



## HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND

### **Holiday Program 2009**

#### **Holiday Wish List**

Collect items from the current Wish List for the House Of Ruth Maryland (HRM) shelter and programs. Items on the list are things that are currently needed. To obtain a current wish list, please contact the House Of Ruth Maryland at (410) 889-0840 or visit our website at [www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org).

#### **Adopt A Family**

The Adopt A Family program matches you or your organization with a family at the House Of Ruth Maryland. You will be provided with a profile that lists the age, gender and sizes of each family member along with a short wish list of items. To participate in the Adopt A Family program, please contact Kerri Wojciechowski at (410) 554-8449 or [kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org](mailto:kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org). Please provide your name, organization, mailing address, email address and phone numbers as well as the size of a family you wish to adopt (families range in size from 2 people+.)

#### **A Basket of Smiles**

Each year, the House Of Ruth staff picks one gift to give each woman staying in our shelter. This year, we would like to provide every client with a laundry basket filled with pajamas, bathrobe, bedroom slippers, socks and lotion.

#### **The Gift that Keeps on Giving**

Thank you for your generosity in thinking of the many families benefiting from your gifts this holiday season. We applaud your graciousness and at the same time ask you to keep in mind the thousands of other families HRM will serve after the holidays are over by making a contribution to HRM's general fund. Your gift will ensure a bright New Year for all the lives HRM will touch in 2010 and will help ensure that the counseling, legal representation, shelter, and childcare services we provide to break the cycle of violence will be available to help victims year round.

#### **BRIGHTEN A CHILD'S DAY**

Domestic violence is traumatic for children at any age. Besides toys and games, we like to offer the children of our clients the opportunity to go on day trips to allow them some time away from the turmoil in their lives.

#### **How you can help:**

Tickets to:

The Maryland Zoo

Aquarium

Science Center

Orioles games

Ravens games

Blast games

Port Discovery Children's Museums

Movie theaters

If you mail these tickets, please send them to the Attention of the Development office.

#### **STARTER HOME PACKAGE**

Twenty five percent of victims who left our shelter last year went on to their own new place – either a new private apartment or transitional housing program. A dozen or more who never entered our shelter are

assisted through the Community Advocate Program to relocate and find a new safe place to live. Many leave with nothing but their dignity and the shirts on their backs. We think they deserve more than that for picking up their lives *and starting over*.

How you can help:

New Beds or Air Mattresses (Adult and children's)  
New Sheets, Blankets, Towels, Washcloths  
New kitchenware (pots, pans, dishes, flatware...)  
Cleaning supplies

**EMERGENCY MOTEL PLACEMENT PACKAGE**

When our Emergency shelter is full or not an option and we are faced with a victim in a desperate situation, in some cases we are able to use emergency funds to place them safely in a motel for a few nights. Nearly a dozen women were placed last year as we began this new program. Community Advocates provide case management services to the victim until a new more permanent location can be found. In the meantime, there are costs involved.

How you can help:

Gift cards (preferably for grocery stores or Wal-Mart or Target)  
Diapers/pull-ups  
Activities for children  
Cash - \$60/night can get a woman and her children to sleep without fear of abuse.

**THE "LEAVE TOWN NOW" PACKAGE**

Through the Samaritan Center the House Of Ruth is fortunate enough to be able to provide free bus passes to victims who need to leave town or relocate for safety reasons. Victims may have friends or family in other states willing to help – but no means to get there. Literally on a few hours notice we may have a woman and her children on a bus across the country to safety. Last year we helped more than 20 women to safety in another state.

How you can help:

Luggage (some women travel across country with nothing but a garbage bag)  
Snacks and activities for children (It can be a long ride)  
New clothes, coats...for women and children

**If you choose to make a financial contribution, please go online to [www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org) or mail to:**

**HRM  
2201 Argonne Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21218**

**Adopt A Family participants are asked to drop their new, unwrapped gifts off at the Administration Building on one of the following drop off dates:**

**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 7pm,  
Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 6 pm OR  
Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 1 pm**

We appreciate receiving all donations by December 19<sup>th</sup> to allow us time to distribute the items to our families. **For directions call, 410-889-0840.**

For confidentiality reasons, we are unable to provide those who adopt families with any information about the adopted family other than what you will receive on their profile. We ask that donors not drop off used clothing or other items during the holidays as our storage space is limited.

**Thank you for your support and for making the holidays a little brighter for families in need!**

2201 Argonne Drive s Baltimore, MD 21218 Phone (410) 889-0840 b  
24-Hour Hotline (410) 889- 7884 (RUTH) 8 [www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org)

## ADOPT A FAMILY FAQs

1.) Can I wrap the gifts?

- No, unfortunately all gifts must come to us unwrapped. This is to ensure that what we are providing our clients is non violent and age appropriate. It also gives a chance for the mom to wrap the presents for her children. Adopters are more than welcome to provide wrapping supplies.

2.) When are the drop-off dates and can I come later than the dates provided?

The drop-off dates are *Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 7pm, Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 6 pm OR Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 1 pm.*

We ask that all gifts be brought to us by December 19<sup>th</sup>. Our clients are informed of these dates up front and many come to us that day to start picking up their items.

3.) Am I able to meet the family that I am adopting?

- No, for confidentiality reasons we are unable to share anything about the family besides the family profile.

4.) Can I add to the family's wish list?

- Yes, the list that you are provided is not all inclusive. It is however, the family's wish list, so the things listed are their first choice.

5.) Do the items have to be new?

- Yes, any items that are received in December must be new. This is both for Adopt A Family items and general donations from our Holiday Wish List. We have limited storage space to hold used items during the Holidays.

6.) What about purchasing gift cards for the family?

- Gift cards are perfectly accepted and welcomed. Gift cards to places like Wal-Mart, Target and grocery stores usually work best, unless the family specifies something else.

7.) How should I bring the gifts to House Of Ruth Maryland?

- Each gift should be **CLEARLY labeled with the family number and child letter**. It is easiest to carry the gifts when they are combined into large bags or boxes.

8.) I have a question about one of the items on the wish list? Who do I contact?

- Please send an email or call the Adopt A Family Coordinator. The Coordinator will then go back to the case manager working with the family to get the question resolved and will provide an answer as soon as it is available.

9.) How do I know if I am spending the right amount on the family?

- There is not a right or wrong amount to spend on a family. We ask our clients to list gifts that are less than \$25 on their wish list. On average, you can expect to spend about \$75 on one individual. You can certainly spend more though.

10.) I adopted a family, but now realize I am unable to participate. What do I do?

- Please inform the Coordinator as soon as you realize you are unable to adopt the family you received. This will help to ensure that other adopters have enough time to shop for the family.

11.) How do I sign up if I want to adopt a family?

- To participate in the adopt a family program, please complete the enclosed form or send your name, mailing address, telephone, email and the number of people you want to adopt (knowing that you can expect to spend at least \$75 per individual) to [kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org](mailto:kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org). **You will receive an email with your family profile in late November/early December.** If you note that you want to adopt six people, you may receive one family of six, two families of three or another combination.

12.) Where are you located?

- Directions to the drop off location will be included with your family profile. We are in northeast Baltimore city. Should you need further directions than what is included on the sheet, please call our main office at 410-889-0840.

## **2009 ADOPT A FAMILY COORDINATOR**

Kerri Wojciechowski

[kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org](mailto:kwojciechowski@hruthmd.org)

Direct Dial: 410-554-8449

Fax: 410-889-9347



HOUSE OF RUTH  
MARYLAND

**Adopt A Family**

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If you are interested in adopting a family, please fill out the information below and return to Kerri by fax at (410) 889-9347 or mail to the address below. We will pair you with a family that matches the number of people you wish to adopt. **Families will be distributed by email starting in mid-November. Because our shelter is transitional, we cannot distribute family profiles earlier.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION/COMPANY IF APPLICABLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAMES OF DONORS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, ST, ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL

**How many people are you interested in adopting?** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note, you can expect to spend at least \$75 on one person. You will be paired with a family or families that have the corresponding number of people you wish to adopt. For example, if you wish to adopt 4 people, you may be paired with a family of four or two families of two or a family of one and a family of three.)

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