

2010 /2011 IN REVIEW

Family Services of the North Shore 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.

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, from drop boxes located throughout the North Shore, and from our partnership with the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau. This enables parents to select gifts and stocking stuffers for their children at Christmas.

First Annual Toy Drive

The first annual Christmas Bureau Toy Drive was held at Cam Clark Ford Lincoln at the Northshore Auto Mall, on December 11th, 2010. Donations filled a one ton truck with toys which 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.



2010 / 2011 CAMPAIGN QUICK FACTS

- 735 hampers were distributed to 1,888 people living on the North Shore.
- 6,500 toys and gifts were distributed to 805 children throughout our community.
- 126 volunteers were involved for a total of 1,035 hours of volunteer time.
- 324 single parent families and children 16 years and under received help.
- 49 seniors received help.

We would like to thank our Corporate Partners and the community at large for many gifts and financial support we received this past year.





“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.

CHRISTMAS BUREAU VOLUNTEERS

Every year volunteers are needed to help at the Christmas Bureau. During our 2010 / 2011 campaign, approximately 130 volunteers in our community gave 1,035 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.

WHAT DO FAMILIES SAY ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU?

- “Nothing on earth can make life more worthwhile than the warmth of a beautiful smile. You made this happen for us. Thank you.”
- “It is wonderful to know that people like you are there to help the less fortunate in our community. Thank you so much for caring!”
- “I wish you could have seen the looks on my children’s faces. You made our Christmas very happy. Thank you for your extreme kindness and generosity.”

Family Services of the North Shore is an accredited not-for-profit community based agency that offers education, support and counselling services. 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 West Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

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