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Join in the flurry of holiday giving

Arapahoe County kicks off its Adopt a Family holiday giving program

Aurora, Colo. Each snowflake is unique and precious and Arapahoe County feels the same about their local families in need. That's why each year the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services runs its Adopt a Family program. Starting Nov. 5, individuals, groups and organizations can join in the flurry of giving and make the holidays special for families who need it most.

Every year, hundreds of families dread the holidays. Parents are heavy with guilt and frustration that they cannot afford to provide something special for their children, and children, in turn, feel awkward and sad that the excitement of the holidays skips their home. Adopt a Family gives these children and parents a very special holiday instead.

The purpose of Adopt a Family is to do just that – adopt the entire family so that no one gets left out. Do you want to have your kids learn the joy and spirit of charity by adopting a family with a child their age? Do you want to help a single mother with two children? Once you've been matched with your ideal family, you receive their needs/wish list. Participation is as simple as providing a gift.

“Thanks to the generosity of Arapahoe County employees, local citizens, community organizations and businesses last year, we provided 672 adults and children with a very special holiday,” said Stacia Schmied-Johnston, Adopt a Family Coordinator. “When I delivered gifts to an adopted family, the mom fought back her tears of appreciation. It really demonstrates the impact of this program.”

If you can't Adopt a Family, you can still help by donating money or gift certificates to help buy gifts for non-adopted families, spread the word by mentioning Adopt a Family to friends, associates, local businesses, membership meetings and your place of worship, or volunteering at the Winter Wonderland gift drop-off and pick-up site. Gift drop-off hours:

Dec. 12 -13: 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

All proceeds go directly to the families in need. Call 303-636-1150 for more information or to be matched with a family so the flurry of holiday giving can begin. For more information, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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