

## **Assist-a-Family**

Here is what you can expect when assisting a family. More detailed instructions and guidelines will be provided in the Assist-a-Family packet you receive at the F&T trees.

**Selecting a Family:** To select a family to care for this Christmas, please stop by the F&T Trees in either the Ministry Lobby or Narthex after services on November 23, 30 or December 7. Or contact Kathy Leahy at [kathy\\_leahy@beavton.k12.or.us](mailto:kathy_leahy@beavton.k12.or.us). You will be able to select a family based on size, age of children, and language spoken at home.

**Your Responsibilities:** Sunset will provide the food box for your family, but you will provide gifts for each of the children, and, if you so choose, the adults. We ask that you be equitable when purchasing gifts for the children, and that you spend a minimum of \$20-25 per child. If you want to provide more than one gift, you might consider one toy or other fun “luxury” item, and supplement that with something more essential, like clothing.

When you contact the family, ask for gift ideas. If the ideas they give are unreasonable (ie: an X-Box or Wii), don't be offended. With shows like Extreme Home Makeover and Oprah on TV, there are sometimes misunderstandings about what our ministry provides. Simply explain that you are looking for more modest gift ideas. If you are interested in providing gifts for the adults, be sure to mention that. In many cases they will resist, in which case you might ask if there is something they need for the household – linens, a lamp, dishes, etc. You might also ask what the parents do for a living. For example, warm socks and gloves might be valuable to someone who works outside. Or you might consider other household items, such as cleaning supplies or toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), which can quickly eat into a household budget. If you would like to supplement the food box provided by Sunset, dairy products such as milk and cheese are suggested. These items are not included in our food box.

**Contacting the Family:** Please contact your family by phone as soon as possible. If the number has been disconnected, try the alternate number given, or try again in a few days, to see if service has been restored. If, after several days, you are unable to connect with the family, contact Kathy Leahy at [kathy\\_leahy@beavton.k12.or.us](mailto:kathy_leahy@beavton.k12.or.us) to request another family, or leave a message on the hotline at 503-372-1590.

If you need assistance communicating with a Spanish-speaking family, first try speaking with an older child. School-age kids will generally speak English, and are used to translating for their parents. If this isn't possible, request help from our Spanish translators by calling 503-372-1586. Leave your name and number, as well as the name of the parents and their number. Let the translator know what information you're looking for – gift ideas, clothing sizes, etc. Be as specific as possible. Gifts for adults are optional, so if you want gift suggestions for the parents in the household, be sure to mention that. One of our translators will get back to you as soon as they are able to make contact and gather the information. This may take a few days, depending on the number of requests they get and how quickly they can reach the family, so please be

patient and don't wait until the last minute to request help.

**Reminder Call:** It's a good idea to call your family the week of December 15 and remind them that you will be stopping by on Saturday the 20th with the food and gifts. We ask that an adult be home when you stop by, and do not want you to leave the food and gifts at the door. If you would like to make the delivery at another time, that's up to you, however you will need to pick up the food box at the church and keep the perishable items refrigerated until you make the delivery.

**Pick-Up the Food Box:** Don't forget to pick up the food box for your family on Saturday, December 20. If you are not already at church helping to fill boxes, we suggest you come by between 12 noon and 1:00 pm, after the rush has died down. In order to receive the food box, you must COME INTO THE NARTHEX and pick up a Delivery Packet. You will not be given a food box without the Delivery Packet, which is different from the original packet you received. This is the only way we know you've picked up the food box for your family. (Yes, every year at least a few folks forget to pick up the food box for their family!)

**Post-Christmas Follow-up:** If you would like, feel free to maintain contact with the family. You might invite them to Family Unity Night (FUN) or to a Sunday service. Or, drop off a basket of goodies on Valentine's Day or Easter. If you are in a position to offer other support or assistance to the family, that would be great, however it is not expected. Pray about what God might want your relationship to be with this family and be open to His leading in this area.