



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Adopt-a-Family program?

[Adopt-a-Family](#) is a large-scale effort to engage our entire community in the JOY of the holidays! This annual giving program includes gifting people living at a low or below income level. When you adopt and/or organize your friends, family, colleagues, faith members, and others to participate as adopters, you too experience the JOY that the season captures!

How are individuals and families selected for the Adopt-a-Family program?

Every year the most conscientious, productive individuals and families [Interfaith](#) serves (our neighbors in need -- men, women, and children of all ages and backgrounds) who need assistance with housing, employment, veterans services, senior services, education, recovery and wellness, behavioral health, etc., are nominated by Interfaith case managers, client advocates, and clinicians for the Holiday Adopt-a-Family program.

How does Adopt-a-Family work?

Nominated individuals and families are anonymously matched with generous adopters who fulfill their wishes for the holiday season. Adopters are provided with a "wish list" for each person they adopt. In early December, adopters deliver gifts to Interfaith at our Winterfaith Wonderland gift drop-off. Interfaith staff then delivers the gifts to the adopted individuals and families.

How will COVID-19 affect the Adopt-a-Family program?

Interfaith staff are fully vaccinated. We also adhere to CDC guidelines for services and continue to practice social distancing, and wearing masks. This year we will host a drive-through, contactless gift drop-off at our headquarters, located at 550 W. Washington Ave. in Escondido.

Will I have the chance to meet the individual and/or families I've adopted?

To adhere to our service requirements, and to uphold the confidentiality of our clients, adopters are not able to meet the people they adopt. During our Winterfaith Wonderland, when the gift delivery occurs, adopters will meet Interfaith staff and volunteers including case managers, client advocates, and clinicians who work closely with adoptees and know them well. After the holidays, those receiving gifts send a THANK YOU card to their adopters!

How much does it cost to adopt?

Although Interfaith does not suggest a fixed amount of money to spend, our experience is that most adopters provide gifts averaging \$100 per person. Feel free to be as generous as you like. If you want to adopt but have limited resources, consider adopting as a group with family and/or friends or participating in our ["Simple but Significant" gift registry](#), where you can purchase any quantity of items that will be gifted to both our unsheltered neighbors and to clients in our residential treatment programs who may have missed the adoption deadline. Feel free to contact us to discuss other options that can work within your means.



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Can I donate used items?

For the Adopt-a-Family program, we accept **NEW** items *only* please.

Should I wrap the gifts?

Please do **NOT** wrap the gifts you are giving. Instead, please bring enough wrapping paper, bows/ribbons, boxes, tissue etc. for the gifts you deliver so our staff can wrap the presents for their clients. Also, many of the parents from the families you gift enjoy wrapping the presents you've provided for their children. Staff will give parents the wrapping paper, bows/ribbon, etc. you supply for them to do that.

How should the items be delivered?

Please deliver your gifts in large store bags, garbage bags, or large boxes/bins to ensure your gifts stay together. It is best if you separate the gifts for each family member into their own bag/box. **It is crucial that the wish list for each person you adopt is attached to the corresponding gifts with the ID number visible.**

When and where should I deliver gifts?

After you register to be an adopter and the drop-off date for gifts nears, we will send you the link to an electronic sign-up form to choose the date/time* you will drop off gifts. Gift delivery begins at our Winterfaith Wonderland on Friday, December 3rd. We will be accepting gifts from adopters at specific times until Sunday, December 5th.

*Specific times to drop-off each day will be provided on the electronic sign-up form. Please do not drop off gifts on a random date/time.

What if I cannot follow-through with my adoption?

If, for any reason, you find you are unable to fulfill the adoption, *please immediately* call: Janet Reeves, Volunteer Coordinator, 760-489-6380, ext. 207.

How can I help even if I cannot adopt this year?

All donations to Interfaith are much appreciated and utilized! Visit our [website](#) to make a donation to the Adopt-a-Family program, another program, or wherever the need is greatest.

Got a question we didn't answer?

Contact Janet Reeves, Volunteer Services Associate, at 760-489-6380, ext. 207 or jreeves@interfaithservices.org.