

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SPONSOR A FAMILY?



Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau brings hope to our community by helping low-income families with children 18 years or younger, low income seniors 65 or older, and low-income persons with disabilities. Through the **Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau Sponsor a Family Program**, you can join with family, friends, or colleagues to create a Christmas hamper for one or more North Shore families.

As a sponsor you will be matched with a family or families, a senior, or a person with disabilities. Tell us the number of families, individuals, seniors and/or persons with disabilities you wish to sponsor. We will provide you with the ages and gender of each family member, gift suggestions that will assist you with your purchases and an information package that explains hamper assembly, delivery and helpful hints. It is then up to you to create the hamper.

We Ask That You Follow The “One Box Rule”

Please keep your hamper to One Box only. To help meet this request, please leave the grocery shopping to the family by providing a food certificate to a local grocery store. It's the best way to shop for someone who might be a vegetarian, enjoy ethnic dishes, have food allergies or a special diet, and it's easy to carry. Remember you have to deliver the hamper to the hamper exchange and the family will pick their hamper up. Grocery gift cards eliminate heavy cans, broken Hampers and strained backs. OUCH!

How Much Does It Cost?

For every member of a family, \$50 should be dedicated towards a grocery gift card. Therefore, a family of 4 would receive \$200 in grocery certificates. A small gift, approx. value \$30 would also be included in the hamper for each family member (around \$120). You can count on your hamper costing at least \$320 for a family of 4. To sponsor a single parent with one child, you will provide a \$100 grocery gift card and two gifts, approx. \$30 each. Total for two people will be \$160, for a single person \$80.

More often than not sponsors will include some fun extras, such as candles, chocolates, and napkins. Hampers can be a laundry hamper, large basket, gift bag or decoratively wrapped box, enclosed with cello and tied with a bow. It is entirely your choice on how you wish to dress it up. Have fun with the presentation, but PLEASE REMEMBER THE “ONE BOX RULE.”

When Must The Hampers Be Ready?

All Hampers must be delivered on Thursday, **December 17th between 9am and 8pm** to the Christmas Hamper Exchange at **Mountainside Secondary School** at 3365 Mahon Avenue, North Vancouver, unless prior arrangements have been made through the Christmas Bureau. An undelivered hamper means a very disappointed family, so please mark your calendar and remember your family.

How Does the Hamper Reach Your Family?

We are very careful with all sponsored Hampers. They are collected, organized by Family Registration Number, and kept in a secure location for pick-up the following day. Families have been given prior notice of the date their hamper will be available for pick-up. Volunteer drivers are on site to help out if families arrive without transportation.

Our Program Respects Our Client’s Privacy.

We respect and protect the privacy of each family receiving assistance. Our families are grateful for your help, but are often embarrassed by their circumstances; therefore home deliveries are not encouraged and are only approved if we have received prior permission from our client.

Your Donation Is Tax Deductible.

Keep all your original receipts. Download your “**Tax Receipt Request Form**” to record your purchases and submit it to the Christmas Bureau upon delivery of your hamper. Receipts for the purchase of grocery gift cards must be submitted with your **Tax Receipt Request Form**.

If more than one tax receipt is required for one hamper, both Tax Receipt Request Forms, each with separate receipts, must be submitted at the same time. (Receipts cannot be split between two donors).

Tax Receipts will be mailed before February 29th, 2016.

What Else Can You Do?

If you are unable to sponsor a family at this time but still wish to help, we gratefully accept cash donations (Visa and MasterCard welcome), new toys, gift wrap, gift cards and grocery gift cards. A tax receipt will be issued for all cash donations over \$20.

To become a sponsor please click here

<http://www.ilovefamilyservices.com/sponsor-form> or contact the Christmas Bureau at the number listed below.

Through your support we are creating a connected community where people care for one another.