



Nov. 21, 2022

## **Adopt-A-Family FAQ**

### **About the Organization:**

#### **What is your organization's mission statement?**

Our mission is to support city families and family living in Baltimore. Simply, we are here to support Baltimore

City families, because it sustains our City's operating budget and it makes our City the wonderful metropolitan city that we all enjoy.

#### **How old is this program?**

Adopt-A-Family began in 2008. It is 14 years old program. Wolfe Street Academy is the original school partner.

#### **Are you a City agency?**

No, we are not a part of the Baltimore City Government, the Mayor's office, or a quasi-agency. We are a passionate small 501c3 nonprofit organization with an amazing board. Our EIN number - 26-2114871.

#### **Do you have an EIN number or 990? My job wants to match a gift.**

Yes, we do. Email us to request our financial information. It's public information.

### **About the School Partners:**

#### **Which schools have you worked with in the past?**

Wolfe Street Academy, George Washington Elementary/Middle, McMenchen High School, Waverly Elementary/Middle, Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle, Govans Elementary and City Springs.

#### **Which schools benefit from this program?**

This year's partners are Wolfe Street Academy, New Song Academy, Waverly Elementary/Middle, Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle, Govans Elementary, and Pimlico Elementary/Middle School.

#### **What is the population of the schools?**

Predominantly African-American and Hispanic.





**About the Adopt-A-Family (AAF) Program:**

**Is there a fee to participate in this program?**

No one is charged to participate in AAF. Not you (sponsor), not the school, and not the family.

**Can my company/school/team/neighbors fundraise for this program?**

Yes, feel free to fundraise for Adopt-A-Family. A great way to let others know about your fundraiser is Facebook Fundraising.

**Who funds this program?**

This program is funded by our operating funds. Our operating funds are funded by our member donations and sponsors of our 2022 Stoop Soiree (**Whiting Turner, Mercy Personal Physicians Downtown, 1100 Wicomico, McHenry Row, RxBenefits, University of Maryland Baltimore, Baltimore Curriculum Project, Carpenters Local 197, Drayton Tax Pros, Anonymous, M&T Bank, and Waverly Main Street**).

**How many children receive gifts through this program?**

This year, AAF will serve over 400 families and classrooms (1,087 Baltimore City children) through your generosity.

**How do I support this program outside buying gifts?**

Share your photos (buying gifts, dropping off gifts, group/company/family photos) on our social media pages and tag us (@baltimorefamilies on Facebook/Instagram).

We are a non-profit and rely on donations and dues to support our work. Our **EIN number** is 26-2114871. Your gifts are tax deductible.

**Donate non-monetary items:** new coats, hats, gloves, company swag items, gift cards, and books of all grades are welcome.

We accept the following:

PayPal:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=MSTY2RF5STCTN](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=MSTY2RF5STCTN)

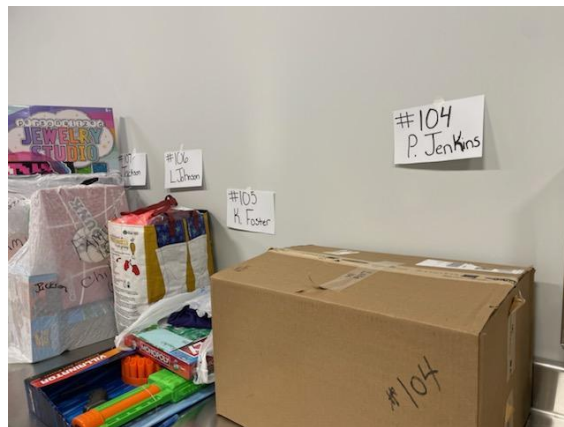
Venmo: @BaltimoreFamilies

Neon: <https://bfa.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate>

QuickBooks: Invoice

Maryland Charity Campaign: 26-2114871

Check: Baltimore Family Alliance, 1100 Wicomico St., Ste 330, Baltimore, Md 21230





### **Sponsor Questions**

**Can we donate from out of town?** When you sign up, you can ship the order to our warehouse at 1100 Wicomico St. You will add a gift receipt, with the info for your family ID number.

**What's up with the team names?** It's fun. Pick a name that makes you chuckle. My favorite is Team Trump (not that Trump). The most popular names have to do with Santa or Elves.

**Am I guaranteed a volunteer spot?** No, volunteer jobs are extremely limited. Sorry!

**Why do you ask for my mailing address and phone number?** Families send their sponsor a thank you. This is mandatory.

**Should I buy more gifts if I can afford it?** We recommend \$40-60 per child. If you would like to go over, please do. Feel free to add a coat, hat, and glove set.

**Can I adopt a family as a group or company?** Yes, you can! Si, se puede. Make sure it is clear in the form when you sign up.

**Any chance I can drop the gifts off early?** Yes, you can drop off your gifts early: Sun., Dec. 4th from 2pm to 5pm at our office at 1100 Wicomico St Ste. 330, Baltimore, MD 21230.

**I would like to request a Certificate of Gratitude for my team.** Sure, email us after 12/14/2022. We will happily send you your certificate.

**Will you add me to your mailing list?** If you want us to.

**You didn't respond within 24 hours, why?** Thanks for asking! There is only one staff member for this program due to budget constraints. We (BFA) work on this program and respond 6 days a week from November to mid-December to any and all concerns. Staff from the schools will only respond during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Thanks for understanding that education is an underpaid and important profession. We must protect them at all costs.

**Can my company match my donation or sponsor AAF?** Yes, send your HR or executive team an email and let them know that you would like them to match your donation. Some companies will match the hours you spend volunteering, your PTO or your financial contribution. Please ask and help this program continue.

**I asked for more families, but I only received 1. What should I do?** Demand a classroom to sponsor! Just kidding. We have classroom requests left. Also, feel free to go above and beyond for the child(ren), caretakers, and school staff. They need love too!

**I think there is a mistake on the wishlist, what should I do?** Email us! We will check and get back to you within 48 hours (unless it is Sunday) or attend a Q&A.



**I am interested in volunteering. What's next?**

If you checked an interest in volunteering, you will receive an email with a link to the Sign Up Genius. It is first come first serve. And may the odds be ever in your favor.

**The sponsor list is closed. Is there another organization we can give to?**

UMB Christmas Store

<https://www.foundrybaltimore.com/christmasstore>

LYTC Love Drive

<https://lytc.net/support-us/love-drive/>

Village Learning Place

<https://www.villagelearningplace.org>

Baltimore City Mayor's Toys for Tots: Drop off toys to City Hall at 250 City Hall, 100 N Holliday St

**Drop Off**

Yes, you can drop off that week at 1100 Wicomico on Sat., Dec. 10th from 10am to 3pm . We will have volunteers there that week to accept evening drop offs.

**Late Drop Off**

Missed the Dec. 9th/Dec. 10th weekend? You can drop off your gifts on Dec. 14th from 5pm to 8pm at 1100 Wicomico St.

**General Lists:**

Families need coats, hoodies/sweaters with hoods, hats and gloves to stay warm. All sizes are needed.

**Are there classroom lists?**

Yes, here is the classroom list for Wolfe Street Academy

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/M5A5IAPRLKOL?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/M5A5IAPRLKOL?ref=wl_share)

**Is there a Q&A Session?** See dates below.

**I didn't get a match.**

Check your email, search "You've Got a Match." If nothing comes up in your inbox or spam. Call us 443-966-3232.

**I need hours for volunteering.**

Yes, this counts towards your hours for volunteering.

**Can I donate cards/gift cards for family members?**

Yes, you can!

**Can I donate cards/gift cards to school principal/teacher**

Of course: Wolfe Street Academy (50 staff and 2 project coordinators), New Song Academy (4 project coordinators), Govans (5 project coordinators), Waverly (1 project coordinator), Margaret Brent (3 project coordinators), and Pimlico (1 project coordinator). BFA has (2 staff members and 4 super volunteers).



Here is the classroom list for New Song Academy

- fidget toys
- lotion with neutral scent
- fun pencils/pens and/or notebooks
- presharpended pencils
- Crayons, Legos
- jumbo glue sticks
- Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer
- Tissues
- water bottles
- Yoobi triangle pencils
- Markers, Coloring Books
- coloring books, Gingerbread Houses

**Can I donate food for the families or staff?**

No, thank you. Unless you work at Fogo de Chão, then let's talk offline.

**Can I donate gift cards or money to the families?**

Yes, you can.

**Can I donate gift cards or money to the staff?**

Yes, you can.

**I'm on the waiting list. What happens next?**

We will place you with a family or classroom as it becomes available.

**Is there parking?**

Parking is limited at Margaret Brent, Pimlico and Wolfe St. Plan accordingly! Check Google Maps.

**Which stores are around the school? I would like to gift a food card or gift card (please label envelop with family number and school.**

Wolfe Street Academy - Target, Safeway, and Aldi  
New Song Academy - Food Desert, VISA gift cards  
Waverly Elementary/Middle - Giant, Lidl, Dunkin'  
Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle - Safeway, Giant, and Streets Market  
Govans Elementary- Giant, Family Dollar, Dunkin'

Pimlico Elementary/Middle School- 7/11, VISA gift cards

**Which entrance should I enter?**

Check with your coordinator.

**How much should I spend for each child? How many gifts should I purchase?**

We suggest \$40-60/child. The number of gifts that fit into that dollar amount will vary based on the age of the child and the wish list selections.

**What should I buy?**

The kids' wish list is a helpful start and along with their favorites-colors, characters, teams-we hope the information provided will make it fun and easy to select something they will enjoy.

**Should I wrap my gifts?**

**No, please bring unwrapped gifts to the appointed drop-off site.** Please tag each gift with the family number you were assigned and with the child's assigned number within the family. This is critical! Label/tag every gift with the family ID number and school name. Some people drop off in gift bags with names on each bag, some donors bag their gifts in large black trash bags tied with bows.



### **No Shows and Missing Gifts**

If you fail to show up with your gifts or miss 1 or 2 children, we will have to make those gifts ourselves. Please do not sign up and fail to show. Email us ASAP.

### **I'd like to buy gifts for the family's parents/caregivers, can I get their information as well?**

BFA only collects information on participating children. If you'd like to buy gifts for caregivers we suggest a gift card to a grocery store, Walmart, or Target.

### **When and where do I drop off my purchased, unwrapped, tagged gifts?**

### **I'm confused about my family wishlist. Can you check please?**

Of course. Send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **Adopt-A-Family Q&A Sessions**

Sat., Nov. 26th from 10am - 11am

Mon., Nov. 28th from 10am - 11am

Tues., Nov. 29th from 7pm - 8pm

Thurs., Dec. 1st from 10am - 11am

Tues., Dec. 6th from 10am - 11am

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81388402556>

Each school has a different drop off location. Please do not send gifts directly to the school until directed by our staff.

### **Where can I purchase these gifts while supporting small businesses in Baltimore?**

See our website for suggestions:

[www.BaltimoreFamilies.org](http://www.BaltimoreFamilies.org)

