

GUIDELINES FOR GIVERS

2021 Holiday Sharing Program

Thank you for giving your gifts, concern and time to the Alexandria family, foster child or senior or disabled citizen you are sponsoring for this Holiday Season. The family, foster child or senior/disabled person you are sponsoring is receiving services from the Department of Community and Human Services. They are eligible because they are experiencing serious economic, medical, or psychological distress. Sometimes the only support system they have is a network of government agencies. Sometimes they have never sought assistance from others. As a member of the Alexandria community, YOU are reaching out to extend a hand to them, as they face a variety of crises and traumas. YOU are bringing joy to someone's life this holiday season!

As a result of the ongoing-pandemic and to keep our donors, clients, staff, and volunteers safe there are some significant changes to our Holiday Sharing Program again this year. **One thing that has not changed: Our community needs you!**

Please reach out to support our community. You can bring happy holidays to people that need us the most by joining our program to **Sponsor a Family**, **Senior Citizen or Disabled Individual**, **Foster Child**, or **Foster Teen**. In an effort, to keep our clients, volunteers, and staff safe, this year we are asking for gift cards exclusively.

- **Sponsor a CHILD or TEEN in foster care by providing gift cards to child and teen friendly stores. (You will receive a wish list via email indicating the child or teen's preferred gift card selections.)**
- **Sponsor a SENIOR/DISABLED ADULT by providing a grocery gift card to enjoy a holiday meal and \$50 Target, Walmart, or Amazon Gift Card. (You will receive an email with details of your matched senior/disabled adult.)**
- **Sponsor a FAMILY by providing a grocery gift card to enjoy a holiday meal and \$75 Target gift card for every child over age 4. *** (You will receive an email with details of your matched family)**

*****New this year, in partnership with Volunteer Alexandria children ages 0-3 will receive 2-3 educational toys and books. If you would like to contribute to this drive to support our youngest kiddos visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org for more information or <https://bit.ly/toys4Alex> to shop our Amazon Wishlist.*****

Grocery store gift card. EVERY family and senior/disabled citizen **NEEDS** a grocery gift card in these difficult times. Please purchase a card for the store (**Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter, or ALDI**) that is listed on the Wish List, if you are able. Denominations of \$25 and \$50 work best.

Our hope is to receive all gift cards before December 1 so that there is plenty of time for shopping before December holidays! You are welcome to have the gift cards mailed directly to the DCHS Holiday Sharing Program if you are purchasing them online to save time and postage.

Families genuinely appreciate your generosity. They may not be accustomed to, or know how to, express their thanks in a way that you may expect. For example, you may or may not receive a thank you note, forwarded through the staff. **However, knowing that you have brought joy to one of your neighbors is its own intrinsic reward.**

Please call Krystal Fenwick, Coordinator of Community Resources, at 703.746.5663 with any questions or concerns or email holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov.

Again, thank you for your caring support.

