

2018 DONOR PACKAGE HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM



The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa | La Société de l'aide à l'enfance d'Ottawa

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your interest in our **Holiday Gift Program**! As the festive season approaches, we have once again started planning our annual **Holiday Gift Program**. Your interest in organizing donations with your family or at your place of work is greatly appreciated, and your participation in the program will allow a much happier Holiday season for many of our children and families!

Last year, you helped thousands of children & families:

159

FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM
THE FAMILY
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

1,615

CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM
THE ANGEL TREE PROGRAM



There are several ways that you can contribute to the **Holiday Gift Program**. Whether it's through the Family Sponsorship Program, the Angel Tree Program, or a monetary donation, you will be making a difference. You can find some more information about each program in the pages that follow, to help you choose the one that's right for you!

Family Sponsorship Program

Our goal is to ensure that families with the most financial burdens have food, warm clothes, toys and the household items needed for a memorable celebration.

As a donor, you will receive a complete profile of the family. Your task is to ensure that the family receives a well rounded donation for the holiday season.

Angel Tree Program

We encourage you to put up an Angel Tree in your workplace and to gather individual toys for children.

We will gladly send you a list of children's ages and gender to complete your Angel Tree. Your donation will go to a child of the gender and age you have chosen.

Monetary Donation

You may wish to make a monetary donation to the Children's Aid Foundation of Ottawa, which will be used to buy gift cards for food and household items for the families that are not sponsored.

To make a monetary donation, please visit our Foundation website at www.helpottawakids.ca. You will receive a tax receipt for this contribution.

CONTACT: To participate in our Holiday Gift Program, please contact Janik Mainville, Program Facilitator, at 613-747-7800 ext. 2747 or at janik.mainville@casott.on.ca.



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The Family Sponsorship Program provides our children and families in financial need with support during the holiday season. As a donor, you will be given the profile of a family. This information is provided in a non-identifying manner, but allows you to get a good idea of who is in the family and what their needs are, such as: the children's wish list, children's clothing & shoe size, any food allergies or restrictions, and their nearest supermarket for gift certificates. You will also be able to connect with the family's worker to discuss the family's needs and to arrange the pick up and delivery of your donation.

The types of donations we look for in a family sponsorship include:

- Non-perishable food items;
- Gift cards for food purchases: President's Choice, Food Basics, Wal-Mart, Giant Tiger;
- New toys & books;
- Baby supplies: diapers, formula, creams, soap;
- Clothing & winter gear: mittens, hats & scarves, socks, underwear;
- Household items: laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, linens, towels, face cloths, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste;
- Special requests: movie passes, passes to children's activities, swimming pool passes, sports gear, gift cards to restaurants;
- Items for parents: personal care product gift baskets, gift cards for clothing.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How much money should be spent for the family sponsorship?

A: Approximately \$150 per family member is the suggested amount to meet the needs of a family during the holiday season. This includes food, clothing, toys, etc. For example, a family with two adults and two children would average out to approximately \$600.

Q: Do I have to get everything that is requested on the family's profile?

A: You are not required to purchase everything requested. We ask that you inform the family's worker of the items that will not be purchased, or additional items that may not have been requested but that you feel would be helpful.

Q: Am I able to donate secondhand items to the family I am sponsoring?

A: We request that secondhand items not be donated unless discussed with and approved by the family's worker.

Q: How does my donation get to the family I am sponsoring?

A: Family sponsorship donations will be distributed to the family by the family worker in the weeks leading up to the holidays. We encourage donors to place their donation in plastic storage containers, which will facilitate transportation. The family can later use the containers for household storage. Donations can be dropped off at our main office or arranged to be picked up by the family worker or a volunteer driver. Unfortunately, we do not facilitate direct exchanges between the donors and families. The deadline for workers to pick up donations is December 20th.

Q: Should my donations be wrapped?

A: No. As an agency, we want to be able to screen donations before delivering them to families. We also want parents be able to wrap the gifts so they know what their children are receiving. However, any gifts to parents can be wrapped.

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM | ANGEL TREE



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You may choose to set up an Angel Tree at your workplace and gather individual toys for children. This is a great way to give staff members the opportunity to give back during the holiday season. Here are some guidelines for those choosing to contribute to the Angel Tree Program:

We will be accepting donations from:

DEC. 6th to DEC. 17th

SUGGESTION LIST:

1. **Gift cards** for Bayshore, St-Laurent, Place d'Orléans, Walmart, youth clothing stores, Best Buy, Subway, EB Games, Ardene, Shopper's Drug Mart, Cineplex, Landmark;
2. **Diapers** (size newborn to size 5);
3. **Clothing** (hats, mittens, socks, hoodies, newborn sleepers), clothing for children 6 years and up;
4. **Sleds**;
5. Dolls that reflect our **diverse community**;
6. **Sport items** (basketballs, footballs, soccer balls);
7. **Barbies, action figures, Shopkins, Lego kits**;
8. Toys that promote the **development** of toddlers;
9. **Activity mats** for infants, infant toys;
10. **Tablets**, MP3 players and headphones for teens;
11. **Gender neutral toys**.

This will allow our family workers and volunteers enough time to deliver your donations to families. Donations can be dropped off at our main office located at 1602 Telesat Court, or we can arrange to have a volunteer driver pick up the gifts from your location. We ask that donated gifts be unwrapped and placed in boxes to facilitate pick-up and delivery. Donations of gift bags and wrapping paper are also needed. This gives the parents the opportunity to wrap the gifts themselves, which can be a small joy during a sometimes difficult time of the year.

When donating a gift card, please ensure the amount is clearly indicated on the card.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

1. Prepaid Visa or Mastercard;
2. Toy guns, toy weapons, war games, sword-like toys, paintball guns;
3. Video games and books rated Mature;
4. Secondhand items;
5. Sexually explicit gifts or gifts that could be perceived of a sexual nature (i.e. underwear for teens, items with the Playboy symbol, inappropriate books).

Consumer safety alerts and toy recalls can be found on the Health Canada web site at www.hc-sc.gc.ca.