



Once again the Durham Children's Aid Foundation is asking you to help put HOPE back into the Holiday Season!

On **November 1st** the Durham Children's Aid Foundation (DCAF) will launch its annual **Holiday Hope** gift hamper program in support of over 1000 local children and youth. Each hamper includes an age-specific toy, an item of new clothing and a grocery gift card. The hampers are distributed to over 500 families and youth across Durham region in the month of December.

How can you help?

There are many ways to support our annual Holiday Hope program:

1. **Be matched with a family in need.** DCAF will provide you with a family story that includes the genders, ages and wish lists. Please note, all children/youth referred to the program are currently receiving service from The Durham Children's Aid Society. Families/youth participating in the Holiday Hope program are financially unable to provide these items and need support.
2. **Donate funds to support a family or youth.** If you prefer not to assemble a hamper yourself, a donation to support a hamper would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can be made through our website [Click here and proceed to Holiday Hope Donation](#). Funds will be used to purchase gifts and gift cards for families/youth that have not been matched with a community donor.
3. **Provide gift cards to support a family or youth.**

What is the general cost of being a donor matched with a family or youth?

As a general guideline, the cost of a hamper is \$100-\$150 per child/youth for gift items as well as a \$100 grocery gift card to purchase food for a holiday meal. We have various family sizes ranging from one child to up to many children.

How does the matching process work?

- Contact DCAF to be matched to a family or youth. In your email, let us know the family size you would like to support based upon your budget **with the hamper cost guidelines noted above.**

- You will receive a match via email. Each match includes the family story and wish list with gender and ages of each child/youth with clothing sizes etc. Please keep in mind, new privacy legislation was introduced in 2020 to protect the clients we serve from being identified. This may prevent us from sharing particular details of a family's circumstance in the event they can be identified.
- You will also receive a donation form and more detailed instructions and guidelines.
- The package(s) are then dropped to our office 1320 Airport Blvd, Oshawa on **weekdays** from **Thursday December 1st to Friday December 9th between the hours of 9am and 4pm**. Drop off is easy! Pull into the loading dock at the back of the building, ring the bell and we will come to receive your package.
- Packages are then picked up and delivered to the families/youth by their case workers.
- These specific dates will allow just enough time to deliver these packages to the family/youth. Our program ENDS on **Friday December 16th** to ensure ample time for delivery.

Donations of NEW toys, clothing, diapers, and other baby items etc. and gift cards are also greatly appreciated. We will use these donations to build hampers for families/youth not matched or come in after the deadline has passed. These can be dropped at the same location on the dates mentioned above, no need to call or notify us first.

Unfortunately, we do NOT accept food donations or USED items.

Holiday Hope is a memorable experience for our staff and volunteers, we hope it to be a heart-warming, rewarding experience for our donors. For our family and youth recipients, receiving a hamper can be life changing and provide a lasting impact.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at leslie.mclean@durhamcaf.ca.

Sincerely,

Leslie McLean

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<https://durhamcaf.ca/programs/holiday-hope/>

No Child, Youth or Family Shall Be Left Behind

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