

## Rutgers Against Hunger's 2019 Adopt-A-Family Program Summary



Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) has successfully concluded the 11<sup>th</sup> year of their Adopt-A-Family initiative. Through the generosity of 216 Rutgers New Brunswick faculty and staff who “adopted” families for the holidays, a total of 288 families in the greater New Brunswick area were sponsored this year. In addition, 23 donors graciously contributed monetary donations or gift cards to the program. Sixty-six families were adopted by a total of 61 sponsors from Rutgers University’s Newark campus and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS).

Adopt-A-Family began in 2009 as a way for the Rutgers community to support local families living near the New Brunswick and Newark campuses. Many families in New Jersey struggle with food insecurity and hunger, and often need extra assistance. Adopt-A-Family aims to provide families with basic necessities plus additional donations to end their year on a cheerful note. The program has grown exponentially since it started 11 years ago; to date, RAH has established partnerships with 17 social services agencies in the greater New Brunswick area and 3 social services agencies in the Newark who enroll families with the highest need into Adopt-A-Family.



RU Foundation’s donations for  
Greater Brunswick Charter School



Sponsor, Josefa Salvatore, and colleagues  
of Dining Services, Accounting



Alexandra Guy of Roosevelt  
Elementary School

Preparing for Adopt-A-Family begins early in the fall when participating agencies provide RAH with information about the families in need. Members of the University community who want to help sign up as sponsors to “adopt” a family by purchasing for them non-perishable foods, toiletries, clothing, toys, and other gifts. RAH also graciously accepts monetary and gift card donations from faculty/staff who are not matched with a family but still want to support the program. These donations, along with a portion of the toys collected during Rutgers University’s annual Big Chill 5K race, are distributed to families who have experienced exceptional hardship or loss during the year.

RAH partners with University Facilities during the month of December to pick up the donations from University sponsors for delivery to the agencies. Packages are picked up throughout Rutgers each morning and delivered to one agency each day. This year, agencies in the New Brunswick area supported by Rutgers Against Hunger included:

The Center for Great Expectations Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Adult and Adolescent Programs, and Roots to Recovery Outpatient Program, Coordinated Family Care, the Five Loaves Food Pantry, the Greater Brunswick Charter School, Lord Stirling Community School, McKinley Community School, Multicultural Community Services, Paul Robeson Community School, The Price Family Fellows Program, Roosevelt School, School Based Youth Services, The Tiny Tots Spot, Dr. Debra Wengert’s office, and the Youth Advocate Program. Agencies from Adopt-A-Family Newark include: Thirteenth Avenue School, Willing Heart Community Care Center, and YMCA of Newark and Vicinity.



The Center for Great Expectations – AAP Staff and RU Facilities/Staff



Sponsor, Preston Radtke, and his partner, Burton, along with Desiree White of OIT



The Center for Great Expectations – OP Staff and RU Facilities/Volunteers

Since its inception, Adopt-A-Family has provided food and gifts to over **2,545 families**. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to Adopt-A-Family, including our sponsors, donors, our facilities team, and our volunteers who help brighten the holiday season for so many families. We are grateful for the ways in which the generosity of University faculty, staff, and alumni continues to bring Rutgers together as a community every year.

We wish you all the best in 2020!

Sincerely,

Michele Coyne, Lauren Errickson, and the Rutgers Against Hunger Team

**If you are interested in supporting Rutgers Against Hunger, please visit [rah.rutgers.edu](http://rah.rutgers.edu) or contact us at [rah@rutgers.edu](mailto:rah@rutgers.edu).**



The staff of McKinley Community School, School Based Youth Services, and Youth Advocate Program



Hundreds of toys donated to AAF by The Big Chill 5K Race



Donation boxes beautifully decorated and generously filled by SAS-EOF for SBYS



John Busby of Facilities and Melissa Celik, RAH Volunteer, picking up donations



Sponsor, Lettie Graff, and colleagues of Rutgers Health/UBHC/Finance with donations for CGE-AAP