

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**December 2nd , 2009**

**Submitted by Lorraine Bates Co-Chair – 604-463-6922 or  
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Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society**

### **Granting a Christmas Wish for a Child**

We have again opened our Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society doors to families that need assistance to make Christmas special for their families. When the families register with our society the mums and dads or caregivers are asked to give us three Christmas wishes for each of their children. It then becomes our challenge and commitment to grant at least one of those three wishes to the child. The directors of the hamper society feel strongly about granting specific wishes to the children and not fill their sacks with toys and gifts that will not necessarily put smiles on their faces.

In the younger children's age groups more than one and most times, all of their wishes are granted but it becomes more complicated and time consuming the older the child is. We do have an extensive inventory of toys but of course when you are providing for 800 – 1,000 children the supplies are depleted very quickly. Any requests for a special toy or gift that we do not have in our Santa Toy Store, we sent out our volunteers to purchase, with donated cash. In the event that anyone would like to assist with the purchases of that special toy and make one of their wishes come true we can provide you the child's first name , age and special wish.

There are some residents that may be concerned about where their hard earned dollars are spent but if you contact the hamper office we can give, fax or email you a list of individual special gift requests, you then can actually shop for that item(s) and be assured where your money has been spent. We have been told that some people feel that it is more personal to shop for the gifts than to drop off a cheque. Either way helps the society to fulfill its' mandate.

We will be distributing the toys to the families on December 19th. Your donation will not only help us financially but will help the volunteers, who are already working their big hearts out, from spending more of their time shopping. Thank you Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows residents for helping us put smiles on children's faces on Christmas morning.

If you have any questions about gifts please phone the Christmas Hamper Office at 604-463-6922 or email at [lorraine@mrpmchristmashamper.org](mailto:lorraine@mrpmchristmashamper.org)