



Pasadena

Outlook

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Foothill Family Service Adopt-A-Family Brings Holiday Cheer

For many Foothill Family Service clients, the holiday season is a particularly difficult time. While much of the general population is rushing to purchase last-minute gifts

and planning sumptuous meals, many of Foothill Family's clients face the daily challenges of overcoming trauma or abuse while struggling to stretch very limited resources. Without assist-

tance, a great number of client families would not be able to celebrate the holidays at all. The Annual Adopt-A-Family Program seeks to provide holiday cheer to these families.

Each year, with the help of local businesses and community members, scout troops, schools, church groups, the Friends of Foothill Family and the Walt Disney Company, Foothill Family Service helps low-income and high-need families through the Annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. Last year, 324 client families were "adopted."

"Foothill Family Service provided help to over 23,000 people in 2010-11, so we have many more families that would benefit from your generosity this holiday season," an event spokesperson said.

The Adopt-A-Family Program distributes holiday gifts of clothes, toys and necessities to local families in need during the holiday season. The families available for "adoption" range in size from small to large, and come from Pasadena, Altadena, Glendale and surrounding communities. They are recommended for "adoption" by their therapists and case managers, and all of the families recommended for the program are experiencing hardship and are in great need. Most people who adopt a family deliver a present for each child and adult in the family to Foothill Family Service. No matter how big or small, the gifts are always cherished.

Due to the current economic climate, participation in the Adopt-A-

Family Program is especially appreciated. As Friends of Foothill Family's Adopt-A-Family Chair Tracy Grohs explained, "The holidays are a time to wrap your arms around our community and give to those who need you the most. A simple act of sending a few gifts can lift a family's spirits and create hope for the future. Foothill's Adopt-A-Family Program is an amazing experience to show your fellow neighbors that you care."

Foothill Family Service's mission is "building brighter futures for children and families." Founded more than 85 years ago, Foothill Family's services reach the most vulnerable populations: high-risk and underserved children, teens and families in need. Programs include mental health, school-based counseling for children, child abuse prevention and treatment, domestic violence prevention and Treatment, early child development, supportive services for teen parents, family counseling, and youth development.

Anyone interested in participating in the Adopt-A-Family Program or for more information may call Laura Nolan at (626) 564-1613 ext. 133 or email Lnolan@foothillfamily.org. The deadline to participate in this year's Adopt-a-Family Program is Nov. 11.