

Group hopes to make Christmas merry for those not so fortunate

A group of volunteers is doing its best to make sure all families across Markham and the York Region will have a Merry Christmas.

The 30 or so volunteers, working under the leadership of the Family and Children's Services of York Region, has worked to gather donations of clothes, toys and food for disadvantaged families.

Material is donated by individuals, service clubs and companies all across the Region — for example, toys are donated by the Make a Child Smile Fund and the Newmarket Progress Club, who

also assist in making deliveries.

Family and Children's Services pick families from among those it has helped who have a need. These families are given clothes, toys, food — right down to a turkey for their Christmas dinner, which is supplied by Family and Children's Services, said co-ordinator Myra Hurst.

Ms. Hurst said the program was started more than 10 years ago by service employees who saw a need in families they served — "and it has grown from there."

Ms. Hurst says many schools in York Region help out the program

by donating non-perishable items without even being asked — "it has become a tradition."

Volunteers hold bake sales and other events to help raise money for the effort, as well as donating their time to help in collecting and delivering material.

People who would like to donate food, clothing, toys or other materials, or who are interested in volunteering their time, should call Ms. Hurst at 731-3150.

How many can fit on a waterbed?

O'Toole's Roadhouse and the Waterbed Gallery have combined in a promotion designed to break the world record for stacking people on a waterbed.

Currently the record for most people in pajamas on a waterbed is 49. However, on Wednesday, Dec. 18, any patrons, dressed in pajamas are welcomed to go for 50.

Everyone who shows up at O'Toole's (on Hwy. 7 east of McCowan Rd.) that evening wearing pajamas will be eligible to win a \$600 waterbed, courtesy of Waterbed Gallery. There will also be prizes for the most outrageous pair of pajamas — male and female. Former NHL hockey player Eddie Shack will be the judge.

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