

# FAQS ABOUT ADOPTING A FAMILY

## **I sent in my contract in September. When will I be matched with a family?**

We match families in the order we receive the contracts back. We do not begin interviewing families until October 14-24. We begin matching families as soon as the interviewing begins.

## **When is the final date that I can adopt a family?**

We encourage you to adopt as soon as you are committed to ensure that the most needy families are adopted first. Usually we close adoptions in mid-November to prepare for our Angel Tree program, which is the program for the families that we are unable to adopt but still need assistance.

## **Why is the drop off date so much earlier than Christmas?**

It may seem early, but there's never enough time for coordinating up to 1800 families. Not only do we need the time to contact the families when their gifts are dropped off, we also have to track down families who have changed addresses, disconnected phones, translation issues, etc. One week after Adopt a Family drop off, we need the space to start distributing to the hundreds of families in our Angel Tree and Card A Teen programs, so the sooner you can drop off your gifts, the easier we can rest assured that they will make it to the children in plenty of time for Christmas.

## **How do you decide when a family is eligible for adoption?**

We interview hundreds of families during our two week intake, at which time we verify number of children, clothing sizes, income vs. expenses, social situation, etc. Adopt a Family clients are the cases with special hardships, such as death in the family, a child with a disability, house fires, single mothers working multiple jobs, domestic violence cases, working poor, etc.

## **It says that I need to provide an outfit for each child, a toy, and a gift card for the family to buy groceries for a Christmas meal. Can I do more?**

Of course! We do our best to accommodate the most generous donors and families are always grateful for whatever extra you would like to give. In many cases, what you will be giving is the only things the children will find under the tree.

## **Should I wrap everything?**

Completely up to you. Parents usually enjoy having everything wrapped, as they cannot afford the paper. If you do not wish to wrap gifts, there is the option of including wrapping paper or bows with the gifts.

## **Can I donate used items?**

This is a sticky subject. While families are happy to have **gently** used donated items, we need to emphasize that it should be *in addition to* their gifts, not *instead of*. Any used donated items should be in a separate box, unwrapped and marked "USED".

## **Should I keep the receipts for my tax purposes?**

You should receive a Gift in Kind form with your family's info that will allow you to attach receipts. If you do not have receipts, you can provide an estimate on the form. This is what we use at the conclusion of the program to provide you with a total receipt for your tax exempt purposes. *This form is optional and not at all mandatory.*

## **Why can't I meet the family?**

Due to the Indiana Law concerning the client's Right to Privacy, we cannot offer the option of direct delivery. We do understand that many donors wish for the option, however to ensure the safety and privacy of both our donors and clients, The Salvation Army must comply with state regulations. All clients are given the option of filling out a Thank You card, in which they can send pictures if they so choose (we then mail the donor the card from our facility.) We thank you for understanding and for the gift of dignity for our clients that comes with selfless, anonymous giving.