

I/we want to adopt a Christmas Bureau individual or family. How do I start?



Fill out the adopter application at <https://unitedwaytopeka.org/work/cb/adopt/>. The first two weeks of November we will be finishing up the data entry for those who have requested help. We will process requests as quickly as we can, but please be patient. If you haven't received your details by email within a week, please reach out to us. Watch our Facebook page for updates on where we are in the process. Our goal is to have all matches made before Thanksgiving.

What do adopters do?

The traditional Christmas Bureau "adoption" is when we match adopters like you with a family profile, including some wish list items, then you shop, wrap and deliver before Christmas. With so many families qualifying for help, sharing the load with adopters is the only way we can serve everyone.

We also understand that delivery doesn't work for everyone, so we can meet you in the middle. You can shop for a family and bring the items to us and we will find a volunteer to deliver them, but a lot of long-time adopters know delivery is often the best part! You are also always welcome to make cash donations (just click the link above) that help us take care of anyone who doesn't get matched with an adopter.

We want to deliver the gifts and food. When should we plan to do that?

If you are delivering things yourself, sometime the week before Christmas is usually best. You'll be able to contact the family directly to make arrangements to deliver at a time that works well for both of you. For some families, this is the only way they can afford Christmas, and knowing that it is taken care of in early December lets them feel secure that their kiddos will have something to celebrate. If you adopt singles, they might want a delivery a little closer to Christmas itself; it depends on the adoptee.

We want to adopt, but we are a small group. What are our options?

Working together to adopt families is a great team-building or family activity. If your resources are limited, just adopt a single person. If you are a business with customers or patients, let them help you adopt a larger family by contributing money or purchasing gifts. If you collect more in donations than your family needs, consider adopting more people or contributing the balance to help other families.

Questions or concerns?

Please contact cb@unitedwaytopeka.org or (785) 273-4804



United Way
of Greater Topeka