

Local Acts of Kindness Network seeking donations to Holiday Care Packages

The Acts of Kindness Network (AOKN) is ramping up for the end push for its Annual Holiday Gift Drive.

"I have personally stopped by almost all of the businesses on Hwy. 7, Main Street and Mountainview Rd. in Georgetown south," said Denis Karda of Phil Karda Insurance Agency Ltd., a local sponsor of the organization. "I have spoken to hundreds of people. I will continue my efforts this week to tap into the Acton area. I have left these businesses with a copy of our letter and a list of items needed for our Kindness Holiday Care Packages."

AOKN serves children, youth, adults, families and seniors touched by mental health and poverty issues in several communities. Recent statistics reveal that in Halton alone over 100,000 individuals of all ages have a mental illness and 10,000 families are living in poverty.

New this year, AOKN is partnering with Food for Life in Halton to make "Winter Woolies" available to 276



Lindsey Hughes, Executive Office Manager and Phil Karda, Agent from Phil Karda Insurance Agency Ltd. urge residents to support the Acts of Kindness Network as the group is still short on its 2013 goals.

adults and 150 children in Acton and Georgetown. Hats, gloves, mitts, scarves and socks will accompany food deliveries made in December.

Other requests to date include:

- A mental health peer support group needs help with their Christmas party and

gifts for 60 adults.

- A team of agencies is organizing a holiday party for clients in south Halton and needs toiletries for their packages for 100+.

- Another agency feels they will need gifts for 300 children and yet another is hopeful AOKN can help in providing

gifts for 400 adults.

Residents can contribute by:

- Adopt a child, individual, or a family
- Gifts for teens and young adults— males especially
- Organize a drive of items for our gift bags
- Movie passes, bus passes
- Gift cards for groceries, gas, Swiss Chalet, Shopper's Drug, Tim's ...
- Personal care products— for men especially
- Organize a Coins for Kindness Campaign or a fundraiser
- Gift bags

Phil Karda Insurance Agency Ltd. 174 Guelph St., in Georgetown, will be accepting donations Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Friday, December 20.

Pick-up is available until December 17 by calling Denis Karda at 905-703-0454.

Acts of Kindness Network has been very active in Oakville and Burlington area for the past 11 years as the need there has been higher. But Karda

says there are families in Halton Hills that will benefit from small acts of kindness.

"I have decided to dedicate as much time as I can manage over this holiday season, to bring attention to this worthy cause to the people of my community here in Halton Hills, the northern area of Halton region," he said.

"The people of our town are super wonderful and I want to tap into this generous resource to empower those families that are struggling to have positive, happy celebrations together over this holiday season. Georgetown is my town and I want everyone that lives here to be aware that if we can each offer one simple act of kindness, like donating a small gift, collectively we can make a huge impact for so many people who are in need."

Dorri Bland of Downtown Spa and Relaxation Centre, 185 Mountainview Rd. has also offered to be a donation location. All the letters handed out by Karda were printed for free by Sherwood Digital Copy Centre.

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