



**Valley Glen Neighborhood Association Annual
“Adopt-A-Family” Program – 2009**

As we are in the midst of our 9th annual “Adopt-A-Family” Program, I’d like to take a moment to share with you a sample of the families we’ve helped over the last 9 years.

There was a Grant High School student who was seriously ill for several years and was so physically impaired he needed a special teacher’s aide. Finally, they found a match and he had a kidney transplant. The family struggled even more when his single parent was laid off. You can imagine the financial (and emotional) challenges for this family.

The family with the father who had been in a tragic accident and was paralyzed. In fact, he was still hospitalized when I delivered our donations.

The family with the father in Iraq and the mother pregnant with their fourth child.

Another family included a diabetic student who couldn’t go extended periods without eating but at the end of each month the family was out of food and money. The school nurse, out of her own pocket, would buy food for this student to prevent seizures.

The family who lost everything due to of Hurricane Katrina and was relocated here by a group providing aid to the victims.

The ex-gang banger trying to support his child, seeking employment and doing everything to be a law abiding citizen for the sake of his daughter.

The unemployed father with two boys and a 6-month old baby, abandoned by the mother.

The family who lived in a garage.

The family who didn't live in a garage, they were homeless. The mother met me at the school to pick up the donations since there was no address.

The family with no furniture in their apartment. They slept on the floor.

The aged and ill grandparents raising their two grandchildren because of their drug addicted parents.

The stories go on and on. Words cannot describe the impact we have on these disadvantaged families. That's what keeps me involved. For fleeting moments I've thought of stepping down, but then I see these families struggling to provide for their children, and I simply can't abandon them. Hopefully, you feel the same.

We provide for two families from each of our four public schools: Erwin St., Kittridge, Molux and Grant. The schools (usually the nurse) select the families. We also help families through Jewish Family Services. And when there are enough donations, we help the L.A.P.D. Jeopardy program (for youth at risk) at the North Hollywood and Van Nuys police stations.

May you have a wonderful Holiday Season. Be thankful for your blessings and always remember those less fortunate.

For more information or to make a donation to "Adopt-A-Family" program, please contact Judy Price at judyprice1127@aol.com or 818/787-9946.