



We Did It!

Another year of Sharing in Student Success

We are happy to report that, despite an increase in registration for Sharing in Student Success (SISS), **the community helped provide assistance to all 2,553 children on our list!**

Every year, we get feedback from SISS recipients about the impact the program has had on families in the community. Here is a letter of thanks we received from a social worker who refers her clients to our program:



"I have a 7-year-old that I work with, and she did not attend school at all last year. The year prior was very poor attendance (due to anxiety and ASD). I registered her for a backpack in the hopes that, this year, we would be able to transition her back into school.

I just spoke to her mom, and she told me that Carina loved her backpack and pencil case so much that she asked to go to school. For the last week and a half, she has been so excited!*

Carina's parents are thankful for the support and the confidence this backpack has given her."

For some, a backpack and school supplies may seem like a small expense. But for a family that must make the difficult choice of purchasing school supplies or buying groceries, this gift can make all the difference.



Child receives his backpack from SISS

Thank you so much for caring and sharing with the community!

**Carina's name has been changed to maintain her privacy.*

Looking Ahead: The Christmas Exchange

September is always an interesting month for us—while we are wrapping up our back-to-school program, we are also **looking ahead to the holidays!**

Many of you know the Christmas Exchange is our biggest program, and it takes a lot of planning. We've recently welcomed a new addition to our team—Krissy will be working with us from now until the end of December as our Volunteer and Office Coordinator!

She will be helping to plan and organize many of our Christmas Exchange initiatives, including our **Volunteer and Sponsor-A-Hamper programs.**

Welcome, Krissy!



The C&SE welcomes its new Volunteer and Office Coordinator

Caring and Sharing By The Numbers

2,553

Number of children registered for SISS (2017)

2,553

Number of SISS registrants that received backpacks (2017)

23%

Increase in need for SISS (from 2016 to 2017)

18,447

Individuals registered for hampers through the Christmas Exchange program (2016)

14,724

Individuals that received help through the Christmas Exchange program (2016)

\$420,740

Money saved in the last fiscal year through our Co-ordination Service (March 2016 to February 2017)

More than \$2.5 million

Total money saved through our Co-ordination Service (since 2013)

Community Fundraising Report

This year, we have been overwhelmed with the number of generous businesses and individuals running their own donation drives for school supplies. Our in-kind gifts for SISS increased exponentially over the past year.

We're really noticing that, while the need for back-to-school support is increasing, so is the community's response. More and more, people are understanding the financial strain this time of year has on families in the city.

People are also realizing the value of ensuring all children start the school year on the same foot, ready to learn!

To all of you that continue helping students succeed, we are *so grateful for your support*.

Stay in touch!

Do you want up-to-the-minute information on our programs and events? Follow us on social media!

We are very active on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram and are constantly posting updates about different events, activities, and our programs.

Follow us on **Twitter & Instagram:** @CS_Exchange
Follow us on **Facebook:** @CaringSharingExchange

We'd also love to hear from you! **Just email us:** info@caringandsharing.ca



Volunteers from Ottawa Police Services prepare backpacks for agencies

Photos from SISS 2017



Smiling volunteers prepare backpacks for kindergarteners at the SISS 2017 backpack-packing day!



City councillors, staff, Rabbi Bulka, and MPP John Fraser pose together at the SISS 2017 backpack-packing day

A Message from the Executive Director

This year, we created so many new relationships in the community and were fortunate to acquire new corporate sponsors that ran their own school supply donation drives! We've seen a huge increase in in-kind support for SISS.

Now, we are going full throttle into Christmas mode as we start fundraising for the many individuals and families that request food assistance over the holidays. Some of you are already asking how to share in the holiday spirit by offering a special meal to those in need.

If you would like to learn more about the Christmas Exchange program and how you can provide a holiday meal to a family in need, please visit our website: www.CaringandSharing.ca



Individuals and organizations who demonstrate active support for the Caring and Sharing Exchange and who pay a membership fee can become a member of C&SE. Membership benefits include voting rights at the AGM. For more information, please contact Cindy Smith at director@caringandsharing.ca, or call 613-226-6434 ext. 227.

Find us on social media!

Twitter & Instagram: @CS_Exchange
Facebook: @CaringSharingExchange