

Baby Bundles

It begins with a call from a public health nurse or social agency with a needy client – a mother newly arrived in Canada, with little financial support, or a teenager facing life’s biggest challenge, to be a good parent.

Moorelands is ready with Baby Bundles – clothes, blankets, toiletries, diapers, some purchased, some knitted by surrogate grandmothers. According to one nurse “It showed someone cared.”

Why not celebrate the birth of a grandchild by donating one Baby Bundle for \$115?

Or have a Parallel Baby Shower where guests bring items for a less fortunate newborn? What better way to start two new lives?

Here’s what it takes to fill ONE BABY BUNDLE:

- Undershirts (size 6 mo) 2
- Sleepers (size 6 mo) 2
- Receiving blankets 2
- Bibs 2
- Baby washcloths 2
- Crib blanket 1
- Bath towel 1
- Sweater/Bonnet set 1
- Baby toy 1
- Baby wash/soap 1
- Baby lotion 1
- Petroleum jelly 1
- Zinc oxide 1
- Newborn diapers 12
- Size 1 diapers 12

OR — \$115

“If I ever win the lottery...”

It’s been a tough year for Tammy and her three daughters, 17, 13 and 11 but there are two occasions for joy ahead: The younger ones will be back at Moorelands’ Wilderness Camp (“I hear stories right up to February!”) and are looking forward to presents under the tree, thanks to a Secret Santa from Moorelands.

Last year was the first time Tammy signed up and it was a huge surprise. “When I picked the stuff up everyone was so friendly. There was music playing and

people dressed in costumes handing around a tray of treats. I know things were boxed up and everything, but I felt as if I was in a private department store, open only for me!”

To help take her presents home, Tammy brought along a friend with a car. She too is a single mom and like Tammy, has trouble paying for the extras. Still she couldn’t bring herself to ask for help. “I told her she should swallow her pride for the sake of her kids.”

Tammy’s youngsters, like all kids, want what their friends have although they know it’s often not possible. “At Christmas, it’s especially hard because you have to buy for all of them at once. It’s not like they’re little ones who want their Barbies.”

Although Tammy’s never told them where their goodies come from she suspects they’ve twigged to the fact that she gets a little help. She tells them they’re all from Santa, a job made easy by an especially considerate Secret Santa. “Whoever it was thought of everything, even wrapping paper, tape, tags, all the things you might run out of.”

This year, when the applications came out, Tammy’s once-reluctant friend signed up first. They’ll come together again, this time to pick up gifts for both families and to meet their Moorelands’ friends from last year. Tammy says, “As I told my kids, if we win the lottery we’ll adopt a family. I mean it!” – G.S.



A donation of \$360 will make Christmas dreams come true for a family of four.

Some Super-Special Secret Santas

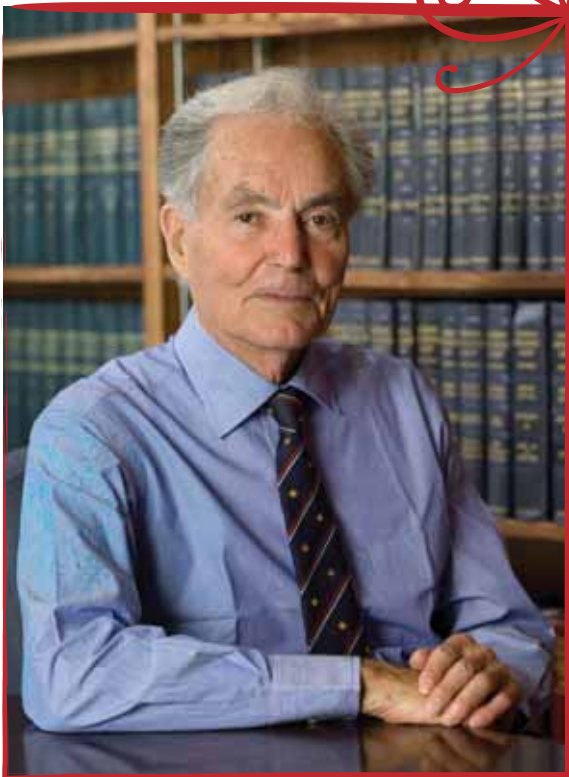
Shim-Sutcliffe Architects Building Christmas, One Box at a Time

For Brigitte Shim and Howard Sutcliffe, partners in architecture and in life, the possibilities inherent in the word “home” are central to their creative lives and their community work. With help from their staff, Shim-Sutcliffe extend the walls of their studio during Christmas to accommodate the needs of their “adopted” family. Their introduction to Christmas Sharing began a decade ago when Brigitte and Howard volunteered to pack boxes at Moorelands. Now they request a family with boys the same age as their two sons, Sam (13) and Simon (11). Then they all go on

“a Moorelands spree” buying gifts their own boys would like to receive. It used to be Lego, then classic board games - Risk, Scrabble, Monopoly. This year it will be cool baseball caps, flashlights and poker chips that will be added to the gift certificates and paper fixings from colleagues and the rest of their family. Soon their own office will look like Santaville South, when everything comes together, ready for delivery to Moorelands. Brigitte says “We love to see everyone’s contributions in one big room, waiting for families to pick-up.”
– G.S.



We can never get enough hats, warm headbands, mittens/gloves (*waterproof if possible*) and scarves to make it through winter! Drop off your donations at Moorelands by December 1st.

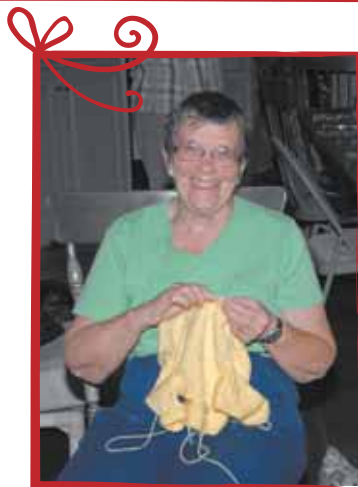


Generations of Generosity Ray Hughes and his family

When Ray Hughes’s mother, a young widow with two children, was invited to send her kids to “a charity camp” she said thanks but no thanks, too proud to accept the kindness of strangers. Perhaps that’s one reason Ray, a founding partner in Hughes, Dorsch, Garland, Coles, served on the Moorelands board and took special delight in the heavy lifting, helping families fill their cars with Holiday Hampers. Decades later, this role in Christmas Sharing has become a Hughes holiday tradition, as central to the whole family – 3 children and

8 grandchildren – as holly, mistletoe and plum pudding. The impact on his family has been profound. He says “It’s not a responsibility they have assumed as a ‘badge of honour.’ It’s more deeply felt than that.” It’s the lessons learned from watching the Moorelands staff and volunteers and the families themselves, “lessons of mutual respect and dignity that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.” Perhaps if his mother understood the rewards of both giving *and* receiving, she might have sent young Ray to camp. – G.S.

& One Surrogate Grandmother



“A Win, Win, Win Situation”

76-year-old Clara Leask hates to think of newborns wrapped in towels with nothing else to wear. That's why she picked up her needles after 50 years and started turning out 25 sweater, booties and cap sets each year. Everywhere she goes she takes wool and pamphlets outlining Moorelands' Baby Bundles program. She's convinced groups of seniors to “keep their brains active” while doing good. She scours craft fairs and church bazaars for outfits and strikes deals on behalf of babies in need. “Sellers get the money, babies get the clothes, and I have a sense of personal accomplishment.” – G.S.

John Shelly TD Financial Group's Head Elf

Two large rooms on the 54th floor of the TD tower will soon be filled with boxes brimming with hockey sticks and baseball bats, toy trucks and jewellery boxes, hair dryers and mittens. They will have been gathered by more than 300 TD employees under the gentle eye of John Shelly of TD Financial Group, head of their dining services. “I joined the company in 1993 and they ‘volunteered’ me to work on a social committee.” He chose Moorelands, then the Downtown Churchworkers' Association. That year his group “adopted” 20 families. This year, to celebrate a 15-year partnership with Christmas Giving, that number will increase to 100!

“We just wrapped our arms around this program,” says John. “We all give in our own communities but we wanted to give back where we work

which is downtown Toronto, places like Flemingdon Park.” Each team of TD employees chooses “their” family, decides on the gifts and does the shopping. As John's colleagues have moved throughout the corporation, the project has grown. “Now,” John laughs, “I hardly get a chance to shop, which is a blast. I'm more the Chief Elf on the 54th floor.” Everyone is touched when Moorelands staff conveys the thanks of grateful recipients. “We all need a helping hand from time to time,” John says. But not everyone can bring together this many willing hands, year after year.

With so much economic uncertainty this year, John and his crew are aware that if they're to make dreams come true it's important that every basket is filled with the best surprises each Secret Santa can afford. – G.S.



The Joy of Reading

Inspiring stories of personal achievement arrive regularly from Second Story Press. *The Courage to Change: A Teen Survival Guide*, by formerly violent young offenders; the highly honoured *Hana's Suitcase*, appearing this year in a South African edition introduced by Desmond Tutu; and *Child of Dandelions*, Shenaaz Nanji's harrowing tale of her South Asian family in Idi Amin's Uganda which has been nominated for a G-G award in Children's Literature. To celebrate 20 years of publishing success, Margie Wolfe, the company's owner, has chosen to give Moorelands' young readers 100 books, a number graciously supplemented by Tundra and Kid's Can Press. – G.S.

Hey, Want To Play SECRET SANTA?



Here's a perfect role for you, your family or your company. And the perfect gift for a relative, friend, co-worker or client. Last year, Secret Santas helped provide Holiday Hampers for over 300 families in need, bringing the joy of the season to over 800 children.

This year more than ever your generosity is needed.

The Ideal Holiday Remembrance.

Make a donation in the name of that special someone. They will receive a personalized holiday greeting card as well as a brand new Moorelands DVD. You will receive a charitable donation receipt.

Adopt a Family

We'll provide the family's profile, including the children's first names, ages and interests. We'll even provide gift suggestions. Shop alone or as a group for your Christmas family. To ask questions or sign up call our Christmas Sharing Coordinator – Jenna Fray, 416-466-9987 ext. 302, or Dagmar Schroeder ext. 303. November 30th is the deadline to adopt.

Give Yourself the Pleasure of Giving

Donate to Moorelands and we'll do the shopping. It costs approximately \$360 to fill a Holiday Hamper for a family of four. – P.J.

Future Leaders Over-subscribed!

In September, Valley Park Middle School (Grades 6, 7 & 8) let pupils know that 28 spots were open for Moorelands' Leadership Program. 163 applied, all hoping to improve their communication skills and better understand power, pressure and influence. Final selection was made by drawing lots. In this school that serves both Thorncliffe and Flemingdon residents, only 2% of the student population can participate. According to Nancy Stewart, school counsellor and Moorelands board member, students sometimes "get lucky" if someone moves or leaves the program. Let's hope we can improve their odds next fall. – G.S.

Comments on ECHO

We asked for comments on our recently redesigned ECHO. All were positive.

"I enjoyed the new version of the Moorelands Newsletter. The information you wanted to share jumped off the pages clearly in an attractive way."
– Marilyn Barry, Toronto

"The new design is excellent and certainly meets your objective of being easier to read."
– Helen Murray, Markham

"Just opened my copy and I think it is great! I actually sat down and read it straight away!"
– Barney Colvey, Toronto

Save the Date!

**Moorelands Annual General Meeting
February 23, 2009. Noon to 1:30pm**

Zanana Akande, educator, community leader and the first black woman to hold a cabinet post in the government of Ontario will be our featured speaker. Join us "Upstairs at Loblaws", Forest Hill Market, 396 St. Clair Ave. W, 2nd floor (northeast corner, St. Clair & Bathurst). There are a limited number of seats so RSVP by February 13, 2009 by calling Cheryle Pollock, 416-466-9987 ext. 300.



Mission Statement

At Moorelands, we recognize the inherent value of all children and youth. We work with Toronto children and youth affected by poverty, to provide them with positive and fun experiences to help strengthen their confidence, competence and character.

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