

# Our History

Most of us were not alive at the turn of the 20th Century, but it was a time of great beginnings. It was the time when Reverend Dennis R. Pevoto, a Baptist minister, having set sail for New York from Savannah, Georgia, had a dream that altered the course of his life and the lives of hundreds of thousands of people from that point to this very day. He experienced a Divine vision in which he was being called to come to Houston to establish a refuge for Houston's lost community of men—men who had fallen on hard times and never recovered, men who were alcoholic, helpless and hopeless with no place to go. It was to be named the Star of Hope Mission.

By 1906 Reverend Pevoto had arrived in Houston and was making headway toward his vision. He met with other Baptist clergy and Evangelist Mordecai Ham. Together, they formed the first shelter for homeless men in the city, and the Star of Hope Mission began its life-changing work on July 1, 1907, in a two-story building at 714 Franklin Street, with a former alcoholic named Richard Dowling appointed as the first director. Eventually the Mission was relocated to Congress Street and then to LaBranch Street, where it ministered to homeless men for 45 years, from 1955 to 2000.

It was during the period at the LaBranch location that homelessness took a turn. It was no longer reflective of the peculiar poverty of urban men. Suddenly, it began to take on a softer, rounder look, all too frequently, innocent and desperate, as women and children became the fastest growing population among the homeless. In fact, nationally, the average age of the homeless person is nine years old.

The latter part of the 20th century saw greater and greater numbers of frightened women and children entering the homeless scene.

In response, Star of Hope opened the Women and Family Emergency Shelter in 1986 on North Main Street. The goal was to provide the love of Christ through a nurturing, safe environment that comforted and encouraged the most vulnerable among the homeless. Two years later, the Transitional Living Center opened on Calhoun Street, offering a year-long residential program for homeless women and families, to ensure that they could re-enter mainstream society fully equipped to be self-sufficient.

Today, the Star of Hope Mission is in its own stage of great beginnings. The Women and Family Emergency Shelter, now in its second home at 419 Dowling Street, underwent a million dollar renovation to maximize the safety, comfort and care of its residents. In the spring of 2004, the June Waggoner House of Hope Day Care Center was opened on that site providing the very best in childcare and after school programs for over 100 homeless youngsters and teens.

The Transitional Living Center, also in its second home at 6801 Ardmore is a custom-built complex. On the property is the Hope Center Administration Building serving the entire Star of Hope ministry. In addition, there are 111 single and family apartments, including service and program centers that target healthcare, childcare, education, employment, substance abuse recovery and life-skills management.

Located at 1811 Ruiz Street, is the home of the Doris and Carliss Morris Men's Development Center, completed for occupancy in June of 2000. It was formerly the Men's Emergency Shelter. In this 70,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility, God is at work renewing the hearts and minds of broken men, casting off the old and bringing forth new opportunities for physical, emotional, occupational and spiritual wholeness through programs and services similar to those at the Transitional Living Center.

Thank you for supporting Star of Hope in its efforts to uplift our suffering neighbors, providing them with help and HOPE and freedom from the grip of despair.



## STAR OF HOPE EXTENDED SERVICES

### *Glad Tidings Adopt-A-Family*

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15*

### *Donor Frequently Asked Question*

Star of Hope is a Christ-centered community dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and their children. Positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and recovery from substance abuse.

#### *Contact Us*

*Star of Hope - Extended Services*

*Michelle Jones - Extended Services Case Manager  
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(281) 703 - 3181 Ljones@sohmission.org*

*Visit us on the web: [www.sohmission.org](http://www.sohmission.org)*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ◆ What is Adopt-A-Family?

It is a program designed to help struggling families celebrate the Christmas holiday season by connecting them with individuals, small groups, businesses and organizations who adopt them for the Christmas season and personally deliver gifts.

## ◆ Who can apply for Adopt-A-Family?

Families with a child or children that meet the income guidelines. Our definition of family includes, intact families, single parent households and non-traditional families. The income guidelines are based on net monthly income not exceeding the predetermined totals and they are as follows: Family of 2 - \$1335 Family of 3 - \$1680; Family of 4 - \$2025; Family of 5 - \$2370; Family of 6 - \$2715; Family of 7- \$3060 and Family of 8 or more – \$3408.

\*figures based on the most current US poverty guideline report

## ◆ How are the families screened?

In order for a families application to be accepted, all of the following documents must be provided: A letter stating your current situation; copy of each child's birth certificate; Copy of valid Texas ID/DL; copy of your most current electric bill AND phone bill; Last four (4) check stubs or Tax return filed this year for the year immediately preceding; copy of award letters that apply to your family's income (SSI/SSDI, unemployment, TANF, food stamps, child support, Alimony/ Spousal Support and/or rental subsidy.

## ◆ How can I help?

You can personally adopt a family by completing a Donor Application Form online at [www.sohmission.org/adopt-a-family-donor](http://www.sohmission.org/adopt-a-family-donor) . This form will also allow you to provide us with an idea of the family or families that you desire to adopt.

Once we have received your request, which will confirm that you will be adopting a family, you will be matched with a family that meets your criteria. In our matching process we will do our best to meet your criteria as closely as we possibly can. Once you have been matched with a family, you will receive additional information about the family. You will be provided with the names, ages, clothing sizes and a Gift Idea List created by the family. After you have made contact with the family, you will then beginning shopping for the families gifts, wrap each gift and deliver the gifts no later than **December 21st**.

## ◆ Who can adopt-a-family?

Anyone over the age of 18 years of age or minors with parental support AND monitoring, can adopt a family or families. We welcome any agency, families/ friends, organizations/businesses, church groups, social groups, homeowner associations and sororities/fraternities to adopt our families.

## ◆ Do I have a choice in the family I would like to Adopt?

You may choose your family based on the family size, number of children, ages of the children and gender of the children. We do ask that you provide the adult (s) with at least one gift.

## ◆ What if I (we) want to adopt more than one Family?

Wonderful! Please indicate the total number of families that you would like to adopt along with the family size, and we will match you with enough families to meet your request. Again we ask that you provide the adult (s) with at least one gift.

## ◆ What information will I receive about the family that I adopt?

You will receive a brief summary regarding the family's current situation along with the contact information, names and ages of each family member and gift ideas/clothing sizes.

## ◆ Are we able to take pictures with the family and possibly use them for publications ?

Photos are fine with the families consent. Please be mindful that some families may not desire for their photos to be publicized. This should be communicated with the family during the matching process.

## ◆ How will I know what the family wants/needs?

All donors will receive information regarding the family. This information includes the child's age, gender, clothing sizes as well as the family's gift idea list. You will also have the families contact information in order to contact them for any additional family related questions.

## ◆ Can I give the family gifts cards?

We encourage donors to purchase items from the child's gift list, especially for smaller children. However, gift cards are acceptable for all.

## ◆ Is there a limit to the size of gift, gift value or number of gifts I am allowed to give?

We do not place limitation on the size of gift, gift value or number of gifts that you provide to the family or families that you have chosen to adopt. However, you are also under no obligation to purchase everything on the child's gift list or large ticket items.

## ◆ Are there any requirements/expectations for giving to my adopted family?

We ask that you purchase at least one gift for the adult (s). A suggested spending limit per child is \$50.00 to \$150.00, but keep in mind that this is just a suggested spending limit per child.

## ◆ What should I do if I attempt to contact the family but I do not hear back from them?

If you have not been able to make contact with the family by **November 20th**, immediately contact Michelle Jones with Star of Hope – Extended Services at 281-703-3181 or [Ljones@sohmission.org](mailto:Ljones@sohmission.org) to notify us of the situation so that we can determine if other arrangements need to be made.

## ◆ How are the gifts distributed?

Donors will contact the family or families that they have adopted, in order to schedule a date and time for the donor to deliver the gifts to the family. Donors are responsible for wrapping and delivering the gifts. If at any time the donor or the family becomes uncomfortable about the location of the delivery, a mutually agreed upon public location can be designated as the location for the gift exchange (restaurants, libraries, etc.). If an agreed upon location between both parties cannot be arranged please contact Michelle Jones with Star of Hope – Extended Services at 281-703-3181.

## ◆ Do I need to purchase everything on the Gift Idea List?

No, you are not required to purchase everything on the Gift Idea List.

## ◆ What happens if I become unable to participate after being matched with a family?

We ask that you let us know no later than **December 1st** if you are unable to participate in the program so that we can make other arrangements for the family/families.

## ◆ What should I do if I have questions concerns?

For any questions of concerns regarding adopting a family, please call Michelle Jones with Star of Hope-Extended Services at 281-703-3181 or email me at [Ljones@sohmission.org](mailto:Ljones@sohmission.org).

## Dates and Deadlines **PRIORITY MATCHING WILL BE GIVEN TO RETURNING DONORS**

**Oct. 1st - 15th:** Glad Tidings Adopt-A-Family Recipient Registration opens.

**Oct. 15th - 30th:** Glad Tidings Adopt-A-Family Donor Registration opens.

**Oct. 31st - Nov. 4th:** Staff of Hope will be working on matching Donor and Recipients.

**Nov. 8th - 11th:** Donors will begin receiving their Recipient (families); Emails will be sent to Donors with the families registration information.

**Nov. 8th - 18th:** Donors contact their Recipients (family) to ask questions, build rapport and set up time/place for drop off of gifts.

**Dec. 1st:** You must notify Extended Services by December 1st if you are unable to participate in Glad Tiding Adopt-A-Family.

**Dec. 14th - 21st:** All deliveries should be made no later than December 21st, unless otherwise arranged with the family/individual and approved by Star of Hope Staff.

**Dec. 29th - Jan. 31st:** Follow-up calls/emails/surveys to donors and recipient families to get vital feedback for future planning/preparation/program adjustments. Thank You for your heart of giving and have a Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy New Year.

## Donor Report

Please take just a moment to tell us about your experience with the Star of Hope Glad Tidings Adopt-A-Family program

Please estimate the approximately number of hours spent Shopping, planning, travel etc. for Adopt-A-Family

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Please estimate the approximate amount of money spent on the family

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Please share with us a summary of your experience with the Star of Hope Glad Tidings Adopt-A-Family Program

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