**Annual Adopt-A-Family**

**Frequently Asked Questions - 2022**

**What is Adopt-A-Family?**

Adopt-A-Family is an annual community wide program helping local Jewish families and singles in our Indianapolis area each year during the Chanukah holiday. When it first began, a few volunteers gathered to help non-Jewish families through the United Christmas Service. Within a few years, the need for help within our own Jewish community became so immense that the group began helping local Jewish families for Chanukah. This has been the goal ever since. Throughout the years, hundreds of volunteers have participated each year. In 2021, Adopt-a-Family served 77 families with the support of 819 participating community members.

**How can I participate in Adopt-A-Family this year?**

1. Email Rachel Katz ([rkatz@jfgi.org](mailto:rkatz@jfgi.org)) or fill out the registration form located at [www.jewishindianapolis.org/adoptafamily](http://www.jewishindianapolis.org/adoptafamily) to get a family/single’s wish list and shop during the month of November. Drop these items off at Community Day on Dec. 4, or at Jewish Family Services by December 9. The JFS office is located at 6905 Hoover Road and is open weekdays between 9-2. Afternoon drop-offs by appointment (email [rkatz@jfgi.org](mailto:rkatz@jfgi.org)). ***\*Please include all gift receipts and make sure to label the bag with your family’s assigned number and who the gift is for within the family (i.e. Family 1 – Son age 2).***
2. Purchase gift cards that JFS will distribute to families – (cards purchased directly from Jewish Family Services benefit the Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis). Drop these off at JFS.
3. Still want to help but you don’t have time to shop? You can make a tax deductible donation online at [www.jewishindianapolis.org/adoptafamily](http://www.jewishindianapolis.org/adoptafamily); funds will directly support families for Chanukah. *This is a wonderful way to give a meaningful Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift or honor someone’s memory.* You may also check out our Amazon shopping list: <https://a.co/ggPLPkP>.
4. Join us for our Community Day from 1 – 3 p.m. Sunday, December 4 for:

* Gift-wrapping
* Kid friendly activities with PJ Library
* Kosher dairy snacks

**What is the deadline for dropping off gifts?**

We kindly ask that all gifts are brought to JFS by December 9th. This program helps support over 70 families and we need enough time to distribute gifts before the holiday begins.

It helps our team greatly if you can coordinate a date with us. This way we can coordinate a pickup date with the adopted family.

**How do I join a team?**

1. There are several ways you can join a team:
   1. **Form your own team:** Get together with your friends, family, or colleagues, and sign up to get a shopping list. Please be sure to designate your “team captain” who will be responsible for overall communication with teammates.
   2. **Join the NEXTGen Team:** For young adults (ages 20s & 30s) team up with peers and adopt a family together. You can select this option in the online registration form.
   3. **Adopt a family or individual independently:** Be assigned a family or receive part of a wish-list to shop independently.
2. Decide how you’d like to participate and register online.
3. The captain will receive your family/single’s wish list and then you are ready to shop!

**What is the role of the Team Captain?**

The Team Captain is responsible for coordinating his or her team for Adopt-a-Family.

1. The Team Captain will get a shopping list from JFS and will then be responsible for sharing with the team and coordinating who will be purchasing which items.
2. The Team Captain should also keep track of when gifts are dropped off at JFS and help ensure we get all gifts on time (by Dec 9). JFS will reach out to the team captain to find out if all gifts have been delivered and to get updates on behalf of the whole team.

**How much do I need to contribute financially to be on a team?**

1. Jewish Family Services recommends that a team spends between $100-$200 per recipient family member. For example, if your team is adopting a family of 3 then the team needs to contribute between $300-$600. This DOES NOT mean that each team member needs to spend $100. For example, 6 team members can each contribute $50 to support a family of 3. Please note: not all of the items on a family’s wish list need to be purchased, but are listed to provide a nice variety.
2. There are plenty of singles available which would mean a $100 total contribution for the entire team to adopt one single. We can also break up family lists and assign you one individual.
3. **There is no minimum or limit as to how you can make a difference for a family this year! You can let us know what works for you and we’ll pair you with the right team and the right family; every bit counts!**

**Who do my dollars help?**

JFS’ Clinical Director, Julie Sondhelm, has identified families and individuals to receive this special holiday support. Many of the recipients work with JFS year-round to receive different types of support to combat challenging times.

In 2021, Adopt-a-Family served 77 households of all different sizes, including large families, senior citizens, and single adults. In total, 252 individuals received holiday support for Chanukah.

**Still have questions? Contact Rachel at 317-259-6822. We look forward to seeing you at this year’s Adopt-A-Family! Thank you for what you do for our community.**

**Need some support this Chanukah? JFS is here to help! Contact Julie Sondhelm at (317) 536-1476 or jsondhelm@jfgi.org.**