

Share Our Selves' annual Adopt-a-Family program

The 2012 holiday season marks the 43rd year of the Share Our Selves annual Adopt-A-Family program. During the season, Share Our Selves (SOS), a Costa Mesa nonprofit, reaches out to needy families in Orange County by helping provide them with gifts of food, toys, clothes and other specifically requested items. The Daily Pilot will publish a handful of these family profiles and holiday wish lists. To find out more about how to help these or other families in the Adopt A-Family program, call (949) 270-2136 or email AAF2012@shareourselves.org.

FAMILY No. 307		
<p>The father of this family is the only one who works, and the little money he brings home is just enough to cover the rent. The family has no furniture in their small apartment. All they have in the kitchen is a small fridge and microwave. Recently the mother went to the grocery store, thinking she had enough money to buy an onion. However, when she went to the cash register she realized she'd weighed it incorrectly and did not have enough to buy it. She had to leave it behind and went home empty handed.</p>		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Mother	F	Mom would be happy with groceries. She wishes for a bed or mattress for her husband, who comes home extremely tired and exhausted from hard labor. She feels guilty because she wishes she could contribute more.
Father	M	Dad would like to take the family out to dinner. They do not own a car, so vouchers for a local restaurant would be great.
Child – 12	M	This child has never owned a bicycle. He would like to have one and some money to buy accessories for it (helmet, chain, lock).
Child – 17	M	This child would like to have a portable PC (a used one would be fine) so that he can do research to find a job.
Adult Child	F	This young lady would like clothing vouchers so she can buy clothes to look nice for job interviews. She would also like some makeup.

FAMILY No. 1123		
<p>This family's father is struggling to care for his seven children since his wife died. One of his children, a 3-year-old girl, is paralyzed. The father has two jobs but is still barely able to provide their basic needs. They all share a few mattresses and need clothes and school supplies. With your help, they will have a joyous holiday season this year.</p>		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Father	M	Dad would like clothes and school supplies for his children. The family needs mattresses and a dining room table.
Child – 16	F	She would like clothes and school supplies.
Child – 11	F	She would like clothes, a school uniform, a jacket and school supplies.
Child – 10	F	She would like clothes, a school uniform, a jacket and school supplies.
Child – 8	F	She would like clothes, a school uniform, a jacket and school supplies.
Child – 7	M	He would like clothes, a school uniform, a jacket and school supplies.
Child – 4	M	He would like clothes and a jacket.
Child – 3	F	She would like clothes, especially a sweater.

FAMILY No. 890		
<p>The father of this family finally found work and has started as a part-time janitor. With the family's limited income they are only able to afford the rent in an unheated garage. It is cold now and will get even colder in the next few months. They could use warm clothing, blankets or sleeping bags, and a heater. Because of the amount of time the father could not find work, they need everything, including household items such as dishes and toiletries.</p>		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Father	M	Dad would like winter clothing, a jacket, socks, shoes, a beanie, gloves, sweatpants, sweatshirts, a lunch pail, and blankets. In terms of groceries, he would like rice, beans, cereal, pasta and toiletries. He would also like movie tickets for the family.
Mother	F	Mom would like winter clothing, a jacket, shoes, socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, blankets, towels and toiletries. In terms of groceries, she would like rice, beans, cereal, pasta and toiletries. She would also like movie tickets for the family.

Child – 13	M	He would like winter clothes, a jacket, shoes, socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, a beanie, gloves, school supplies, a backpack, blankets, a soccer ball or basketball, and a heater.
Child – 5	M	He would like a school uniform, winter clothes, a jacket, shoes, socks, blankets, school supplies, a backpack, toy cars, a soccer ball and a bike.
Child – 5	F	She would like a school uniform, winter clothes, a jacket, shoes, socks, blankets, slippers, Barbie accessories and baby dolls.

FAMILY No. 1005		
This teenager and his mother are homeless. They stay with different people who offer shelter. Despite the difficult living conditions, he has been very successful in school and has many big dreams of success. Gift cards would delight both this young man and his mother.		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Mother	F	Mom would like a food gift card.
Child – 17	M	He likes dark colors and would like a nice school binder with a zipper to close (something for carrying important documents), gift cards to Target or Ross, bike gloves with a strap (Auto Zone or Big 5), dress clothes and shoes to wear to job interviews, and a jacket.

FAMILY No. 682		
This humble family is headed by a single mother, who works to provide shelter for her three children. Her eldest son takes responsibility in working to help pay rent for a single room in a house. For this holiday season, a generous donation of clothing and food can make their holiday an unforgettable one.		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Adult	M	He would like clothing.
Child		
Child – 9	M	He would like clothing.
Child – 6	F	She would like clothing
Mother	F	Mom would like clothing and food.

FAMILY No. 332		
The mother of this family is not in the picture. Dad, his mother, who is blind; his 11-year-old daughter, who is blind and can't walk, bend or crawl; and his 17-year-old son live in the home. Dad can't work because his mother and daughter need constant care. It is all he can do to take care of his family and it is very difficult for him. They have not asked for very much and will be so very grateful for help.		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Father	M	Dad would like Vans tennis shoes, size 12 would be nice if possible.
Grandmother	F	She would like a house dress.
Child – 11	F	She would like musical toys.
Child – 17	M	He would like Hollister T-shirts. He also loves sports.

FAMILY No. 616		
This hard-working father is struggling to provide for his family. The mother is unable to work outside the house due to their youngest son's severe handicap, which requires constant care. Money is tight after paying rent and bills, so there is nothing extra for Christmas this year. The children would be delighted to find presents on Christmas morning		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Child – 5	M	He would like Lego cars and super hero books. He needs school uniforms, underclothes and warm clothes.
Child – 1	M	This child would like Bob the Builder toys and Thomas the Train toys. He also needs underclothes and warm clothes.
Mother	F	Mom would like blankets, socks and warm clothes.
Father	M	Dad would like warm clothes and gift card for shoes.

FAMILY No. 237		
This small family of four has been through so much. The father is the only one working because the mother has been battling cancer for almost half a decade. Her only wish, when asked, was to be healthy to provide for her children. This Christmas, please help make a difference in their lives by filling them with joy and hope. Warm clothes, shoes or bicycles to ride to school can last a long time. They would be so grateful for the help.		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Mother	F	She would like shoes and sweaters.
Father	M	Dad would like shirts, sweaters and work shoes.
Child – 10	M	This child would like sweaters, shoes and a bicycle.
Child – 6	M	He would like shoes, sweaters and a bicycle.

FAMILY No. 915		
This family is headed by a single mom whose husband passed away a few years ago. She is a field worker making minimum wage, leaving home at 3 or 4 a.m. to get to work. The older kids help out by getting the younger kids to school. They have one bedroom in which all except the two older boys sleep. Those two sleep on the floor. Their uncle helped a little bit with the rent but it is a real problem to provide for their basic needs. They have already expressed their heartfelt gratitude for whatever they receive.		
AGE	SEX	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Child – 13	M	He would like a handheld electronic game with some games, a remote control car and toys.
Child – 5	M	He would like a handheld electronic game with some games, a bike and toys.
Child – 8	F	She would like a bike, Barbies and nail polish.
Child – 15	M	He would like a football, a remote control car and a toy pool table game.
Uncle	M	He would like a gift card for shoes, dark colored sweaters with hoods and jeans.
Mother	F	She would like a gift card for shoes, sweaters with hoods, jeans and pajamas.

FAMILY No. 1082	
This grandmother is the sole provider for her two granddaughters. She has adopted both girls. One is blind, and the other is experiencing abandonment issues because her mother left the family when the girls were 3 years old. They have so little and have not asked for very much. Whatever you can do, this needy family will be so grateful and appreciative.	
AGE	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Grandmother	She would like a jacket.
Girl – 9	She would like a jacket, dolls, markers and painting supplies.
Girl – 9	She would like a jacket, dolls and clothes (this child is blind).

FAMILY No. 327	
This single mom has epilepsy and has really been struggling to provide for her daughter. They have no car and must take the bus wherever they go. This is expensive and means there is no money left over for extras for the two of them. They really need help this holiday season.	
AGE	SPECIAL REQUESTS
Mother	She would like to have a good pair of walking tennis shoes (they walk everywhere) and gift cards for clothes.
Girl – 9	She loves to play house and would love to have a play kitchen with accessories and a baby doll.