



Adopt a Family – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I wrap the gifts?

Yes! You're welcome to wrap gifts if you'd like, but please make sure each item is clearly labeled with:

The recipient's name (e.g., Parent, Little, Sibling, etc.)

A brief description of what's inside (e.g., "Blue hoodie, size M").

If you prefer, you may also number each gift and include a spreadsheet or list noting what each number corresponds to. This helps our staff ensure every gift reaches the right person.

2. When and where should I deliver the gifts?

Gifts should be delivered to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa (2130 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312) by 5pm on December 10, 2025. If this is not possible for some reason, please contact Lauryn at lnystrom@bbbsia.org.

3. What should I buy?

Each family provides a wish list with specific wants and needs. We encourage you to focus on a mix of practical items (like clothing, household essentials, or winter gear) and a few fun gifts to make the holidays special.

4. How much should I spend?

There's no required amount, but most donors typically spend \$75–\$200 per individual. You may give more or less based on your comfort level.

5. Can I include a card or personal note?

Absolutely! A short, kind message can make the gifts feel even more meaningful. Please just avoid including any personal contact information (phone number, email, etc.), as we maintain confidentiality for all families.

6. Can I donate gift cards instead of physical gifts?

Yes. Gift cards are especially helpful for groceries, gas, or last-minute needs. Please label the card's store name, amount, and intended recipient.

7. What if I can't purchase everything on the wish list?

That's perfectly okay. Any contribution is appreciated! Our team ensures that each family receives well-rounded support through multiple sponsors if needed.

8. Can I deliver the gifts directly to the family?

No. To protect the privacy of the families we serve, all gifts must be dropped off at the BBBSIA office. Our staff and volunteers will coordinate safe delivery to each family.

9. What happens if I need to withdraw or adjust my participation?

Please contact us as soon as possible at lnystrom@bbbsia.org so we can make alternate arrangements for the family.

10. Can my company or group participate together?

Yes! Many workplaces and community groups adopt larger families or multiple individuals. Just indicate your preferred number of individuals on the form, and we'll match you accordingly.