# Christmas Babies: Adopt a Child – FAQs

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# Group Introduction:

## Where does the list of children come from?

The list of children comes from one of the Philadelphia Police Departments, DHS (Department of Human Services), Domestic Violence victim's advocates, Human Trafficking victim's advocates, and lastly from the Trauma and Burn units at St. Christopher's Children's Hospital (cases resulting from crime).

These children are often victims of severe sexual assault or near-fatality abuse cases, along with other unspeakable crimes against them. Stories that are so sad, the news doesn't even report them.

Last year, this group provided Christmas to 487 children. 487 babies had smiles on their faces Christmas morning and enjoyed an abundance of gifts like every child should. Since 2021 Christmas Babies has provided gifts to over 1,100 families.

*Please note that miscellaneous requests for donations are not accepted as part of this operation. Any requests directly from members will be removed.*

## Who is the organizer of this operation?

Ashley "AC Marie" – This operation is a team effort of child advocates throughout Philadelphia County and beyond. From the organizations that nominate the children, those who coordinate pickups, those who manage drop-off locations, present wrappers, car loaders, gift deliverers, administrators, and more. We know this might seem vague, but due to confidentiality for the victims, many of whom we work with directly, and the sheer number of people who play a significant role in making this happen each year, we just want you to know that your participation in this event is helping to provide a little joy in a local child's life during what can only be described as their darkest hour.

## Facebook Group Admins

Primary Group Admin: Ashley "AC Marie"
Assistant Admins: "Stacy Marie" and "Bridget Ami" may also help answer questions or reach out when needed.

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# Adopting a List:

## How do I claim a list?

There is a single post within the Christmas Babies Facebook group where all the children's lists will be posted by the primary group admin. Comment under the child you wish to claim. Please note, the information provided for each child is all that we have.

The Primary Admin will "heart" your comment, acknowledging that you have been assigned that child. If more than one person comments, the admin will use whoever was first. Confirmation typically happens very quickly, but almost certainly within 24-hours.

Reminder: taking a list will entail shopping from the list (you can of course always add things), wrapping, labeling with the child's name, and delivering the wrapped gifts to one of our drop locations by December 16. The drop is very important as it is almost impossible to pickup/chase people down. We are so grateful for your commitment!

## I missed the post of available lists. Will there be more?

If you missed the list or were unable to comment first, please do not worry. There may be a gap in postings but SO many more will come all the way until a few days before Christmas.

## How much should I spend? Can I add additional items to the list?

Whatever you are able and comfortable spending. These kids don't ask for much, so if there is something on the list that you cannot fulfill, please let the admin know (No judgement! We can help). If you wish to purchase additional items not on the list, you are more than welcome!

## Can I provide a stocking for my child?

Yes! If you will be making a stocking for your child, please also indicate that with your comment when you claim your child. Please put a gift label on the stocking with your child's first name and last initial (if provided). Please do not put your name on the from line, from "Santa" is fine! Individual stocking items do NOT need to be wrapped.

## Can I send cash or a gift card with my child's gifts?

If you include cash or a gift card in a child's gift (other than if it was requested on the list) PLEASE let the primary admin know. This is done to both protect that the child actually gets it, as well as being mindful of siblings.

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## There is an item on my list that I can't afford. What do I do?

If there is a larger item on a list that you will not be able to get, please also indicate that in your comment. Absolutely no judgement or pressure! We fundraise for certain requests!

## Can I split a single list with a friend or family member?

Absolutely! Coordinating personal list splits with friends & family is permitted, provided that all items are dropped off together.

## What happens if I claimed a list but can no longer participate?

If you need to back out for any reason (no judgement!) PLEASE DM the Primary Group Admin, we can find someone else to take it with notice! This is SO IMPORTANT! It is heartbreaking to find out the day of that a well-deserving kid who was claimed was not shopped for.

## Can I adopt more than one child or claim on behalf of someone else?

Absolutely! Claiming for a friend or family member that may not be active on Facebook is fine. If for yourself, please only claim 1 at first so that everyone offering can help. Then we will fill in with the extras!

## Will I know my child's story? Will I get to meet my child or see a picture?

Oftentimes photos and details are limited. The organizers will do their best to document photos from pickup, drop-off, delivery, and everything along the way. Unfortunately, some of these stories are horrific and cannot always be shared, but what we can, we will!

## Can I invite my friends, church, company, etc.?

Yes, please! You can send an invite or share the link to join the Christmas Babies Facebook group to anyone! Also, if you know of any businesses that would like to get involved for donations or otherwise, we would appreciate it so much. Since Christmas Babies is now a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible! [EIN # 33-2956817] We are happy to provide a letter of tax acknowledgment for your records.

**Learn more about our Corporate Sponsorship opportunities at www.christmasbabies.com**

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# 2025 Drop-Off Locations: Dec 8th-Dec 16th

For storage purposes, please be mindful of dates. Please also note the contact person and drop location for each place! If dropping on the 16th, the drop MUST BE at the SWAT location in NE Philly.

## Philadelphia Locations:

NE Philly: 8501 State Rd (Anytime)
Front door of SWAT building- text 267-767-0397 BEFORE

South Philadelphia: 2301 S 24th St (1st Police District)
Please text 267-693-5481 to arrange drop-off

Center City: 400 N Callowhill St (Back of Police HQTS Building) (Mon-Fri 10a-2p)
Please text 215-620-9654 BEFORE dropping off

Fox Chase/Huntingdon Valley:
Please text 215-620-9654 to coordinate

NE Philly: 3238 Fordham Rd (Anytime besides between 1-3pm)
Please text 215-251-5405 to arrange drop off

Lower NE Philly: 2512 Orthodox St B (Mon-Fri 8a-4p)
Please text 215-837-0134 to drop off (after hours available if scheduled)

Roxborough: 764 Claire Rd
text 267-565-8106 to schedule drop off

## Suburb Locations (Bucks County):

Upper Southampton: 1393 Butternut Dr (anytime)
Drop in back sun room- text 267-408-0508

Holland: 173 S Marmic Dr (anytime)
Drop at Front door- text 267-456-7214

Andalusia/Bensalem: 1118 Richardson Ave, Bensalem
Drop at house- text 215-908-3010 to coordinate

Yardley/Morrisville: 11 Jennifer Lane, Morrisville
text 215-970-3860 to coordinate drop-off

Warrington: 2177 Green Ridge Dr (anytime)
Please text 215-460-3318

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### Suburb Locations (Montgomery County):

Abington: 1430 Saint John Rd (anytime)
Drop to Front door- text 215-292-2184

Oreland: 222 E Pennsylvania Ave (within hours)
Drop in front door at reception- THE LASH ROOM
Call or text 215-403-6822 BEFORE heading over due to business hours.

### New Jersey Locations:

Cinnaminson NJ: 1203 Parry Ave, Cinnaminson NJ
Please text 267-254-1259 to arrange drop-off

Franklinville NJ: 40 4th St, Franklinville, NJ
Please text 267-216-6490 to drop off

## Gift Wrapping Instructions:

- Each individual gift (aside from those used to fill a stocking!) must be wrapped and labeled with your **child's first name, last initial AND assigned number**. The assignment number will be posted with the child's name. It will have a letter and a number. ex: "A13" This is needed for sorting at drop off.
- If you are adopting more than one child, please do not consolidate them into a single box or bag at the time of dop off. In the past, we have had trouble finding gifts due to them being combined with another during the sorting process.
- Please refrain from putting your name in the "From" section. From "Santa" is fine!
- Please use sticky labels, tags that are tied on often fall off during transport and unidentifiable gifts get separated from the bunch in the sorting process.
- If you are also filing a stocking for your child, please ensure a label with the child's name is secured to that as well!

## Additional Collections

### Venmo (@christmas-babies) and Zelle Donations

The Venmo username is **@christmas-babies** ... under the name "Ashley"

While not everyone can take on a child's full wish list, any donation to help fund the bigger items makes a huge impact. Every year we get requests for "big" items. The thing about these "big" items, is that they are everyday items, like a bed. These funds also help to support late requests.

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## Bedding Requests

Due to the increasing number of bedding requests that come in each year, in 2024 Christmas Babies Bedding was adopted. This part of the organization simply manages all things bedding: pillows, sheets, blankets, etc. The goal is to ensure that every child's wish list is honored. We want each child to receive the specials gifts they asked for, without having their request replaced by something practical like bedding or other essentials. While bedding is an important part of what is provided, it is never meant to take the place of a child's Christmas wish. Instead, it is an addition- something extra to bring them comfort as well as joy during the holidays.

**Shop the Amazon Wish List for Bedding.**

## Gift Cards

Small gift cards, ranging from $5 to $10, are a huge help for the older kids' wish lists. These can be for places like food spots, Walmart, Target, or anywhere that offers essentials they can use. These will all fall under the same drop-off dates and locations as the list adoptions. Please let the group admin know how many you will provide!

## Larger Purchases (Beds, Bikes, etc.)

Anyone willing to purchase a more expensive item, like mattress, bed frame, bike, etc. please let the Primary Group Admin know.

## Amazon Wish List for Hospitalized Children

All items from this list will ship directly to the Primary Group Admin under the name "Ashley" in Southampton, PA.

Many of our youngest crime victims receive care at St. Chris and CHOP, and these items can provide comfort to kids who are often facing one of the hardest days of their lives. Small toys, coloring books, puzzles, and other engaging items help provide distraction, calm, and a way to pass the time. It also includes items to help mom/dad during admissions, like phone chargers and some personal care items. Additionally, the list includes memorial and remembrance items requested for the bereavement unit, providing thoughtful support during unimaginable loss.

**Shop the Amazon Wish List for Hospitalized Children**

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