

# ANGEL TREE GUIDELINES:



- **CALL THE FAMILY 1ST BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING.**

*Call or text as soon as possible.* You'll want to ensure their contact information is correct and that they want to participate. If they don't respond to a phone call, try texting or vice versa. If they want nothing to do with the mom in prison, offer to give the gifts without her name attached. If they still refuse, respect their wishes, thank them for their time, and let your coordinator know asap. Likewise, if after several attempts you are unable to reach them, please let your coordinator know.

- **WHAT TO SAY?**

Something like, "Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling on behalf of (mom's name) who signed her children up to receive Christmas presents through Angel Tree this year. I would like to provide gifts for her children in her name. Is that okay?" Then you can go over gift options and when to drop them off.

- **WHEN ASKING FOR GIFT SUGGESTIONS, GIVE A PRICE RANGE FIRST.**

This will avoid any awkwardness or pressure to spend more than you intend. You could also give a few options and see which one they think the child would like best. There is no gift minimum or maximum—**give what you can afford.**

- **THE INCLUDED CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFT CARD...**

We've included a \$50 Walmart gift card for each family's caregiver. Please write their name on the Christmas Card envelope and something personal inside, ensuring they know it's for them and that the gift card is enclosed. Deliver it with the gifts. (The smaller card is to be mailed to your Angel Tree mom if she is still in prison. See the instructions with that card.)

- **DON'T FORGET THE BIBLE!**

To ensure that each Angel Tree family has God's Word in their home, we have children's and teens Bibles available to deliver alongside the gifts. If not signing up in person, your coordinator will be in contact to arrange a time/place to get it to you.

- **DEADLINE?**

Allow plenty of time to get the gifts to the family before Christmas. It's up to you and the family to determine a mutual meeting time and place or to mail your gifts to them in plenty of time for Christmas.

- **WHEN & HOW YOU DELIVER THE GIFTS...**

We want to foster meaningful relationships, but be safe. **If health or distance is an issue**, mail their gifts or purchase them online and have them sent directly to your family. You could also arrange to leave them by the front door if the family is okay with that. Don't go alone or inside the home if you feel unsafe.

↳ If unable to deliver the gifts yourself and your family is local, let your coordinator know, and they'll make arrangements.

- ★ **PRAY & GO WITH ZERO EXPECTATIONS.**

We tend to build up an idealistic vision in our heads of how things will go. Check yourself. *This is about providing gifts on behalf of a mom who can't do so herself, not whether or not her kids need or appreciate them.* Pray and ask God to help you show His love and grace regardless of their response. Pray for the children as you buy and wrap their gifts and for those who are caring for them while their mom is in prison.

*Thank you for choosing to sponsor a family this Christmas!*

CONTACT YOUR COORDINATOR WITH QUESTIONS/CONCERNS.

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