FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays

ATLANTIC AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, NJ—For over a decade, the 'Adopt-A-Family' program, sponsored by the South Jersey AIDS Alliance (SJAA), has provided families with gifts for the holidays. This year SJAA has received Holiday Wishes for gifts from over 500 clients and their families in Cumberland and Atlantic counties.

To make these Holiday Wishes come true, a child, a teenager or an entire family can be adopted through the Adopt-A-Family program.

"While most of us think of holiday gifts as special items we wouldn't ordinarily buy for ourselves, this program provides families with the essentials that help them get through the cold winter months. Items like gloves, scarves, hats, hooded sweatshirts, sweaters, socks, slipper socks, flannel shirts and also toiletries such as shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and the like," said Cathy Fields, SJAA's Cumberland County director who oversees the Vineland center's Adopt-A-Family program.

Sari Calderon, Adopt-A-Family coordinator working out of SJAA's Atlantic City headquarters suggests, "If you wish to adopt a child or family and are unable to purchase the wish items yourself, we have many volunteers who would be happy to go shopping for you."

If you would like to make a donation and you live in Atlantic County, please call Sari Calderon at 609-347-1085 or email to saribertp@sjaids.org. Donations may also be mailed or dropped off to SJAA, 19 Gordons Alley, Atlantic City, NJ 08401.

If you live in Cumberland County, please contact Cathy Fields at 856-696-8025 or cathyf@sjaids.org. Donations may also be mailed or dropped off to SJAA, 1173 E. Landis Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360.

Donations of gifts, cash or checks are requested by Wednesday, December 19th. "We like to receive donations by December 19th so we can give our clients the peace of mind knowing that they have something for their child," said Calderon. Gifts will be given out to the families on Friday, December 21st.

To learn more about SJAA's programs and services, go to its website at **www.southjerseyaids alliance.org** or call 800-281-AIDS.