

Sponsor-a-Family

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to sponsor a family/senior including gifts and food?

The cost depends on a variety of factors such as the family size, where you shop for food, etc. To give you a rough idea, we estimate the following costs

Senior/Senior Couple	Family Size 2-3	Family Size 4-5	Family Size 6+
\$175-\$275	\$300-\$450	\$500-\$750	\$850+

I am matched with a family but cannot get a hold of them by phone. What should I do?

If you haven't been able to get a hold of your sponsored family within two weeks, or by the second week of December, please contact the Christmas Bureau, 604-859-5749 ext. 32.

Can I wrap the gifts?

Yes and no. No, if you intend to request a charitable tax receipt, gifts can not be wrapped (more info below). Yes, if you *do not* intend to request a charitable tax receipt. Please provide a list of the gifts to the parents so they know what their children will be receiving. All gifts must be new please!

Do I have to purchase everything on the shopping list?

The shopping list reflects the items that the family or senior would receive if they were accessing food at the Food Bank for the month of December. This sponsorship opportunity replaces the family or seniors' December visit to the Food Bank. If you are finding the shopping list to be over your intended budget, please feel free to request to support a smaller household size. The shopping lists are a predetermined minimum for basic food needs and includes an allotment for a holiday experience. We encourage sponsors to stay within the guidelines, and if there is room in the budget for more, rather than spoiling one family, we ask that the love be spread to others waiting to be sponsored.

There used to be a large section with food suggestions from the family/senior.

Where did it go?

Including a section of food for the families to check off was creating more confusion than help! We've attached a shopping list to your match for the appropriate family size. Please contact your family/senior to ask any clarifying questions before shopping so you know what their preferences are.

The family's gift requests are more than \$50 per child. What should I do?

Ultimately, the decision is yours to make. We recommend keeping the guideline of spending a maximum of \$75 per child. How that looks is up to you, with the potential input of the sponsored family. Please do not feel pressured to spend more than our minimum requirements!

Can I receive a charitable Gift-in-Kind tax receipt for the items I've purchased for my sponsored family or senior?

Yes. To remain CRA compliant, verification steps are required. The items must be received by Christmas Bureau staff before delivery. Once items are received and verified, we would be happy to issue a charitable Gift-In-Kind Tax Receipt. We have a form available for use to track donor names, addresses and the pre-tax value of all purchases made. For more information, please contact the Christmas Bureau: christmasbureau@archway.ca or 604-859-5749 ext. 32.

My group sponsored a Family or Senior, can we receive a GIK receipt for the portion we gave?

The minimum receiptable value is \$20, as long as each portion works out to more than \$20, you are able to receive a GIK tax receipt.