

Washington County Holiday Food Basket Program 2009

Sponsor Helpful Hints

Contacting Your Adoptee

1. Introduce yourself to the family and let them know you will be sponsoring them with food and gifts for the December holiday.
2. Ask about any special food requests and dietary needs for health, cultural, or religious reasons.
3. Ask about gift ideas for the children if you would like, but we recommend you do not promise to purchase particular items during the interview. We also recommend you do not give cash.
4. Ask if they would prefer presents wrapped or unwrapped. Offer to bring wrapping paper if they want the items unwrapped.
5. Arrange a time to deliver the food and gifts to their home, or if you wish you can arrange a time to meet the family in a third-party location.
6. When you are finished interviewing, confirm your delivery date and time with the family. Make sure you have an alternate phone number and contact for the family. Be sure to follow up a few days before delivery to confirm the delivery date and time.
7. Please remember, many of these families are having financial difficulties and may have disconnected phone lines. If so, you can send a postcard to the family, or a few of you could stop by the house and leave a note.

Delivering Your Food and Gifts

1. Be as flexible as possible regarding meeting times and interviews.
2. You may choose to deliver your gifts to the family's home or meet the family at a third-party location.
3. We recommend at least two people go to the home for delivery, but try to be sensitive by not bringing too many people.
4. Do not judge the family or assume they do not need help based upon appearances – some families need help due to unexpected unemployment, illness or other sudden life-changing circumstances.
5. If the family is not at home, leave a note listing a phone number or time you will contact them again.