

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, seniors on fixed incomes, individuals suffering from long-term illness or anyone facing unforeseen circumstances. Through Family Services of the North Shore Christmas Bureau's Sponsor a Family Program, you can join with family, friends, or colleagues to create a Christmas Hamper for one or more of the 750 North and West Vancouver families, including 800 children who will receive a Christmas hamper and gifts this year.

As a sponsor you will be matched with a family or families, a single or elderly couple, or someone ill and/or disabled who needs your help. Tell us the size and/or number of families 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, sponsors are encouraged to 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 its easy to carry. Remember you have to deliver the hamper to us and we have to get it to the families. Food certificates 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 food certificate. 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 certificate 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 to the Christmas Hamper Exchange at the Lucas Centre: 2132 Hamilton Avenue, North Vancouver on Tuesday, **December 15th** unless prior arrangements have been made through the Christmas Bureau. An undelivered hamper means a very disappointed family, so please remember this date.

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. Volunteer drivers are on site to help out if families arrive without transportation.

Our Program Respects Our Clients' Privacy

We respect and protect the privacy of each family receiving assistance. Our families are grateful for your help, but are often embarrassed by 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. If food certificates are your only proof of purchase and sales receipts have not been issued, **please photocopy each certificate and submit the copies with your Tax Receipt Request Form.**

Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for your Tax Receipt to be mailed.

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 and food certificates. A tax receipt will be issued for all cash donations over \$20.

To become a sponsor please:

- Contact the Christmas Bureau at the number listed below or
- Download the Sponsor a Family Request Form located on our website (www.familyservices.bc.ca) and fax it to our office or
- Fill out our online form located on our website at www.familyservices.bc.ca