



THE HH REPORT

A thank-you newsletter from
Holiday Helpers Canada

609 ways to say thank you!

In 1997, a Brampton family's house burnt to the ground just a few days before Christmas. The community came together to help this family by providing some necessities but the one thing they requested was a Christmas tree. What this family didn't realize, is that the request for a tree sparked a movement that 22 years, provided Christmas dreams to thousands of families. Now in 2018, Holiday Helpers Canada and its incredible supporters (like YOU!) sponsored **609 families** by providing them with the magic of Christmas. In the following pages, we have shared highlights from this past season as well as notes and pictures from the families in this year's program.

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Families & Interesting Facts
- The Need & Our Growth
- Donors - Thank You for Helping Make Dreams Come True in 2018
- Inside Santa's Warehouse

“A picture is worth a thousand words... & you can see the happiness & excitement in Meeshah’s face. I am a victim of domestic violence. I immigrated to Canada to build a better future for myself and Meeshah. We are struggling against all odds to get settled here. Your donation helped us to overcome the deficiency of some of the much needed items.” Ammena, #7389



The Families

Families in the Holiday Helpers program come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Many have experienced a traumatic experience (violence, substance abuse, illness etc), many are new to Canada and have fled their home countries, ALL are living at or below the poverty line.

Holiday Helpers partners with organizations, including women's shelters, community centres, refugee centres and social workers, who refer their clients to our program. The HH staff spend countless hours over 5 months leading up to December, combing through applications to find qualified recipients. Then we spend many more hours talking to each family to ensure their wish list is accurate and complete so that we can deliver a customized experience and deliver some poverty relief

Some of our long-term partners include:



OUR MISSION

to provide a one-time customized Christmas package to low-income families with young children who are trying to improve their situation, bringing them joy and encouragement, and assisting with poverty relief.

609 FAMILIES SPONSORED IN 2018

Including:

2,120 total people
695 Boys
670 Girls

477 single parent families

Where do the families live:

38 from Brampton
41 from Durham
76 from Mississauga
391 from Toronto
63 from other

“I cannot express my emotions when I received all the boxes. I cried.

For people to think about me and my family at this time of year. Everything from the presents, how they were wrapped and even the gift card to help buy food at Christmas. It's not easy to ask for help, especially at Christmas time.”

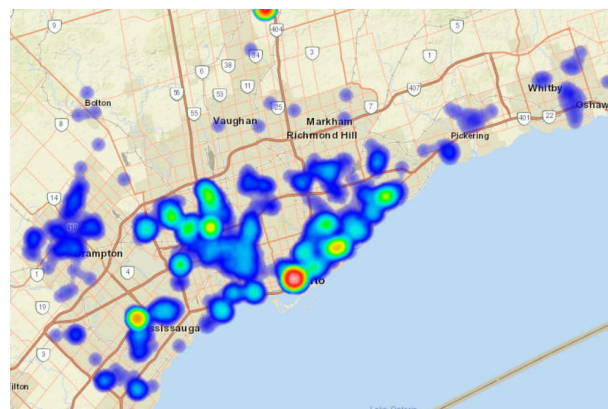
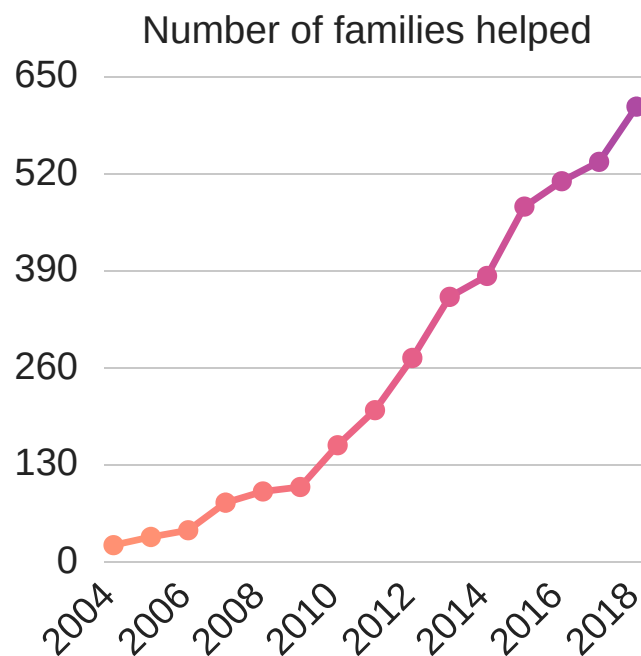
Maxine, #6651

Our Growth

if there is a need, we want to be able to help

This was a special year for the charity as we surpassed the 600-family mark, and we expanded our operations to the Durham region. With the generous support of *The Family Worship Centre* in Pickering, we opened a satellite "Santa's Warehouse" where we wrapped and delivered packages for 41 families living in low-income situations in the Durham region.

As a charity, we have been helping families in the GTA for 22 years, yet it has been our dream to expand Holiday Helpers into new communities across Ontario, like Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Barrie and more.



Distribution of families in the GTA

We need your help expanding into new communities. If you live or work in a community that needs a Christmas program & want to help bring Holiday Helpers there, let's connect!

EMAIL SARAH@HOLIDAYHELPERS.ORG



“2018 has been a difficult year.

We've been going through some financial hardships. It became so bad where covering our expenses, like rent and utilities was difficult. So the holiday season is not my favorite as I could not afford much, nor be in the spirit. This year was different because of your generosity. We decorated the Christmas tree and I could see the joy of my daughter. On Christmas morning, it was magical as she screamed "Santa came!" I am humbled and grateful.”

Kevin, #6871

IT STARTS WITH YOU!

Thank you Sponsor-a-Family Donors!

Sponsor-a-Family donors are those brave souls excited to hit the busy stores to purchase presents for a specific families. They receive a wish list from a family and play Santa!



Thank you Donation Drives!

Over 50 companies and groups held a Donation Drive. Thousands of toys, small appliances, linens and towels were collected. All the items donated through the drives were used to "top up" the family packages and give each person something extra on Christmas morning.



Thank you Monetary Donors!

Thank you to those who open their hearts and wallets and gave generously to the program. Monetary donations are used towards the families' grocery gift cards and addition items and allows the charity to continue to help more families each year



Our Corporate Partners

GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER

- Knowledge First
- Mosaic Canada
- ProCom

BRONZE

- Argo Development
- Gluskin Sheff & Associates
- Primerica Life Insurance
- Travelers

COMMUNITY

- CITT
- Mattamy Homes
- mini mioche
- Mint Pharmaceuticals
- Shiner Gesco
- The Hull Group

IN-KIND

- Atripco
- Canada Waste Management
- Dutchman Transportation
- Global Warehousing
- Maclaser Printing
- Remco
- Roadair
- Starbucks
- Tremco

To see your company's name here next year, contact April@holidayhelpers.org

A PEEK INTO SANTA'S WAREHOUSE

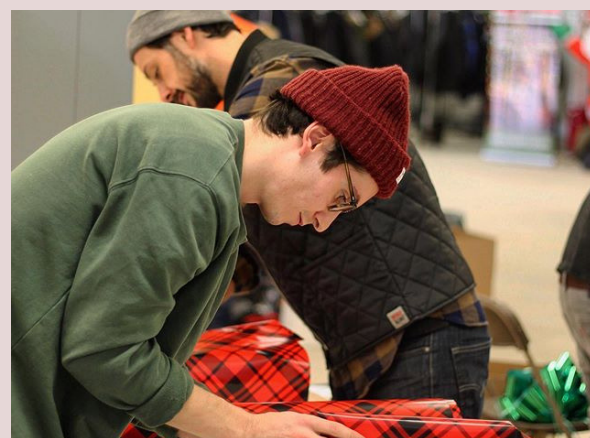
Our favourite time of year is when we open the doors to Santa's warehouse in December. The presents from Sponsor-a-Family donors and Donation Drives start to arrive in the warehouse around December 1. With the help of over 200 volunteers each day, the wrapping begins! We wrap thousands of presents and prepare the the packages for delivery. This year we had over 30 corporate groups and hundreds of individual volunteers to lend a helping hand.

Once the presents are wrapped, the gifts are prepared for delivery. The packages are numbered, boxed and loaded into volunteer cars and delivery trucks. A HUGE thank you to **FedEx Canada** for their help to deliver over 80 family packages. They dropped off to our biggest families, delivering over 700 boxes to families across the GTA.

A note from our founders...

I think we had said it before, but we are amazed each year by the generosity of gifts, donations and time, that you all give to our, Holiday Helpers. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for supporting us and bringing smiles to so many children at Christmas time. THANK YOU!

April & Sarah Rutka



“To see the happiness on their faces...

when they woke up Christmas morning to find gifts under the Christmas tree, was a joyous moment. I was not able to provide anything for my family this holiday. Therefore, I want to thank you for the warm jackets, outfits, gift cards, groceries, household items and the many other gifts you had provided. Being a single mother of 3, who had spend the last 9 months in a shelter, and was only given 4 weeks before Christmas to find a new home. I was not sure how well Christmas would have turned out for my family without you! ”

Shonia, #7257