



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **URGENT APPEAL FOR DONATIONS**

## Over 12,000 individuals have been helped, but 3,202 are still waiting for assistance!

Thursday, December 10, 2015 — This year, the Christmas Exchange Program celebrates an incredible 100 years of serving the Ottawa community. The Caring and Sharing Exchange is working hard to provide assistance to more than 15,000 individuals who are requesting help this holiday season. With Christmas just two weeks away, the Exchange is proud to say that 12,829 people have been helped so far this year!

"We are very grateful for the growing generosity of the Ottawa community in this our 100<sup>th</sup> year," said Cindy Smith, Executive Director of the Exchange. "As we celebrate this important, historic milestone, we could ask for no greater gift than to be able to eliminate our waiting list completely!"

As of now the organization has a waiting list of 3,202 individuals. This is less than half the size of their list at the same time last year, but there is still a long way to go in the next two weeks in order to ensure no family goes without this holiday season.

"As we work towards eliminating our waiting list, every dollar counts," said Cindy Smith, Executive Director of the Caring and Sharing Exchange. "As always, our goal of helping every single person who needs us, and this year it could be a reality if the Ottawa community hears our call today. Please help us celebrate a century of holiday giving in Ottawa by making your gift today."

To make a monetary donation to the Christmas Exchange Program, please visit <u>www.CaringandSharing.ca</u> or call 613-226-6434.

## Sponsor a hamper and you can deliver Christmas directly to a family in need

Now in its third year, the Sponsor a Hamper program is an exciting way for the community to help those in need. Because the Christmas Exchange Program assists so many people across the entire city, sponsors are able to choose the size of family they would like to sponsor, along with their preferred location in the city, based on availability. So far this year, nearly 250 families have been sponsored by caring individuals and groups within the community. Sign up today and you can deliver Christmas directly to a family in need.

## For further information:

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