For the past four years, KU Medical Center’s Department of Family Medicine has come together to make the holiday season brighter for area families in need.

Each year, the department adopts several families and provides them with necessities such as food, winter coats, hats and gloves, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and cookware as well as candy and toys.

**Sherry Wright-Fontenot**, billing and data entry supervisor within the department, organized the program, which has grown into a Family Medicine tradition. Everyone in the department donates items for a fund-raising raffle each fall, and proceeds from the raffle, along with donations, help fund the adoption of families. This year’s raffle raised about $300, which helped buy necessities for seven families and a total of 26 children.

Wright-Fontenot was motivated by a desire to help others and by a special memory of her own. When she was 16, her mother passed away during the holidays, and an anonymous individual adopted her family, leaving gifts stacked on the front porch.

“This is our way of repaying the generosity of the past and helping to make a better future for families who need to experience some holiday joy,” she said. “The department truly comes together as a family for this project, and these gifts are tangible evidence of the generosity we all feel for the people in the community.”

Left: Some of the Adopt-a-Family helpers include: (seated) Sherry Wright-Fontenot, (front) Corey Wright, Nura Yasin, MD, Maggie Watson, Lynn Rippel, (back) Madelyn Pollock, MD, Jenni Zimmerli, Christy Frizzell, Amber Haq, Debra Lea, Cristal Hernandez and Belinda Vail, MD.
For Sale
BODY-SOLID Roman chair, commercial fitness equipment for back extensions, great condition, retail for $250, asking $75. 913-381-3817.
SONY PROJECTION TV, KP-51W5500, 51” HDTV-ready, built-in surround sound, 2 years old, remote, manual, excellent condition, $1,300 OBO. 816-781-9829.
WHIRLPOOL WASHER, heavy-duty model, white, good condition, $40. 913-341-2909.

Saturday, Dec. 31
CATHOLIC HOLY Service: New Year’s Eve Mass, 4:45 p.m., Spencer Chapel.

Sunday, Jan. 1
CATHOLIC HOLY Service: New Year’s Day Mass, 10 a.m., Spencer Chapel.

Wednesday, Jan. 4
INTERNAL MEDICINE Grand Rounds: “Scleroderma,” Professor Dame Carol Mary Black, DBE,
PRCP, FMedSci, 8-9 a.m., Sudler Auditorium.

Thursday, Jan. 5
MICROBIOLOGY FACULTY Recruitment Seminar: “Unlocking the Links Between p53 and Ploidy Control Using SV40 T Antigen as a Key,” Ole Gjøerup, PhD, 11 a.m.-noon, Orr-Major 1023.

Friday, Jan. 6
PSYCHIATRY GRAND Rounds: “Managing Buprenorphine in an Office-Based Practice and the Benefits for You and Your Patients,” Jan Campbell, MD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.

Tuesday, Jan. 10
SURGERY GRAND Rounds: “Current Concepts in Coagulation and the Usage of Fresh Frozen Plasma to Correct Coagulation Abnormalities,” Jigar Patel, MD, 7-8 a.m., Clendening Auditorium.

Wednesday, Jan. 11
DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR Lecture Series: “Tobacco Addiction in the 21st Century: Science, Health, Product Change and Global Regulation,” Jack Henningfield, PhD, noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing B018. Lunch provided for first 45 attendees.