

What About White Gift Sunday?

White Gift Sunday is a Christian tradition that began in 1904 in response to the commercialism that overwhelms this sacred season. It involves anonymous gift-giving, to partner with front-line ministries. In some communities, it is marked as a particular Sunday during Advent (the four weeks prior to Christmas).

At Wellington Square, the depth of your generosity has grown White Gift into a full season, with Christmas giving opportunities available weeks before the formal start of Advent. It is an ever-unfolding chance to live out of God's abundant love, all at a time of preparing our hearts to receive again God's greatest gift to the world – Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.



If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. Isaiah 58:10

These words from Isaiah speak to us about the how our Christian witness expands through our generosity. In Isaiah's time, it was a call for God's people to respond to their own dark circumstance not by closing the door and shutting themselves into their own little world. The same call is relevant to us today. It is easy to focus on ourselves and our friends at this time of year. And, it's always appropriate to celebrate with our loved ones. But, it isn't appropriate to ignore those around us whose situation gives them little to celebrate. We can change lives –even save lives—with simple acts of generosity. So indeed, we are called to shine God's joy into those dark corners, whether here in Burlington or across the world in Africa. -God, in His goodness to us, lets us share His joy.

Wellington Square's Christmas Outreach

Sharing God's Joy

Angel Wings

Sierra Leone Chickens for Christmas

Community Care Bags

Think! Learn! Care! Malawi



*What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.*

Isaiah 58:7

God's greatest act of joy was to share Jesus with us. It was a gift we could not have imagined. A gift so huge in such a small bundle. We can give nothing back in "exchange." It was God's act of pure loving joy. We can get a glimpse of that feeling, we can begin to know how God feels, when we give freely in love to those who can't give back to us. We can share in God's joy. And in doing so, we share God's joy with others, God's Christmas joy. The following "Joy Options" are available for you to participate in this Christmas:

Angel Wings

NOVEMBER 13, 20, 27 REGISTER - DECEMBER 4 - COLLECTION

Angel Wings is Wellington Square's largest local Outreach project that has been in action for over a decade. This year we are supporting 62 Angels in the Burlington area and are hoping to make their Christmas a little brighter. Over the last decade Angel Wings has had a significant impact on the following agencies:

Halton Children's Services, Halton Women's Place, Burlington Teens from ROCK (Reach Out For Kids) and local families through our Ministerial Team. We need your assistance once again, either by sponsoring an Angel and buying them gifts, or by making a cash donation towards gifts and food. This once-a-year ministry relies on your outpouring of love, caring and generosity!

CONTACT: Chris & Beth Carver - bcarver@wsquare.ca

Chickens for Christmas

Living in poverty means children and adults go without adequate food, much less sufficient nutrition. Chickens offer a simple, sustainable solution. The Poultry Project in Sierra Leone provides chickens, training, and lifestyle support so that impoverished farmers can become successful poultry farmers able to put food on the table and provide medical care and education for their children by raising chickens, eating or selling the eggs. You can help a family rise out of poverty in one of the poorest countries in the world.

"Give a man a chicken and you'll feed him for a day;
Teach a man to raise chickens and his family will eat for a lifetime."

CONTACT: Wendy Clifton - wclifton@wsquare.ca

Community Care Bags

Every Friday we share a meal and fellowship with over 130 families living in the Burlington area at the Downtown Community Dinner. This Christmas we are once again collecting personal care items in order to prepare Community Care Bags for each guest who wishes one. We hope to have a bag for over 200 men, women and children this year.

Items to collect: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, washcloths, body lotion, etc. and children's products such as Tylenol, Q-tips, baby wash.

CONTACT: Lisa Lunski-Wood- communitydinner@wsquare.ca

Think! Learn! Care! Malawi

Help counter ill effects of Malnutrition on young brains!

For many kids in rural Malawi, early formative years are characterized by too little food with inadequate nutrition. This leads to stunting, both physical and mental. The problem is exacerbated by limited mental stimulation as children are taught by rote in schools generally overcrowded and ill equipped.

For **\$10.00** you can offer a child the opportunity to participate in exploratory knowledge offering mental stimulation by using a set of building blocks made by youth in Malawi for children in Malawi through our partner Emmanuel International. The set includes cubes with letters and numbers, dice and tangrams used to create countless shapes. Puzzles, something widely used in 1st world countries, are largely unavailable in Malawi. However, the value to young minds of being able to piece puzzles together is widely accepted. These kits will be made and distributed in Malawi for use in day care centers, schools, and orphanages. When our mission team is there in May, they will be using these blocks with children.

CONTACT: Fran Gray - fgray@wsquare.ca

Come to St. Paul's Hall after the service November 13 to December 4 to participate in our Christmas Joy