

2021 GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

It is with great enthusiasm that we wish to announce that the St. Gerard's Giving Tree Campaign will begin Saturday, November 13th and will run until Sunday, December 19th.

This will be the sixth year that the Giving Tree Campaign will make the Christmas season a little brighter for needy persons and families in Yorkton and the surrounding area.

Over the years this program has grown significantly. In 2020 we filled the needs of 80 households amounting to over 150 persons and 180 gift items.

The Giving Tree, with parishioner support, helps to make someone's Christmas a little brighter as we provide them with much-needed items. The items range from clothing for members of the household (mitts, scarves, jackets, ski pants for children) to small Christmas toys for children who would not necessarily have these on Christmas morning. Personal toiletries (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) for individuals assist those who may not have the financial capacity to purchase these items after purchasing food for their family. Pre-paid phone cards are a gift that helps someone to call family and loved ones to wish them well in the Christmas season.

All of the items that are identified in our Giving Tree Campaign go to needy individuals and households who are supported by one of the following agencies:

SIGN Provides leadership, programs and services that assist, support and empower children, adults and families to achieve lifelong success, leading to strong and caring citizens and communities.

Salvation Army Provides social service programs including hunger relief for individuals and families through food banks and feeding programs, Christmas assistance such as food hampers and toys, and many other programs.

Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth Provides youth in Yorkton with opportunities for safe, affordable living arrangements, supporting their path to independence.

Shelwin House shelters women and children fleeing abusive relationships and provides them with much-needed support in their time of crisis.

Yorkton & District Nursing Home residents who are without family support greatly appreciate being remembered at Christmastime.

Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre is a reduced custody facility near Orcadia designed to facilitate offender labour market attachment. Offenders are offered higher level vocational skills training to assist them in becoming more employable.

Each of the decorations on the Giving Tree is targeted to the needs of a particular individual. If you are able to acquire all of the items on the decoration (2-3 items), either by yourself or in conjunction with a friend or another family, that's GREAT!

All items are to be returned in an **open** Christmas gift bag **with the tree decoration attached to the bag** (no later than Sunday, December 19th). The tree decoration is our tracing mechanism and will assist our committee to make certain that the right gifts get to the right persons.

Thank you for your continued support while making someone's Christmas much brighter!