



Dear Friend,

I will shortly be forwarding you the details of ages and genders of the members of your donor family. Thank you again for agreeing to be a part of this cause!

One of the wonderful things about Christmas Cracker ©, is the personal link between you, as donor family and the family for whom you are buying. While there is no direct contact between you and the donee family as the process is anonymous, you are nonetheless forging a link and creating a special personal connection between your two families. You know that your gift is going to a particular person and has been chosen especially for them.

Gift buying is a very personal thing and for that reason I purposely do not provide a budget or a minimum spend. How much you would like to contribute is entirely up to you. Having said that, I have found that it is helpful to provide a guide for our donor families which hopefully will assist you during the gift-buying process.

Due to the cultural beliefs, life experiences and background of many of the families (many of whom are refugees), there are some gifts which may not be entirely appropriate. Can I kindly ask you to take the following into account when purchasing your gifts?

- Nothing to do with witches, ghosts, skulls or death (no Halloween type gifts);
- No war games or toys;
- Modest clothing only;
- No pierced earrings;
- If buying food, no meat products; and
- If you are thinking of buying gift cards or vouchers for the parents/caregivers, supermarket vouchers would, as an example, be of more immediate help than, for example, a movie voucher, simply because buying food for the family is a huge financial pressure.

There are some families with whom my nurse contact has particularly good relationships and would be able to facilitate an "experience-type" gift e.g. a trip to the zoo, Rainbow's End. (Many of these children have never even been over the Harbour Bridge). If your donee family is in this category, I will let you know.

Finally, please do not wrap the gifts and please email me when they are ready to be picked up. All the families are living in poverty and for most of the children, your gift will be their only Christmas present. Thank you so very much for your generous help.

*Vanessa*



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