

ADVENT OFFERING 2017



The Social Justice Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Advent Appeal:

Christian Resource Centre; Defense for Children International – Palestine; and Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre.

Christian Resource Centre (CRC) daily lives out its mission of Building Lives, Creating Community Together while it serves the needs of Regent Park and the downtown east. It operates out of 40 Oak Street, which has come to be known as Regent Park's "Community Family Room." It delivers its services with the help of over 300 volunteers, some from our own congregation. It is a go-to place for not-for-profit social housing, for a busy complimentary clothing room/shower/ laundry facility, for the provision of meals and community gardens, and for transformative educational opportunities.

Defense for Children International - Palestine is a partner of the United Church of Canada. It advocates for Palestinian children in the occupied Palestinian territory. It works to hold both Israeli and Palestinian authorities to account in its pursuit of each child's best interests. This year it brought its No Way to Treat a Child Campaign to Canada, to help Canadians call on the Israeli Military to stop the annual arrest and prosecution of around 700 Palestinian children in military courts.

Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay serves indigenous men from across the country who are addicted to solvents—mainly gas and glue. Solvents attack the men's brains and their nervous systems—some arrive at the centre in wheelchairs, unable to walk or use their arms. Their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual pain is embraced with love, acceptance, traditional teachings, good nutrition and holistic and cultural programs by the Centre. Ka-Na-Chi-Hih is a twelve bed residential centre and means 'to keep one sacred'. These residents are among some of the most marginalized indigenous people in the country; our support for this Centre will mean a great deal to the men and the indigenous staff who work with them. (www.ka-na-chi-hih.ca)

Donations on the offering plate (or delivered to the church office) are accepted during December. Mark "Advent Appeal" on the memo line if giving by cheque. Donations can also be made via CanadaHelps by putting "Advent" in the notes field. Please do not direct donations to a particular Advent recipient. All donations will be divided equally between the three organizations.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Social Justice Committee encourages Bloor Street to give generously to these worthy causes.

ADVENT GIFT APPEAL 2017



The Social Justice Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Advent gift appeal:

The **Christian Resource Centre (CRC); Refugee Outreach Program (ROP), Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM).**

Christian Resource Centre (CRC): a Toronto Southeast Presbytery supported ministry, started as a United Church outreach project in the 1960s and has blossomed into an integral part of the Regent Park community. The CRC provides housing, meals, life support skills and community building initiatives to a culturally diverse population. The focus of this request is men's underwear and socks for the CRCs clothing bank.

Refugee Outreach Program (ROP): a Bloor Street United Church initiative, which started in 2002. Our part-time Outreach Worker (Francisco Venegas) and many volunteers (led by Sue Kaiser) help refugees settle, navigate the refugee determination process and find community in Canada. This year ROP is combining efforts with the Mimico Library Settlement Program to co-sponsor a Latin themed Christmas party on December 16 in Mimico to provide holiday cheer to refugee children and their parents. There is a need for unisex toys, games and sports items for all ages. Suggestions include: soccer balls, Lego, craft kits, stuffed animals, baby books, movie passes and gift certificates but congregants are encouraged to use their imaginations.

Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM): a Toronto Southeast Presbytery supported ministry, providing worship, pastoral care and links to social services to native people who live on the street or are marginally housed. They are requesting contributions of winter wear and personal hygiene products. Suggestions for winter wear include hats, mitts, socks and scarves for men, women and children. Suggestions for personal hygiene products include travel size toiletries. While traditionally the focus for toiletries has been practical, TUNM also collects fun products (like bubble bath) for the children in their program.

We will be collecting gifts at church on December 3rd and 10th. Gifts will be collected in the Narthex and brought to the front of the church during the offering. Contributions can be dropped off at the office anytime during the Advent Appeal with the caveat that toys for the ROP Christmas party should be provided within a reasonable time prior to the party on Dec. 16th so they can be sorted and wrapped.