

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is once again just around the corner. In the coming weeks we will begin to see holiday decorations going up in stores and in homes across the nation. For some of us, seeing these decorations bring back joyful memories. For others, these decorations may have little meaning or may even bring back hurtful memories.

For many of the children and families that we serve at Teaching Family Homes, the holidays can be a challenging time. Parents may struggle with the hard choice of paying the bills or buying their children Christmas gifts. Our children may remember their friends at school telling about all their brand new toys, while there was little if anything under their tree, if they had a tree. While we cannot change the past, at Teaching Family Homes, we want to change the present and future for these children and families.

During this Holiday Season, we want to give our children and families the opportunity to start making joyful holiday memories. One of the ways we do this is through our Adopt-a-Child program. Through generous community donors, Adopt-a-Child is able to provide gifts for the children and families at Teaching Family Homes. There are several ways that you can participate in the Adopt-a-Child program:

- * You can send an email to adoptachild@tfhomes.org or call (906) 249-5437 and we will send you a wish list from one of our children. Purchased items can be dropped at our office at 1000 Silver Creek Road, Marquette, MI 49855.
- * You can make a monetary donation at www.teachingfamilyhomes.org through our Adopt-a-Child link. Monetary donations will allow our Home-Based workers to take parents to pick out gifts for their children.
- * You can also adopt one of our residential programs. We will email you a list of items that will benefit the children throughout the year.

While a Christmas gift may not seem life changing, it can be. I have seen tears of joy as parents realize that for the first time they can provide Christmas gifts for their children. I have seen children mesmerized by a brightly wrapped gift with their name on it; in awe that this beautiful package is for them. These are memories that will be cherished for many years to come.

Thank you for partnering with us this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Santer
Chief Executive Officer

