



**Media Release**  
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## **HCHD Employees Bring Cheer to Less Fortunate**

*Annual event gives more than 350 families food and gift baskets*

Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) employees spread holiday cheer on Dec. 17 as they handed out food baskets and colorfully wrapped presents to more than 350 needy families for the hospital district's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Adopt-A-Family (CARE) Program. The employee-driven event took place at HCHD's Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital.

Patients and their families were thrilled as they accepted gifts and recognized the familiar faces of staff who helped care for them during the year. Many children couldn't wait until they got home to open their gifts, eagerly tearing off bows and wrapping paper to see what they got.

"It's wonderful knowing we made the holidays brighter for so many patients and their families," said Olinda Johnson, event coordinator, who annually organizes shopping trips to buy food, dolls, stuffed animals and other gifts for the event.

"This project has been a success year after year because of the kindness and generosity of HCHD employees. They go out of their way, giving their time and resources to make sure we help as many families as possible."

Each year, hospital staff, who work closely with patients, identify families who will receive gift baskets. As the holidays approach, employees conduct fundraisers to raise money, buy the gifts and wrap them to present them to pre-selected families.

"As a hospital district employee, you're used to helping patients all year long- by improving their health," Johnson said. "This is our chance to improve their spirits as well."

HCHD employees have been making the holidays brighter for patients and their families since the Adopt-a-Family Program began at Jeff Davis Hospital. Since then, the tradition continues to grow.

HCHD comprises three major hospitals including Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and Quentin Mease Community Hospital; 12 community health centers; 13 satellite homeless shelter clinics; six school-based clinics and four mobile health units.

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