



Christmas BUREAU

Christmas Neighbour

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to be a Christmas Neighbour for a family/senior including gifts and food?

The cost depends on a variety of factors such as the family size, where you shop for food, etc. To give you a rough idea, we estimate the following costs

Senior/Senior Couple	Family Size 2-3	Family Size 4-5	Family Size 6+
\$175-\$275	\$300-\$450	\$500-\$750	\$850+

I am matched with a family but cannot get a hold of them by phone. What should I do?

If you haven't been able to get a hold of your sponsored family within two weeks, or by the second week of December, please contact the Christmas Bureau, 604-859-5749.

Can I wrap the gifts?

Yes and no. No, if you intend to request a charitable tax receipt, gifts can not be wrapped (more info below). Yes, if you *do not* intend to request a charitable tax receipt. Please provide a list of the gifts to the parents so they know what their children will be receiving. All gifts must be new please!

Do I have to purchase everything on the shopping list?

The shopping lists are a predetermined minimum for a traditional allotment for a holiday experience on Christmas. We encourage Christmas Neighbours to stay within the guidelines, and if there is room in the budget for more, rather than spoiling one family, we ask that the generosity be shared to others waiting to be matched.

There used to be a large section with food suggestions from the family/senior.

Where did it go?

Including a section of food for the families to check off was creating more confusion than help! We've attached a shopping list to your match for the appropriate family size. Please contact your family/senior to ask any clarifying questions before shopping so you know their preferences.



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The family's gift requests are more than \$50 per child. What should I do?

Ultimately, the decision is yours to make. We recommend keeping the guideline of spending a maximum of \$75 per child. How that looks is up to you, with the potential input of the family. Please do not feel pressured to spend more than our minimum requirements! We are happy to have a conversation with the family or senior if the expectations are becoming unmanageable.

Can I receive a charitable Gift-in-Kind (GIK) tax receipt for the items I've purchased for my sponsored family or senior?

Yes. **New since 2023**, there is a little bit of a trade off in the experience to receive a Gift in Kind tax receipt. The items must be received by Christmas Bureau staff, to remain CRA compliant, the Christmas Bureau program must be the ones to deliver the food and gifts to the family and/or senior. The items will then be held for the matched family or senior at the Christmas Bureau office. Once items are received from the Christmas Neighbour and verified, we would be happy to issue a charitable GIK Tax Receipt. We have a form available for use to track donor names, addresses and the pre-tax value of all purchases made. For more information, please contact the Christmas Bureau:

christmasbureau@archway.ca or 604-859-5749.

My group sponsored a Family or Senior, can we receive a Gift-In-Kind (GIK) receipt for the portion we gave?

The minimum receiptable value is \$20, as long as each portion works out to more than \$20, you are able to receive a GIK tax receipt in accordance with the above requirements for all GIK.