



Angel Tree Christmas Campaign Stewardship Report

It is my privilege to provide your annual Angel Tree Stewardship Report. The enclosed report includes campaign-specific information as well as highlights from this amazing year. This was our 30th anniversary operating the LFS Angel Tree Christmas Campaign.

The level of commitment from our entire community of volunteers, donors, drop-off locations, media, friends, and family, was outstanding. The impact of this shared experience will be felt every day by every child who received a gift bundle and by every family who was given the gift of hope. Hope from you.

Hope is a part of everyone's life. It's an inherent part of being a human being. Hope links our past and present to the future. "Hope is a match in a dark tunnel, a moment of light, just enough to reveal the path ahead and ultimately the way out." Dr. Judith Rich

Because of your support, Angel Tree is truly changing lives.

LFS Angel Tree 2022 Committee

A healthy community is galvanized by the people in it; connected by thousands of dreams and motivated by acts of kindness. Volunteerism brings that kind of inspiration and joy; it "changes the odds".

The LFS Angel Tree Committee think about Angel Tree all year long. They meet, discuss, plan, recruit, and shop way before the campaign begins. As early as October 2022, the Committee began setting up the Toy Depot in our brand new space, and by November 7, the group began gift bundling. Committee members devoted Monday to Friday, every morning, to this task, until December 19. The level of commitment we were privileged to witness from this group of dedicated volunteers was truly inspirational.

Co-Chairs

Jody Gentek
Trina Tymko

Alexis Sakamoto
Diane Buker
Evelyn Yackulic
Fran Yoshida
Heather Androkovich
Heather Grant

Jacinda Keedwell
Karen Nemeth
Karly Lowe
Loural Meeks
Robin Sakamoto
Teri Smith

LFS Team

Brody Prete
Georgina Firth
Jane Fox
Michelle Gallucci
Mikey Ward
Val Wingerter

Angel Tree Christmas Campaign

Campaign Facts

In 2022, a total of 3,571 babies, children and youth between 0 -18 years of age, received gift bundles (297 more than last year). Due to the current financial stress on our families, we anticipated increased numbers and readied ourselves early on. With incredible help from our community, we delivered gift bundles to every single child on our many lists.

Demographic Breakdown

0 - 24 months:	498 children
3 - 5 years old:	673 children
6 - 9 years old:	768 children
10 - 12 years old:	789 children
13 - 18 years old:	843 children

Gift Bundles

Each child received one carefully crafted gift bundle worth \$65 – \$85, containing:

- Something on their wish list
- Something inspirational to fuel their imaginations
- Something educational to nourish their minds
- Something warm or soft (blanket, stuffie, toque, scarf, mitts, socks)

Did You Know?

Over **\$180,000**
raised by 464
donors



From October to December
473 Volunteers

donated a record 4,247
volunteer hours in the
Angel Tree Toy Depot



3,571 Children

0 - 18 years old, received gift bundles through our
LFS Angel Tree Christmas Campaign in 2022



Toy collection/Drop Off
Locations increased **20%**
in Lethbridge and surrounding
communities to **138**



See Drop Off Locations list at
<https://www.lfsfamily.ca/content.php?p=90>

Our local sewing, knitting,
loomng, crocheting, and
crafting groups donated over
1,400 blankets, toques, mitts,
and doll accessories.



Angel Tree Christmas Campaign

Dates of Note



- **Oct 28:** Volunteer Committee sets up Toy Depot
- **Oct 20:** Drop Off Locations begin receiving angel packages from 1st Choice Savings & Credit Union volunteers
- **Nov 4:** Drop Off Locations begin sending photos of their trees
- **Nov 12:** Toy collection Campaign official start date
- **Nov 7:** Gifts are bundled and delivered through to Dec 24
- **Nov 21:** Angel Tree Launch Date - Media Event
- **Nov 29:** Fire Safety Services Matching Gift Campaign begins
- **Nov 30:** Community volunteers begin their shifts
- **Nov 30:** Stafford Dental Give Back Day
- **Dec 1:** First critical due date for gift donations
- **Dec 2:** Crossings Christmas Event
- **Dec 3:** Charity Checkstop at the ENMAX Centre
- **Dec 4:** Treat Yo Elf Christmas Market at the ENMAX Centre
- **Dec 9:** Lethbridge Hurricanes Teddy Bear Toss
- **Dec 17:** Alberta Big Trucks Christmas Cruise at the Lethbridge Hurricanes Ugly Sweater Night
- **Dec 17:** Tuba Christmas
- **Dec 24:** Last gift donations picked up
- **Dec 24:** Last gift bundles delivered

Conclusion

Angel Tree is a learning experience; a shared experience; an experience that gives all of us moments that can adjust our thinking, bring immense joy, and yes, can sometimes break our hearts.

One of the donations we received this year was a suitcase. It came in quite late and no child had asked for one, so we wondered how to honour the donor's intention with this gift.

Shortly before Christmas, on December 20, a social worker called us with the sad news of a nine year old boy being suddenly re-located into foster care. She asked if we would help out with a gift bundle and perhaps some hygiene items. In a moment of perfect synchronicity, we suggested assembling his items into the suitcase. She started to cry. Children who experience emergency foster care, she told us, normally take their small belongings in a large black bag to their new home. They are scared, they feel alone, they need hope.

With assistance from our gift bundlers, we assembled a suitcase full of treasures and surprises, so that this nine year old boy can keep his dreams alive. The journey of this suitcase is the experience of Angel Tree.

"Hope springs eternal".