

2011 / 2012 Year in Review

The Christmas Bureau

Caring for our community at Christmas and throughout the year

The **Christmas Bureau** has symbolized our community's willingness to help low-income North Shore families and individuals for almost thirty years. Families and individuals celebrate and enjoy the holidays through the distribution of Christmas hampers filled with grocery gift cards, gifts and toys. Every request for assistance is treated with compassion, respect and confidentiality. Our goal is to help everyone enjoy a hearty meal on Christmas day and ensure that every child receives a toy on Christmas morning.

"Nothing on earth can make life more worthwhile than the warmth of a beautiful smile. You made this happen for us. Thank you."

WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU DO?

Sponsor a Family

The Christmas Bureau gives assistance to those who face extreme financial difficulty during the holiday season. Hampers are provided to low-income families and individuals through the Sponsor a Family program. This is made possible by the generosity of families and groups in our community.

Toy Shop

The Christmas Bureau collects new, unwrapped toys. Registered parents and guardians with children under 16 years of age and residing in the same household are eligible for a Toy Shop appointment. Gifts and toys are received through in-kind donations and from our partnership with the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau. This enables parents to select gifts and stocking stuffers for their children at Christmas.



2011 / 2012 CAMPAIGN QUICK FACTS

- 2000 people of the North Shore received help
- 747 hampers were distributed
- 7000 gifts and toys were distributed to 891 children in our community
- 127 volunteers were involved for a total of 1000 hours of volunteer time

Second Annual Toy Drive

The second annual Christmas Bureau Toy Drive was held at Pacific Honda at the Northshore Auto Mall, on Saturday December 3rd, 2011. The toys collected were distributed to children in our community.

Bikes for Tykes

Obsession Bikes in North Vancouver helps the Christmas Bureau by collecting previously owned bicycles. These bikes are restored to "like new" condition, and delivered to the children on the North Shore at Christmas.



Caring for our Community

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“Caring for our Community”

The Christmas Bureau provides more than toys and a hearty, festive meal for families. It offers help at a time when many feel vulnerable dealing with the pressures of the holiday season.

A number of individuals and families need help beyond the holidays. The Christmas Bureau cares for our community at Christmas and throughout the year, ensuring year-round access to our Agency’s programs and services regardless of their financial situation.

To help families in our community experience the joys of the holiday season and to make a lasting difference all year round, a tax deductible, cash donation is one of the most effective ways to support the Christmas Bureau.

Thank you!

for your generous support of the Christmas Bureau

WHAT DO FAMILIES SAY ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU?

- “I can’t believe how families we don’t know care for us. Thanks to our sponsor, we had an awesome Christmas. Thank you from the hearts of a very grateful family.”
- "Our Christmas was magical and the best ever! We have been blessed by the generosity of others."
- "I cried when I saw the surprised and excited looks on the faces of my children when they saw their presents. Thank you for your extreme kindness.”

Christmas Bureau Volunteers

Every year volunteers are needed to help at the Christmas Bureau. During our 2011 / 2012 campaign, approximately 127 volunteers in our community gave 1,000 hours of their time to help make the Christmas Bureau a success.

Volunteer opportunities involve:

- Office duties;
- Setting up and dismantling the Toy Shop;
- Organizing and distributing hampers;
- Collecting toys from various locations throughout the North Shore;
- Personal shopping in the Toy Shop.

Family Services of the North Shore is an accredited not-for-profit community based agency that offers counselling, support and education. We also lead the provincial work in eating disorders prevention. Family Services of the North Shore has been caring for the community for over 60 years. Our high-profile, proactive presence throughout the province connects the community through a variety of programs that create an environment for all families and individuals to thrive.



We recognize the continuing contribution of the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

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