

PRESS RELEASE

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Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society**

KIDS ONLY GIFT SHOPPE

For the eighth consecutive year the volunteers of the Maple Ridge Christmas Hamper Society will be hosting a “Kids Only Gift Shoppe” for the children of registered families. In 2008, over 500 children visited the gift shop. It gives children a great feeling to be able to give as well as receive, but unfortunately for some of the children from our registered families; it is just not financially possible. Even though we know that a special Christmas card from your child is enough of a gift, we thought that we could stretch our resources and time and offer something unique to our young residents.

The gift shop which will be open to the youngsters on December 12th will offer the children an opportunity to choose a Christmas gift for their mum, dad, grandparents or caregiver, with a wonderful price tag of FREE. On the special day, volunteers are on hand to assist any young shoppers with decision making. After their selection the youngsters are also assisted, with volunteers, to gift wrap their treasures. The children's' million dollar smiles and the obvious tears in the eyes of the waiting parents (not to mention the volunteers watery eyes) when they see their children surface from the shopping spree is proof that we are doing something special , needed and truly appreciated.

We quite often get donations of jewelry, trinkets, bath supply baskets, ornaments, gloves, socks and other gifts that are more appropriate for adults than children and teens. These donated items and some items purchased with donated funds are made available to the children. We have been saving some appropriate gifts but we really will need a whole bunch more, especially for the dad's and grandpa's.

We know that everyone has a closet or drawers packed with gifts that friends etc have given you and that they will never use. Helping our less fortunate in the community doesn't necessarily mean that you have to donate cash. Take the time to find your gift stash, donate them to Kids Only Program, put smiles on kids faces and give them the opportunity to feel the “gift of giving” It really is that easy!!

Gift bags in all sizes, tissue paper and gift tags are also appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the Christmas Hamper Office located at the Maple Ridge Fairgrounds, The Hamper Office is open seven days a week from 10am – 5pm starting from November 22nd

For more information please phone Lorraine Bates at the Christmas Hamper Office @ 604-463-6922 or email her at lorraine@mrpmchristmashamper.org

