

## Supporting Young Families this holiday season

Dear Friend,

When pregnant and parenting mothers first come to Rose of Sharon, they are often frightened and struggling. We support them unconditionally, put their minds at ease and lend a helping hand through our free supportive services offered in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space.

**Katie, a Rose of Sharon mother, recently shared her personal experience:**

*“After leaving a tough situation with my son, I had nothing and felt alone. A friend of mind mentioned Rose of Sharon and I’m so glad I reached out! The joy, love, compassion and support my son and I received from Rose of Sharon is overwhelming (in the best way possible) and beautiful. My son always looks forward to going to programs. From stroller walks to yoga to learning mindfulness and how to cook healthier meals, the programs are endless and so helpful! I’ve learned how to be a better parent, cook better meals for he and I, and when and how to potty train! It’s also amazing for socializing not only ourselves but our little ones too. I’ve struggled a lot with being a single parent and can’t explain how thankful I am for all the love and support I’ve received from Rose of Sharon. I know they give that same love and support to every single parent and child that walks through their door. They’ve created a second home for me and my son where we feel safe and I can’t begin to explain how much my son and I need that! I will forever be thankful as I am for everyone at Rose of Sharon.”*



Rose of Sharon is here when young moms like Katie, need us most. At our Newmarket location, youth continue their high school education and graduate at our York Academy. **Two of our recent graduates are starting their post-secondary education in nursing!** Our online and onsite programs offer prenatal care and nutrition information, parenting skills and child development workshops. Youth receive personal counselling and have access to childminding and transportation assistance while they participate in programs onsite. Our new resource portal: **ParentsConnect.ca** offers online support that is accessible 24/7.

Since the start of the pandemic and now with food prices soaring, one of the most urgent needs for vulnerable families is having healthy food for their children and diapers for their babies. Every month with the help of volunteers, we safely deliver family care packages of groceries, fresh produce, baby food/formula, diapers/wipes, and baby clothing to 120+ marginalized young moms. And we offer nutrition and cooking classes, so youth learn how to make healthy, budget-friendly meals with the groceries that they receive.

*The holidays are fast approaching, and we hope that you will keep our Rose of Sharon families in mind. With your support, we will help young mothers continue their education, set goals, and develop their skills to raise strong and healthy children. There are several impactful ways that you can help our families celebrate this holiday season with their little ones.*

## Family Holiday Baskets - COMPLETED -Thank you to everyone who sponsored a family basket.

*This is a thoughtful and heartwarming gift. Each donor who sponsors a family basket will receive a personalized wish list created by a young mom that includes gift suggestions for her children (\$100 value per child) and a \$100 gift card for the family's use. During these economically difficult times, we expect 110-120 families will request holiday baskets which our volunteer drivers will deliver to their homes. To sponsor a basket, please complete this form 2022 Family Holiday Basket Program by November 14<sup>th</sup>. Shirley Dionne, our Office Administrator is coordinating the basket program and can be reached at: [sdionne@roseofsharon.com](mailto:sdionne@roseofsharon.com) | 905-853-5514 Ext 239.*

## Grocery Cards for Holiday Meals

Our wish is that every Rose of Sharon mother will prepare a special meal for her young family this holiday. Our goal is to give a \$100 value grocery card to each of the 120+ marginalized families who participate in our food security program. To donate grocery cards, please contact Karen Warner, our Fund Development Manager at: [kwarnar@roseofsharon.com](mailto:kwarnar@roseofsharon.com) | 905.717.5014.

## Volunteers

We need your help during the month of December! We are looking for volunteers to deliver family holiday baskets and care packages to our families in York Region. For more information, please contact Carol Dowell, our Volunteer Coordinator at: [cdowell@roseofsharon.com](mailto:cdowell@roseofsharon.com) | 905-716-3956.

## Holiday Supplies Drive

Our pantry and practical supports closet always needs re-stocking. We just can't keep up with the number of growing babies and children! Family care packages are delivered monthly to 120+ marginalized families across York Region by volunteer drivers. You can help us by holding a Holiday Supplies Drive! To book a drop-off time, please contact Justine Kobitowich, our Nutrition & Resource Coordinator at: [jkobitowich@roseofsharon.com](mailto:jkobitowich@roseofsharon.com) | 289-763-3792.

## Financial Donations

It's essential that we offer free support so that help is available when young mothers need it. 100% of our free programs and services are funded through community donations, grants, and fundraising activities like our holiday giving campaign. Would you like to plan a special fundraiser for Rose of Sharon? We can help! We are happy to provide donation envelopes or create a customized online donation form. To discuss ideas, please contact Karen Warner, our Fund Development Manager at: [kwarnar@roseofsharon.com](mailto:kwarnar@roseofsharon.com) | 905.717.5014.

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

DONATE 

Wishing you and your families a heartwarming holiday,



Deanne Kukulewich, Executive Director

Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers

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