any other ideas, questions, comments, or concerns.

Again, thank you for your inspirational generosity.