



Rutgers Against Hunger's 2016 Adopt-A-Family Summary

Rutgers Against Hunger is pleased to announce that another year of the Adopt-A-Family initiative has successfully concluded! We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone involved. With your help, we were able to surpass our goal of sponsoring 250 families, with a final count of **263 adopted families!**

Adopt-A-Family began in 2009 and served as a way for Rutgers departments and individuals to support local families living near our New Brunswick and Newark campuses. The program has grown exponentially since its inception 8 years ago. We are thrilled to announce that 2016 has been our most successful season yet.

We'll take you through a brief summary of this year's journey:

Over the past few years, we have established partnerships with 13 different social services agencies who refer to us their most in-need families. These agencies include: Five Loaves Food Pantry, Greater Brunswick Charter School, Lord Sterling Community School, University Behavioral Health Center, Rutgers Price Family Fellows, Tiny Tots Academy, Paul Robeson School, Roosevelt School, Coordinated Family Care, Multicultural Community Services, Center for Great Expectations Adult and Adolescent Programming, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Outpatient Programming.



Each participating agency provides us with information on their referred families; our generous sponsors then purchase items for those families based on their specific needs. Providing food is our first priority, however our sponsors go above and beyond, purchasing clothing, toys, toiletries, and other gifts for their adopted families. The gifts are then packed in RAH boxes and picked up by a wonderful team from our University Facilities Department during the month of December.

During this time, we designate each delivery day to one or two agencies. The packages are picked up throughout Rutgers in the morning and delivered to their respective agencies in the afternoon. It is absolutely heartwarming to see how this brightens the spirits of those receiving the packages. Smiles are wide and happy tears are often shed. We wish there were a better way to convey to you what a difference your generosity has made in these families' lives.



To date, Adopt-A-Family has provided food and gifts to over 1,663 families. Again, we thank everyone who took part in Adopt-A-Family this year including our generous sponsors and donors, our hardworking facilities team, and our volunteers who helped spread the holiday spirit to all partnering agencies.

We hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday break!

Sincerely,

Amanda Bialek, Lauren Errickson, and Dr. Larry Katz



Cathy and JB delivering to Center for Great Expectations



Our Busch/Livi Crew by the fireplace



Stacks of donations at Paul Robeson School



Testing out the gifts!



A delicious meal in honor of our Facilities team made by local mothers at the Greater Brunswick Charter School



The whole gang!



A successful delivery!



Packing up some incredible donations



Another very generous donation pickup!