

THE GIFT OF GIVING

By Emma Taylor

Christmas is approaching faster than we may like to admit and in keeping with the spirit of giving why not make a donation to a worthy organization. Many organizations rely on donations to keep costs down, in some cases, to keep running, so every little bit helps. Here are 10 area organizations to consider donating to.



This list is just a suggestion-there are many organizations out there to donate to and many ways in which to donate money, items or time.

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Salvation Army- runs several programs during the Christmas/winter season; Christmas Kettle Campaign, Christmas Hamper program, Sponsor-a- Family program and the Coats for Kids program. Many low-income families would not be able to enjoy the season without the help of these valuable programs. (Brockville-613-342-5211, Gananoque-613-382-3105.)

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Humane Societies-Don't forget our furry and feathered friends at Christmas time! The Gananoque & Area District Humane Society (613-382-1512 www.ganhumanesociety.ca) and the Leeds Grenville SPCA (613-345-5520 www.leedsgrenville.ontariospca.ca) are both places that could use monetary donations as well as supplies including blankets toys and food.

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Food Banks- During the holiday season many people living on fixed incomes have to choose between paying rent/bills and buying food or gifts for their children, so donating some extra special goodies at Christmas is sure to bring a smile to their face. There are food banks in Athens (613-924-2625), Brockville (Salvation Army-613-342-5211, Operation Harvest Sharing - 613-342-0605), Cardinal (613-657-1967), Prescott (Seaway Christian Church-613-925-5840), Gananoque (Salvation Army-613-382-3105, Legion-613-382-4434), Delta (613-928-2761) & Seeley's Bay (613-387-3245).

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Senior's Homes-The holidays can be a lonely time for many people in nursing homes or retirement homes who may not have families to visit them. So how about bringing in some little gifts or Christmas baking to brighten their day? Thanks to dollar stores it is now possible to do that pretty inexpensively.

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Shelters-homeless shelters or shelters for domestic abuse victims such as Interval House (Brockville-613-342-8815 www.leedsgrenville.shelternet.ca) are also a great place to donate household items, toys, books, toiletries and even food. Sometimes people have to leave everything and start over again so donations of this type are very useful.

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Red Cross Blood Services-giving the gift of blood can literally save a life and the need usually increases during the holiday season. Call the Brockville Red Cross at 613-342-3523 or visit the website www.redcross.ca to help.

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Christmas for Kids Campaign-every year cash donations, gift certificates and toys are collected during the Gananoque toy drive. The Toy Mountain is set up for donations from November 23 - December 14 at TD Bank. Call 613-382-7057 to help.

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Legion-There are Legion branches in Brockville (613-345-0473), Gananoque (613-382-3023), Cardinal (613-657-4735), Spencerville (613-658-2031), Prescott (613-925-2752) & Mallorytown (613-923-5000). The Legion has been having problems with membership numbers and could use new members. Don't worry if you were not a serving member of the armed forces, you can join as an associate member and help keep the area legion running for veterans and their programs.

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United Way of Leeds Grenville-by donating to the United Way you will help people in need that benefit from over 100 programs in the area. Call 613-342-8889 or visit the website at www.uwleedsgrenville.org

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YMCA Brockville and area-donations can be made to support kids, families and communities. Call 613-342-7961 or visit the website at www.brockvilley.com