

# Adopt a Family for Christmas 2018

## Cowichan Neighbourhood House

9806 Willow St, Chemainus, 250-246-3203, cnhaoffice@gmail.com

### How it works



1. Local families and individuals in need submit their gift lists to our registry, which we keep anonymous. Our volunteers assign a number to each family with their gift wishes and information such as clothing sizes. We also cross check with other charities, churches, and First Nations offices to avoid duplication.

2. We will contact you with a list of families and their “wish list.” Doing this by email is the easiest for us: [cnhaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cnhaoffice@gmail.com)

3. You then choose your family or families on the list to provide gifts and/or food. Let us know which family by their number. Our volunteers will check to see if that family is taken or not and then confirm with you. (This

sometimes takes a couple days).

4. You then either shop for that family, or donate funds so that we can find volunteers to do the shopping. Meanwhile, our volunteers also try to find turkeys, hams and other food for the hampers. See the last page of this handout for “Shopping Tips”.

5. Drop off the gifts **no later than Saturday December 15** at 9806 Willow St, Chemainus (across from the Waterwheel). Our volunteers will box the gifts if needed, assemble the food boxes, and arrange for distribution.

6. Gift pick up for families on the list is Dec 18-20

### Other ways you can help



— You can also help by **donating food** so that families can have a festive meal. Frozen turkeys or non-perishable items are best. Please note, though, that we extend our purchasing power by doing bulk deals with helpful local merchants.

— Don't have time to buy gifts or drop by? You can **donate online** at the link to CanadaHelps (click on the “DONATE” button at our website [www.cnha.ca](http://www.cnha.ca)). You can also do it the old fashioned way, and write a cheque to Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association. **Financial donations help stretch your dollars, as we can purchase turkeys, hams, other food items, and sometimes gifts, at lower rates through supportive local businesses.** We are a registered non-profit society and can provide tax receipts.

— If you contact us before Nov 30, you can help by **volunteering** to help coordinate the Adopt a Family programme. This is a very time consuming effort, and we greatly appreciate the help of anyone with administrative skills. We need volunteers to help box, sort, and distribute the gifts, or to be there for pick-ups and ensure the proper paperwork is filled out.

— You do not have to provide for the entire family's list, but may have the perfect gift for one or two on the list. Let us know and we can likely arrange something.

— Even if you cannot help, please feel free to **pass this message** to your family, friends, or workplaces. It is only through the 100's of small acts of kindness that we accomplish our goal. Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Last year, we helped 120 families in the Cowichan and surrounding areas! So please allow a couple days for us to return phone calls and emails. (Please do remember that we are run almost entirely on volunteers). With your help, we can do it again this year.

***Tax receipts for financial donations are mailed out at the end of February of each year.***

## Shopping Tips



The sponsor can choose an item from the gift ideas each family provides and **we suggest approximate cost of \$30.00 per individual**. The food hamper consists of breakfast and the Christmas dinner items. Sponsors can instead give a cheque or gift certificate to cover perishables such as a turkey or ham.

Please note we **discourage applicants from requesting “gift cards”** on their wish list, as we want to keep the Christmas spirit.

**Wrapping gifts:** you don't have to wrap the gifts but the families do appreciate it. If you wrap, please place a tag on each gift with some sort of descriptor (e.g., “8yo boy”) that will stay securely on.

## Food Hamper Suggestions:

It's optional whether you wish to also offer food for your family. Please specify if you are so that we can mark it in our records.

**Breakfast:** Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, muffins, bread, bagels, peanut butter, jam, honey, milk.

**Christmas Dinner:** Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, cranberry sauce, apple sauce, Christmas cake.

**Extra items:** crackers, fruit juice, granola bars, cookies, nuts, chocolate, pickles, spices, cooking oil, nachos, salsa, hamburger helper, chili, flour, sugar, rice, cake/cookie/brownie mixes.

**Other extra items:** napkins, candles, soap, detergent cleaners, paper towels, tissue, plastic wrap, dog/cat food, batteries, light bulbs, toilet paper, wash cloths, kitchen towels. ‘

This program gets right to the heart of what we try to do here at Neighbourhood House: *“neighbours helping neighbours.”* We can make a difference in the lives of people in our own community by being good neighbours.

### MORE INFO:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cowichan.Neighbourhood.House>

[https://www.facebook.com/Turkeydrive/?fref=pb&hc\\_location=profile\\_browser](https://www.facebook.com/Turkeydrive/?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser)

<http://www.CNHA.ca>