



Project Share Adopt-A-Family Program

2019 Adopter Guidelines

Overview: The Adopt-A-Family Program provides food and gifts for families in Hastings School District 200 during the holiday season.

To Adopt: Please visit www.hastingsfamilyservice.org to sign-up to adopt a family. You will find a list of families available to adopt and will be able to select the family you would like to shop for. Family names are kept anonymous, but you will be able to see the number of people in the family and the age and gender of each child. Each family will also have an estimated cost for gifts listed. **Families will be available to adopt November 13th- December 10th.** The list is continually updated as new families register for the program. If you do not see a family available to adopt right away, please check back often.

Go Shopping: Once you have adopted a family, you will get a confirmation email within one business day. This email will include a wish list for each family member so you can start shopping!

We respectfully ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Each child's wish list will include 1-3 items totaling approximately \$90. Each adult's wish list will include one item with an approximate value of \$30. As the adopter you may spend what you feel is appropriate on your family. *We do ask that you provide at least one gift for each member of the family.*
- Please be mindful of your family's request to have their gifts wrapped or not. Many parents will want to look at the gifts their children will be receiving and prefer to wrap them personally. Feel free to donate a roll of wrapping paper and tape to your adopted family.
- **Please label each gift (wrapped or not) with your family's number. Clearly mark the gender and age of the family member on each gift. Please pack all gifts together in large boxes/bags with the outside of each clearly marked with the family number.**
- You will be given a range of dates to drop off gifts based on when you adopt. Please try to the best of your ability to bring in gifts during your assigned dates. Gifts must be dropped off no later than Monday, December 16th. Gifts may be brought to Hastings Family Service Donation Center located at 301 Second Street East, Hastings, MN.
- ***Please DO NOT bring in your family's gifts until they are 100% complete.*** It is better to bring your gifts in late rather than incomplete. Bringing in a family's gifts at different times is confusing for our staff and volunteers and often leads to a family having to make multiple trips to pick up gifts.

If you would like to do more....

- Please consider donating the cost of your family's meal. Hastings Family Service provides a food basket for each family adopted. The average cost of a basket is \$30 for a family of four. HFS spends approximately \$15,000 on holiday meals. You can help by donating the cost of your family's holiday meal.
- Before purchasing extra gifts for your family, we ask you to consider adopting another family. If you are in a position to do more, please adopt an additional family to ensure as many families as possible have a joyful holiday season.



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F.A.Q

Do families go through an application process?

Yes. Every family that would like to receive holiday assistance must register in person. They are required to prove they live in Hastings School District 200 and fill out an income and expense sheet.

What size are the families?

Families range in size from small (1 adult/ 1 child) to large (2 adults/10 children).

What do I have to provide for my family?

Adopters will be given a wish list with 1-3 gifts (totaling up to \$90) for each child and 1 gift (approximately \$30) for each adult. As an adopter you can choose how much you would like to spend on your family. If you would like to do more, please consider donating the cost of your family's holiday meal to Hastings Family Service (\$30 for a family of four).

What if I can't afford to adopt an entire family?

Families can be shared! Groups are encouraged to adopt large families together.

Can I just buy one or two gifts?

Yes! Some families do not sign-up in time to be adopted and are able to pick out gifts at Hastings Family Service. We always need gifts on hand to provide for these families.

Is adopting a family tax-deductible?

Yes! Adopting a family is a tax-deductible donation. We will have a receipt available for you when drop-off your gifts.

Do I get to meet my family?

No. Families are kept anonymous.

Why don't a get to see the first names of my adopted family members?

Because of the small, close knit community in the Hastings area, providing first names of family members breeches the confidentiality of our adopted families. It is a value of Hastings Family Service to respect the dignity and privacy of every individual.

I can't find or have a question about an item on my family's wish list. Can you contact them for me?

No. Due to the large number of families we serve during this time of the year we are unable to follow up with families about questions on their wish list. If you cannot find an item, please use your best judgment and find a suitable substitution. You are welcome to include gift receipts.