



**St. Matthew's Cathedral**  
**Social Justice & Community Services Ministry**  
**Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program 2016**

**Program Overview**

For over 14 years, St. Matthew's Cathedral has sponsored the Adopt-A-Family Program, which seeks to assist low-income families and individuals in our community at Christmas time. Last year, the program served **53 families** and over **100 men and women from our Homeless Ministry**. We were also able to contribute gifts to the local **L'Arche communities**, which serve adults with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, we included **youth from the DC General family shelter** in our program. The gifts given to these individuals and families addressed fundamental material needs and included clothing items, personal items, bedding, household items, as well as toys for the children.

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

This program is successful through the support of our neighboring business community and the help of many volunteers. Last year, in addition to the parish's participation, 27 sponsors helped take care of the needs of the families in our program.

**Please consider the following ways your organization/group can serve as a sponsor:**

- **Adopt more than one family:** This option is appropriate for large organizations with many willing and generous participants. The group will receive specific "wish lists" for each family and be responsible for purchasing items for all family members.
- **Adopt one family:** A group representative will receive a specific "wish list" of items from the family, along with ages of family members. You will then be responsible for purchasing items for all family members.
- **Adopt a child (or a few children):** A group representative will receive the "wish lists" of either one or a few children within a family or from where there is a need, and will purchase their gifts (three gifts per child).
- **Contribute to the program:** Your group can either collect money from employees or make a financial contribution to the program. The contribution will be used to purchase gifts for a family.

**Volunteer Opportunities & General Inquiries**

We are always in need of helping hands to make sure things run smoothly and efficiently. Please contact the Christmas Program Coordinator, Pam Quinn, for more information: [pquinn505@aol.com](mailto:pquinn505@aol.com).

**Timeline**

You will receive a profile on the family and their "wish list" in November. You are asked to deliver wrapped and labeled gifts to the Cathedral by the first week of December. More details will be provided to you at a later time.

***If possible, please confirm your participation by October 28:***

The Director of Social Justice, Fr. Rafael Barbieri and Norma Canedo the Coordinator for Social Justice can be reached at the parish rectory at (202) 347-3215 or by email at [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org). Fax (202) 347-7184.