



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local charity celebrates 100 years of delivering Christmas to those in need

Last night, the Caring and Sharing Exchange officially launched the 100th holiday season of the Christmas Exchange Program during their anniversary celebration at LAGO Bar & Grill. Deputy Mayors Bob Monette and Mark Taylor, captain of the Ottawa Senators Erik Karlsson, Peter Joynt, city councillors, C&SE volunteers and supporters were all present to help celebrate this important milestone.

The event, **sponsored by Innovapost**, featured a performance by local rapper and public speaker Peter Joynt who sang his song Capcity for the crowd, along with some original verses he composed specifically for the occasion. Deputy Mayors Bob Monette and Mark Taylor presented official congratulations from the City of Ottawa to the staff of C&SE.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have had the support of the Ottawa community for an entire century," said Cindy Smith, Executive Director of C&SE. "With our annual hamper packing day now only one month away, we are looking forward to once again delivering Christmas directly to those in need in our city!"

The Christmas Exchange was originally founded in 1915 under the Ottawa Welfare Bureau as a centralized list where all those who were in need of assistance could be matched with all those hoping to provide it. This helped ensure that there was no duplication in assistance, allowing more people to be helped.

Today, the Caring and Sharing Exchange works with over 200 partner agencies citywide, and still eliminates duplicate applications. **Each year, the Christmas Exchange Program receives requests for assistance from approximately 20,000 individuals in need.** Last year, this program ensured that 12,446 individuals were able to enjoy a festive meal with their loved ones, but unfortunately there was still a sizeable waiting list come Christmas Day.

"We have been able to help more than a million Ottawa residents over the last 100 years by providing joy, relief and dignity to those in need," said C&SE Board President Paul Lalonde. "Without the support of our community, none of this would have been possible."

This year, the staff of the Exchange is more hopeful than ever that the waiting list will be completely eliminated.

"For our 100th anniversary, we could ask for no greater gift than to meet the ever-growing need in its entirety, but we need the community's help to do it," said Cindy Smith, Executive Director of the Caring and Sharing Exchange.

Donations to the Christmas Exchange Program can be made online at www.CaringandSharing.ca, or by phone by calling 613-226-6434.

For more information:

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