

Supporting Young Families this holiday season

Dear Friend,

This holiday season is going to be very different for all of us. With the 2nd wave of the pandemic upon us, young families need support now more than ever. One thing that does remain the same is our commitment to lend a helping hand to young pregnant and parenting mothers living in York Region.

We are not letting COVID-19 stop us from connecting with community families so we have adjusted our holiday giving plans for this year. We want to keep everyone safe and healthy while providing the support that our families need most so we have made the difficult decision not to collect holiday baskets this season. Don't worry, we understand the importance of gifts for children - we have arranged for every one of our young families to receive toys from our community partners at Salvation Army who are better equipped to offer this safely from their warehouse facilities.



Rose of Sharon client Hailey and her children

There are a number of impactful ways that you can give to young families this holiday season:

Financial Donations:

Financial donations are valuable because they help fund the free Rose of Sharon essential services that every young mother and mom-to-be receives such as: increased personal telephone counselling, virtual/on-site high school support, and online workshops about prenatal care, parenting skills, family nutrition and child development.

We can provide donation envelopes which can be distributed or hung from 'giving trees' – a very popular way for community groups, schools and churches to fundraise on our behalf. Donations are also accepted online at: www.roseofsharon.com.

Family Care Package Donations:

When the pandemic hit, we identified that one of the most urgent needs for families was access to essential family care items like diapers, formula and groceries. Since March, we have packaged and safely delivered over 800 family care packages to young families living across York Region!

This is an unfunded service that is in high-need and we will continue to provide it for as long as we can. We are including a list of items that we are grateful to accept and will be used in family care packages:



Grocery Cards

- \$25 grocery cards to Walmart and PC will be given to families as part of their package

Diapers

- All sizes with high needs for sizes 5, 6 and pull ups
- Baby wipes – Sensitive or Unscented

Baby Formula

- Enfamil A+
- Enfamil 2
- Enfamil 3 Toddler
- Kirkland Brand
- Good Start 1
- Good Start 2
- Similac 1
- Similac 2
- Parent's Choice, lower iron
- Sensitive to Lactose Formula

Baby Food

- Baby Pouches
- Baby Cereal

Non-perishables

- Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Cereals
- Oatmeal
- Peanut/Almond Butter
- Jam
- Rice
- Pasta
- Kraft Dinner
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Lentils
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Apple Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Beans
- Canned Soup
- Canned Chili
- Taco/Fajita Kits



For more information about how to give and/or to book your drop-off time, please contact:

- Shirley Dionne, Office Administrator | sdionne@roseofsharon.com | 905-251-6859
- Kimberly Kipp, Nutrition and Resource Coordinator | kkipp@roseofsharon.com | 289-763-3792

Like most charities, Rose of Sharon has been impacted financially by COVID-19, but our mission to support young mothers remains strong. We are extremely grateful for any support that you can give to our families during this holiday season. *Thank you for showing our families that they are not alone.*

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy holiday,

Deanne Kukulewich
Executive Director

