



## **What is the Sponsor-a-Family program?**

Sponsor-a-Family is Interfaith's large-scale effort to engage our entire community in the joy of the holidays! This annual giving program focuses on providing gifts to vetted Interfaith clients living at a low-income level. When you sponsor and/or organize your friends, family, colleagues, faith members, and others to participate as sponsors, you too can experience the joy that the season captures!

## **How are individuals and families selected for the Sponsor-a-Family program?**

Every year the most conscientious, productive individuals and families [Interfaith](#) serves (our neighbors in need -- adults 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 Sponsor-a-Family program.

## **How does Sponsor-a-Family work?**

Nominated individuals and families are anonymously matched with generous sponsors who fulfill their wishes for the holiday season. Sponsors are provided with a "wish list" for each person they sponsor. In early December, sponsors deliver gifts to Interfaith at our gift drop-off extravaganza (come for the gifts, stay for the cocoa!). Interfaith staff then delivers the gifts to the sponsored individuals and families.

## **Will I have the chance to meet the individual and/or families I've sponsored?**

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

## **How much should I spend?**

Although Interfaith does not suggest a fixed amount of money to spend, our experience is that most sponsors provide gifts averaging \$100 per person. Feel free to be as generous as you like. If you want to sponsor but have limited resources, consider sponsoring 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 sponsorship deadline. Feel free to contact us to discuss other options that can work within your means.

## **Can I donate used items?**

For the Sponsor-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. We will have gift-wrapping onsite during the event, so if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact us.

### **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 sponsor is attached to the corresponding gifts with the ID number visible.**

### **When and where should I deliver gifts?**

After you register to be a sponsor and the drop-off date for gifts nears, we will send you information to drop off gifts on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm and Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-3 pm, or at an alternate time by appointment. Please do not drop by with gifts on dates outside our 12/8 and 12/9 designated event unless you have made prior arrangements.

### **What if I cannot follow-through with my sponsorship?**

If, for any reason, you find you are unable to fulfill the sponsorship, *please immediately* call: Mary Covher, Volunteer Coordinator, 760-215-9223, or Maria Espinoza, 760-546-8781.

### **How can I help even if I cannot sponsor this year?**

This year, Interfaith is proud to announce the opening of North County's largest family shelter, serving 10-14 families. Please consider a monetary donation to our Holiday Sponsor-a-Family Shelter program, and support these families at the holidays and beyond. Visit our [website](#) to donate.

### **Have a question we didn't answer?**

Contact Mary Covher [mcovher@interfaithservices.org](mailto:mcovher@interfaithservices.org), or Maria Espinoza [mespinoza@interfaithservices.org](mailto:mespinoza@interfaithservices.org).

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need this holiday season and all year long!