



## Holiday Program Sponsor-a-Family Guidelines

[hpassist@Britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@Britepaths.org) 703-273-8829

### **Call the Family Immediately!**

- Notify the family that you are sponsoring them and verify address and apartment number. People seeking assistance are eager to know if they will receive help, so please let them know as soon as you can!
- Set delivery date and tell family someone must be home to receive items.
- Verify family requests, sizes, dietary restrictions, etc., before you start to purchase items for the family. Remember their suggestions are *suggestions* only; please use your discretion. Check to see if they would prefer that the gifts be wrapped.
- Inform them that they must contact you if there are any changes to their address and/or phone number prior to delivery date.
- Call a day or two before delivery to remind them.
- You are welcome to send or deliver gift/grocery cards, but please check with the family to ensure they can get to the retailer and notify them about how you plan to get them the gift cards.
- Take a friend with you when you deliver the food and/or gifts.

### **Problems Contacting or Communicating With the Family?**

- Call the social worker listed on the referral form to assist you if you are not able to reach the family using the information we provided. The social worker may be aware of an address or phone number change. Notify Britepaths if you are not able to reach the family or their social worker.
- Britepaths volunteers are available for translation services if you need help communicating with your family. Call Britepaths at 703-273-8829 or e-mail [hpassist@Britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@Britepaths.org) for a list of translators.

### **Food Basket Suggestions (Families Also Welcome Grocery Gift Cards!)**

- A sturdy basket/box such as a plastic crate, laundry basket, storage container, or heavy duty cardboard box
- Turkey, ham, chicken or food certificate (check first for dietary restrictions!)
- Lettuce, celery, onions, potatoes (white/sweet)
- Apples, oranges, or other hardy fruit
- Rolls or bread and margarine
- Stuffing- box/bag
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Aluminum roasting pan and cooking instructions
- Pies, nut breads, crackers, cookies
- Baby food if there are babies in the family
- Any other goodies you think children might enjoy, such as macaroni and cheese
- Apple juice or other fruit juices

### ***General Guidelines for Spending on Meals:***

Family of Singles \$25 Family 2-3: \$50; Family of 4-6: \$75 Family of 7 or more: \$100.

### **Gift Suggestions (for Children 18 and Under)**

- For children: an educational item (e.g., a book, puzzle), a fun item, and a warm clothing item.
- For teenagers: a gift or gift certificate to Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy or local shopping mall.
- Suggested spending limit: \$25-\$30 per child.