



the Caring
and Sharing
Exchange

People helping people since 1915



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URGENT APPEAL

Over 500 children are currently on the waiting list for back-to-school assistance

Ottawa, ON – August 13, 2015 – The 2015-2016 school year is nearly upon us, and sadly there are many children in Ottawa who may not be able to return to school ready to learn. Each year, the Sharing in Student Success program of the Caring and Sharing Exchange strives to provide hundreds of children in need with a grade appropriate stuffed backpack, complete with all the school supplies recommended by the boards of education. Despite a nearly 20 percent increase in demand last year, this program helped every child who needed assistance, providing 1,519 children with the tools they needed to succeed in the classroom.

Unfortunately the need is even greater this year, and the charity is currently facing a daunting waiting list. **With the funds raised so far, the Exchange will only be able to help just over 1,000, leaving more than 500 kids without the tools they need to start the school year on an equal footing with their peers.**

“Right now, we have over 500 children on the waiting list in need of school supplies,” said Cindy Smith, Executive Director of the Caring and Sharing Exchange. “For the last two years in a row we were proud to help every child in need, but this year we are sadly preparing to have a number of children left on our list by the first day of school.”

The Caring and Sharing Exchange works year round with other community organizations to coordinate the giving in Ottawa. “We work with our partnering agencies, through our Coordination Service, to help ensure that individuals aren’t being helped twice and that funds are distributed to as many families as possible. By collaborating, we detect hundreds of duplicate applications, which allows us to redistribute the funds to the next family on the list, while saving the community money,” explained Smith.

Donations can be made online at www.CaringandSharing.ca or by calling 613-226-6434. Donations of school supplies are also being accepted at several Ottawa Public Libraries. Visit the charity’s website for more information on where to donate and the supplies that are most needed.

Now in its 100th year, *The Caring and Sharing Exchange* helps Ottawa families facing economic hardship during the Christmas and back-to-school seasons. The Coordination Service verifies the names of clients registered by hundreds of local agencies, in order to eliminate duplicate applications and redistribute funds accordingly.

For more information about the organization and its programs, or to make a donation, please call 613-226-6434 or donate online by visiting www.CaringandSharing.ca.

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