WHAT TO EXPECT

From Your Application *to* Your Front Door.

Here is your journey, one step at a time.

Applying for help can feel like a big step, and we want you to know exactly what comes next. This guide walks through the Operation Holiday at Home® program from your point of view, from the day you gather your papers to the morning your gifts arrive. Applications are for New Jersey families, and there are at least 150 spots this year.

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BEFORE OCTOBER 1

Get ready

Take a little time to gather what the form will ask for: a government photo ID for the head of household, each child's date of birth, clothing and shoe sizes, wish lists, and your family's story. Having these beside you makes the application go smoothly. An application without a complete family story is declined.

2

OCTOBER 1, 12:00 AM EASTERN

Apply online

The application opens the moment Wednesday night turns into Thursday. Please plan on up to an hour to finish. Your Family ID is reserved while you are on the form, so you can take the time you need. If you leave before pressing Submit, nothing is saved. The application closes October 15 at 11:59 PM, or sooner if all spots are filled.

3

THE MOMENT YOU PRESS SUBMIT

Receive your Family ID

Your Family ID appears on the screen and arrives by email. It looks like **NJ-2026-0001**. Please keep it and use it whenever you contact us. It is the only number tied to your family.

4

AFTER YOU APPLY

We review every application

Every application is reviewed. A random 20% are chosen for full verification, which means documents for every person listed. Information that is not true means the application is rejected, so please share only what is accurate. If your household is chosen and cannot provide documents for every person listed, the application is disqualified.

5

BY NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Hear back by email

Accepted families are confirmed by email. Being accepted means your family is listed for sponsors. It does not guarantee adoption, and we want you to know that from the start.

"Christmas should reach you, wherever you are."

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YOUR FAMILY STAYS PRIVATE

Your anonymous listing

Sponsors see your Family ID, city and county, your story (edited for clarity), your household details and your wish lists. Your name, address, phone and email are never posted.

7

THE SPONSOR'S CHOICE

A sponsor chooses your family

Sponsors choose the families they adopt. Operation Holiday does not choose. Rarely, a sponsor cannot follow through, so please wait for an email from Operation Holiday before treating an adoption as final.

8

JUST BETWEEN US

A private match

Once a sponsor has chosen you, Operation Holiday shares your family's details privately with that sponsor so the two of you can coordinate.

9

YOUR DELIVERY CHOICE

Gifts on their way

Your sponsor buys the gifts and delivers them the way your family chose. About 95% of gifts are shipped by USPS, FedEx or UPS. Others are delivered in person or by Santa. Operation Holiday never touches the gifts.

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DECEMBER

Christmas at home

Wrapping paper, a table full of the people you love, and wishes that were heard. This is the moment the whole journey is for.

"Hope changes everything."

Good to know

- Gift cards are welcome on a wish list. Money and jewelry are not.
- One application per head of household. A second one is denied.
- Children through age 17 on the day you apply.
- If the application closes, join the Waitlist at operationholiday.net/waitlist.
- New Jersey residents only. Proof of a New Jersey address is required.

Another way to enjoy Christmas

- In December, Every Day Is Christmas® gives away 6,000 toys. Look for free tickets when they become available. Date and venue are coming soon.
- Details will be posted at operationholiday.net/events.

Questions? We are glad to help.

- applicants@operationholiday.net
- (908) 509-7699
- operationholiday.net/faq

Every family deserves to feel remembered at Christmas.