



Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.
237 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 01610
Tel: (508) 755-1228 - Fax: (508) 797-3477
www.pernetfamilyhealth.org

October, 2011

Dear Friend,

As the current recession grinds on, wearing all of us down, it's time to boldly gather our collective will to be a Light in the Darkness.

More than ever our families are struggling with long-term unemployment and lack of resources. While a Thanksgiving basket and a bag of Christmas gifts don't solve all problems, they serve as a reminder that someone cares and that we're not alone in our struggles. Indeed these annual holidays help us to *make time* to celebrate not what we *have*, but *who we are as a human family*.

Pernet's Holiday Assistance program is a collaborative effort on the part of staff, donors and volunteers who shine a Bright Light on the lives of our families. The enclosed form offers suggestions on how you can walk with us through this Season of Light. No matter what your personal circumstances are, there's a way for you to help. You may wish to assist us through volunteering or donating from your resources. Finally, please hold our families in your heart as you thank God for your own blessings.

In turn we will pray for your intentions as together we carry on our mission of supporting and strengthening families. May you enjoy a blessed and peaceful Thanksgiving and a Christmas Season filled with Light.

Sincerely,

Sister Gemma Mary DeBaggis, LSA and the Pernet Family

One year ago we were privileged to meet an Iraqi refugee family of seven—parents and five children including a newborn—who had just arrived in the U.S. with absolutely nothing that they could call their own. Michael Rezkalla, our Arabic-speaking staff member, connected them immediately to our Holiday Assistance program. Thanks to the generosity of donors, their first Thanksgiving in the U.S. was truly a feast, and our Giving Tree program provided them with warm clothing and toys for their young children. This family currently receives home visits by our Worcester Healthy Start Initiative case manager, Yildiz Laza. They have access to emergency assistance through our food pantry and formula and diapers program. And last summer they joined us on our family outings to the lake and the EcoTarium where they played as a family and interacted with others. While most of our families are not in such dire circumstances, we can say confidently that Pernet's Holiday Assistance program is at the heart of our mission of strengthening and supporting families by building relationships of trust.

REPLY FORM: Please return this form to Pernet by October 31.

I want to help MAKE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL for Pernet families! I have enclosed a MONETARY DONATION to help defray the overall cost of the Holiday Program at Pernet.
Amount enclosed: \$_____

THANKSGIVING BASKET DONATION: Thanksgiving donations are due to Pernet by Wednesday, November 16.

I can donate the following items for the Thanksgiving Basket program at Pernet:

#_____ Complete Thanksgiving basket/s including turkey or gift card	#_____ canned green beans
#_____ Turkeys or \$10 gift cards to local supermarkets	#_____ canned corn
#_____ 5-lb. bags of potatoes	#_____ canned cranberry sauce
#_____ 2-lb. bags of onions	#_____ boxes of stuffing mix
#_____ 1-lb. bags of carrots	#_____ cans of gravy
#_____ canned peas	#_____ brownie mixes
	#_____ other items: _____

I can help with the Thanksgiving basket program in the following way (check all that apply):

____ Pick up donations at various locations (Week of November 14-18)
____ Deliver Thanksgiving baskets (Saturday, 11/19, through Tuesday, 11/22)

I can help with the Christmas program in the following way (check all that apply)

____ Adopt #_____ families to shop for Christmas gifts. *We will contact you about the process and deadlines.*

____ Donate the following other items as Christmas gifts for children and parents (*Due to Pernet by December 13*):

Contact Information:

Name _____ Email address _____

Organization _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

Cell # _____ Fax # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail or fax this form to Yildiz Laza, Pernet Family Health Service, 237 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Fax: (508) 797-3477. Questions: Paulette Lacoste, (508) 755-1228 placoste@pernetfamilyhealth.org THANK YOU