



United Way
of Greater Topeka

THANK YOU for your interest in adopting a family this holiday season!

1. Making contact with your family. First, we advise adopters to contact their adopted families as soon as they receive the information. This helps the adopted family know they are taken care of for Christmas, and lets them know they don't need to utilize other community resources to provide for their family's Christmas. If you have any questions about clothes sizing, wish list items, etc., we advise you check with your adopted family when you contact them. You are welcome to contact your family more than just once or twice if you have questions for them, etc.

Also note that many times phones are shut off or they run out of minutes by the middle of the month. However sometimes they are still able to get text messages. Each applicant has been asked if sending a text is ok and that will be listed on your information once you have been matched with a family. If you still have trouble contacting your family, please give us a call so we may assist you at 785-228-5120.

2. How will we know what to buy for the families? We recommend going off of the provided wish list that comes with each family member. Some of the most common items we see on lists are: winter coats, blankets, socks, underwear, hat, gloves, clothes and shoes. Volunteers do everything they can to make sure wish list items are appropriate and follow the \$40 gift allowance guideline.

While we understand your generosity, we encourage you to stick closely to these guidelines. These guidelines are to keep giving equal across the board for all those being adopted. If you have additional resources, we **highly recommend** adopting another family to ensure everyone in our community is able to have something for Christmas.

3. How do we go about the food? Our expectation is for adopters to provide their adopted family with a Christmas meal—whatever you would expect a nice Christmas dinner. It is recommended to give a gift card to Dillon's or another grocery store near where the family lives. Please do not give a Walmart gift card for the meal as many times it will not be used to purchase food. You are welcome to prepare this food beforehand or deliver the supplies for the family to prepare themselves. It really depends on what fits your wants/schedule and the wants/abilities of your adopted family (e.g. if a person is disabled, they may not be able to cook their meal, or if a person does not have a working oven, they won't be able to bake anything). **Our best advice is to talk with your adopted family and decide what works best between the two of you.**

4. What about delivery of food and gifts? You and your adopted family will work together to set up a time to deliver your gifts and food. This is usually done all in one trip, but again, this is up to you and the family you adopt.

5. VERY IMPORTANT! Volunteers at intake instruct each applicant and give them information on what they can and can't ask for when speaking to their adopter. Unfortunately and truly upsetting last year adoptees made extremely inappropriate requests of adopters such as: paying utility bills, 45" TV's, furniture, or having their vehicle fixed, etc. If this should happen to you call Kimberly **IMMEDIATELY** and do not have further conversations with adoptee until Kimberly has had the opportunity to speak with the adoptee.

I hope this answered any questions you may have had and put you more at ease about the logistics of adopting. As you can see, this experience is really dictated by the adopter and adoptee relationship. No matter what, at the end of the season you will have ensured Christmas for a family that would most likely have had none.

Kimberly Wolff

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