



Dear Generous 2024 Supporter,

It took a village and that village is called Shelburne!!

We knew it would be a challenging year but our town's businesses, organizations and citizens rose to the occasion to make sure that our families in need, had food, treats and toys for the holiday season. We should all be very proud of our community!

This program has been in existence for well over 60 years in Shelburne and when I was given the privilege of coordinating this program in 2013, who would have known the challenges that the next years would bring? But, with each obstacle, more and more supporters step forward to make sure that we can provide for the growing need. A program that, a decade ago, assisted 60 families now, in 2024, has helped **237 families**. This increase of 295% in 11 years (+27% over 2023) has been challenging but each year our town, our volunteers, and our donors rise to the occasion and work tirelessly to make sure that we help where we can.

Many companies, organizations and individuals come together each year to donate to the program and in 2024 they have, once again, outdone themselves. They all deserve recognition and huge THANKS for their support. Although we work hard to make sure that those who wish to be thanked publically are acknowledged via social media, we sometimes inadvertently miss a valued supporter. Please know that we appreciate all the generous donations and support and we thank you all sincerely. We could not do what we do each year without you.

Partnering with The Shelburne Food Bank ensures that we reach as many local families in need as possible. We all know that the Holidays can be stressful and add additional financial pressures of making sure that kids of all ages are able to celebrate. The food bank does incredible work feeding families 52 weeks of the year and Hampers adds additional assistance in December to help with the festive season by providing the components of a holiday dinner and other necessities and treats.

The Hampers this year included: stuffing, gravy, cranberries, canned vegetables, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, crackers, cookies, juice, vegetable oil (thanks Shelburne Rotary & the Copeland family), ketchup, chunky soup, cake mix, tuna, hot chocolate, chocolates (thanks Bill & Diane French & Lions), milk, cheese, butter, eggs, Downey potatoes, Lennox squash, Lennox onions, Lennox cabbage, Lennox apples, lettuce, carrots, salad kits, peppers, oranges, cucumbers, green beans, body wash, deodorant, Kleenex, dish soap, bar soap, tooth paste, toothbrushes and razors. Each family also received a \$50 gift card to purchase a turkey, ham or other protein, toys for children under 12 and gift cards for kids 12 to 18 years.

Local school participation ebbs and flows year to year (as does everything) but I am so happy to tell you that 3 of the 5 local schools did tremendous work for Hampers this year. We decided to take a different approach in 2024 to make sure our hampers contained the needed items but also to create a fun challenge for schools. We asked for schools to select and collect 200 of one (or more) items on our grocery list. **Centre Dufferin District High School's** support has never wavered over the years and they once again contributed in a significant way by collecting 200 boxes of cereal and sold candy grams in support of the program. High School student volunteers also helped transport and organize items in our food and toys rooms.

Centennial Hylands Elementary School students, staff and parent's council agreed to collect 200 boxes of pancake mix and syrup and when they heard that the need would be closer to 230 they delivered the extras to help the cause. This wonderful school also sent 10 students who worked for a full day packing the hampers along side 2 members of the Lions Club.

Glenbrook Elementary School's Leadership Team of grade 6 to 8 students also accepted the challenge to collect 200 boxes of crackers, 200 boxes of cake mix and toilet paper and they did a fantastic job! Students from the

leadership team and 2 teachers delivered the goods after school and helped to pack them in the hamper boxes. Great work and amazing leadership Glenbrook School!!

We cannot stress enough how the support of these schools helped make sure that we could help our local families both financially, due to the increase in numbers and the higher cost of goods, but also the additional volunteer hours required this year. THANK YOU doesn't seem like enough to say to these 3 wonderful schools for their invaluable support. I hope we can all work together again in 2025!

Social media is an important tool for recognition and I would like to thank a valuable member of our Hamper team, **Kayleigh French**. Kayleigh is a grade 12 student at CDDHS who has assisted with this program in many ways over the years and this year added social media to her roster of tasks. Thank you Kayleigh!

As mentioned, all contributors cannot be mentioned individually but there are a few that I feel need to be singled out as they are the backbone of this program and their continued and generous support is instrumental to the success of the Hamper Program. The efforts of the following organizations are invaluable and greatly appreciated: **The Shelburne Food Bank, Town of Shelburne, Shelburne Rotary, Shelburne Lions and Kin Clubs and the Mel Lloyd Centre**. An extra thank you is extended to **Centre Dufferin New Horizons** who not only made a generous donation but also allow us to use their Shuffle Board Room to assemble and distribute our Hampers making this huge project so much easier. Much appreciation to 8 local churches that donate personal care items for all our families.

We could not do what we do without the support of local businesses; I appreciate them all so very much. Monetary donations are so important to this program and significant gratitude is extended for their generous support.

The following businesses offered to put up Giving Trees decorated with donation envelopes; **Enchanting Esthetics & More, Rise Physio and RLB LLP Shelburne**. I would like to extend a special shout out of **Penny Normington** and **Anne Crowder** and the many local needle crafters who knit and crocheted hundreds of items to keep fingers, heads and necks warm.

Stella-Jones Shelburne once again out did themselves with a very generous monetary donation with toys and food that provided necessities and treats to many Hamper families. *Thank you **Dennis Le Mon** for spearheading this initiative at Stella-Jones Company. You are amazing community supporters!*

*We were so fortunate to be the recipient of Tim Horton's Smile Cookie funds again this year and would like to thank **John and Meagen Lewandowski** for their wonderful support of our community.*

Thank you to **Jimmy and Stef** at No Frills, for your support and your generous donation towards the purchase of dairy items. I am also very happy to report that we were able cover a significant portion of our dairy order with the additional financial support of **Compass Church, Shelburne Family Chiropractic, Shelburne Optometry** and **Main Street Dental**.

Lennox Farms, Brian and Jeannette French donated enough squash, apples, cabbage and onions for everyone and **Downey's Potato Farms** donated 400 bags of potatoes. A round of applause to **Jay and Deb Wagstaff** and Compass folks for helping with registration, on distribution day and for the generous financial donation from Compass! Much appreciation to **Len Guchardi** for your donation of 200 bottles of juice and to for your wonderful support of the Hamper Program.

Sending much gratitude to the many wonderful individuals for their monetary donations. I would like to mention a few for their continued generosity; **Dufferin Mutual, Albert and Sharon Meeser, Kathryn Wienhold, Anne Crowder, Bob Carruthers & family, Aileen & Bill Arnold, and Doreen Riggin**.

I would like to thank a fellow Rotary member and my Toy Room partner, **Michelle Chidwick**, and her wonderful **Team Apex Real Estate** members for coordinating the incredible toys for all kids under 12 years of age. Thank you also to the "Personal Shopper" volunteers. I know it's a huge job and you made it seem so effortless and always with big smiles on your faces. I heard from many Moms and Dads about how great the toys were and how much they appreciated the help. You created so many smiles for Christmas morning and I thank you so much. I certainly couldn't have done it without all of you! Thank you also to the **Salvation Army** for helping us out with toys to make sure we had enough for all children.

Last but not least, a mountain of gratitude for all the **volunteers** for your dedicated support and 100's of work hours.

Once again, there were so many not mentioned here who donated and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks to this amazing town's generosity, the Hamper program was a success and made our local families, singles and seniors in need, smile.

Each year the need becomes greater in our area and the requests to donate continue to increase. Please know that donations made to the **Shelburne Christmas Hamper Program** benefit Shelburne families in need of assistance. Monetary donations are accepted throughout the year in preparation for the 2025 campaign.

Email us at ShelburneChristmasHampers@gmail.com

All the best for a healthy and happy 2025!

Hamper Chair/Coordinator/Rotarian...

Bobbi Ferguson

