



It was Three Months of Christmas...

by Becca DiBona of Garden City, NY



Becca DiBona with her mom, Lisa

Just before school started in September, my Mom and her friends at MOST started working on the Holiday Adopt-a-Family program. My favorite thing to do is to work on this project with my Mom. I have been doing this most of my life I think or at least as long as I can remember. I usually get to make holes in pages and put things in binders, sort kid's books and figure out which extra things go in which boxes. This year my Mom said I could adopt a family. She said I would have to come up with a way to raise money, because I would have to buy clothes and presents. I have an older sister who is a senior in high school and she raised money one year by baking cookies and putting them in my Mom's office with a shoe box with a slit in it. People

would come by and take a cookie and they would put money in the box. So I decided to do this at my school. I made dozens of cookies and put them in the teachers' lounge, with a poster about the project I was working on. Before I could do this, I had to meet with the principal of the school to get permission. Dr. Braccia is a very serious principal and I was a little scared to go into her office to tell her what I was doing. She ended up being really nice about it and said I could hand out flyers in my class also. Mom picked a family for me that had 1-year-old quadruplets and I wrote up a flyer explaining to my class what I was working on. One of my friends, Taylor, said she'd like to help me with the shopping and packing. We ended up raising over \$300 by the first week in December. Mom took us shopping to the clothing store near our house. We picked out pajamas, coats, hats, gloves, undershirts, pants and warm shirts. We also picked out fancy clothes for the holidays. There were two boys and two girls. The boys got pants with a shirt, vest and bow tie with shoes and socks. The girls got velvet dresses, leotards, Mary Janes and bows for their hair. We went up to the counter with a basket full of clothes and were afraid we wouldn't have enough money. It took a long time to count out \$238.00 worth of one and five dollar bills. Then we went to Toys R Us to spend the rest of our money. We bought diapers, wipes, teething toys, puzzles and push toys. Mom had to give us an extra \$5.00 so we could pay for everything. Then we went home and had to take the tags off everything and put it in our box. We were so excited when we were done. We started working on some of the other boxes that needed packing. Our box was shipped three days later and about two weeks after that we got a thank you letter from the family we adopted with a picture of the kids in their new clothes with their toys all around them. They looked so happy. I brought the picture into school so everyone could see how happy we had made this family. I can't wait for next October, when Christmas starts all over again.

PS: Mom says 'Another great way to raise money at school is to place empty water cooler bottles around the school and ask people to give you their spare change. It really adds up fast and it's fun to have a coin rolling party with pizza at your house. ♥'

Ed Note: Becca will be 10 July 15th and she has been working on the AAF - in one way or another - all her life.

