UAC's Hampers of Hope: Community Sponsorship Invitation



Dear Valued Community Partner,

As we approach the festive season, we're thrilled to celebrate the 31st Anniversary of the Hampers of Hope initiative. This program thrives on the generous support of individuals, businesses, and community groups. There's been unprecedented demand at our Master's Pantry Community Food Bank, reflecting a regional and national surge in food bank usage, especially among younger adults and single-parent families.

Since 1993, the collective efforts of volunteers and donations have helped us share the warmth of Christmas with families each year. Last year, we served over **220 families** in Markham, Stouffville, and Richmond Hill, providing hampers with food for 2-3 days, gift cards, and a special Christmas meal containing a frozen chicken or turkey.

This year, the need is greater than ever. We invite you to become community sponsors and partner with us in the following ways:

- Food Donations: Organize a bulk food drive, place a bulk order at a grocery store (to minimize sorting), or donate non-perishable items directly.
- Gift Cards: Purchase gift cards for families to buy toys and gifts.
- Monetary Donations: Donate <u>online</u> or in-person, marking "Hampers of Hope" on the memo.

Tax receipts are provided for monetary donations of \$25 or more. Please note that food and gift cards are not tax receiptable. Donations can be dropped off at 4898 Sixteenth Avenue, from Dec 16th - 18th, 9 AM - 4:30 PM. For alternate arrangements or deliveries, contact <u>info@uachome.org</u>.

If you're considering **in-kind donations**, including food, gifts, or other items, please contact us to ensure your contribution aligns with the needs of families we serve and provides immediate relief.

Learn more about becoming a sponsor: <u>uachome.org/communitysponsors</u>



We appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering with you this Christmas season.

Blessings,

Russell Foy

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THANKFUL TO MANY OF OUR PAST COMMUNITY SPONSORS!



Last year, we celebrated 30 years of the Hampers of Hope initiative with certificates and messages of appreciation from Markham-Unionville MPP Bill Pang, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt. Their recognition highlighted the ongoing impact of this initiative on families in our community.

APPRECIATION FROM 2023 HAMPER RECIPIENTS:

"Thank you for the turkey, gift card, and all the goodies in the boxes—especially the best apples I've ever eaten in my life! You have made such an impact on my family's life this Christmas and I wanted to express my gratitude."

"We would like to thank you for your sincere support and care during the holiday season, as the Christmas hamper is greatly appreciated."

"...thank you so much for those gift cards, they made so much difference for us as a family at Christmas. Our children really enjoyed using them."