

What is the AAF Program?

The Adopt-A-Family Program is organized by the Family Relations Committee, with the goal of pairing passionate and caring student organizations (Orgs) associated with Penn State with Four Diamonds families, like yourself.



Students “adopt” families like you into their organizations and welcome you with open arms and full hearts. The program is **designed for you**, so that your kids feel like they have 10, 20 or even 50 big brothers or sisters who are there for them and your family. The students will connect with you and your family frequently, play with your kids and be there for you all throughout the entire journey. Each of you really becomes a part of the other’s family.



How You Get Involved!

It is easy - just submit the **THON Involvement Form!** This is made available for you to fill out at the end of summer, so be sure to keep an eye out for it.

In addition to this, it helps to maintain contact with the **New Family Contact Captains** on the Family Relations Committee as often as you can. The first step of the AAF Team when pairing a new family with a student Organization is to talk to the New Family Contact Captains to see what the families’ interests are, what kind of Org can best support them, etc. These Captains are our best tool in pairing you with the **best Organization for you and your family!**

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact the Family Relations Director at family.relations@thon.org.

THON™

Adopt-A-Family Program



Connect, Support, Empower

The Adopt-A-Family (AAF) Program **connects** passionate Penn State students with Four Diamonds families so that they can **support** you and your loved ones to conquer childhood cancer while **empowering** your child to do anything that they set their mind to.

Four Diamonds Family Quotes

“They support all our kids, not just A’Niah. They do different and fun things with all of them, making them all feel special. They go out of their way to be involved in important things that are going on with our family.”

- *The A’Niah Butler Family*

“These kids will make fun for your child when you can’t. The guys will play Barbies & the girls will play kickball, all while expecting nothing in return. They will be the light during a really tough time.”

- *The Jeremy Hawk Family*

“It’s a great thing to be a part of! I would highly encourage any family that’s on the fence about doing or haven’t elected to be adopted by an org, to do so! You get to meet and get to know many great students/young adults that are concerned and want to help make a difference! My kids very much enjoy the interaction with them when we get together.”

-*The Jaxon Crabill Family*

How Student Organizations Get Involved

There are currently **over 150 student organizations** from Penn State involved in the AAF Program, meaning each of them is paired with a minimum of one Four Diamonds Family.

At the beginning of each school year, Organizations submit their Adopt-A-Family Applications. These applications are submitted to continue their current pairing with a family, for their Organization to be paired with a new family in addition to the ones that they are currently paired with, or to be paired with their very first family!



THON’s Mission

“THON is a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Our mission is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness and ensure funding for critical research, all in pursuit of a cure.”

The Adopt-A-Family program is an extension of the “emotional” support stated in THON’s mission. The emotional support that the connections give is similar to the intangibles of life – difficult to put into words.