



*The Shoebox Project for Shelters*  
*Opération Botte à Chaussures*

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November 22, 2012

Dear Friend,

As the holiday season approaches, we would like to ask you to consider a new charitable initiative in Vancouver.

The Shoebox Project for Shelters is a non-for-profit initiative that collects small gifts that are packaged in shoeboxes, and distributes them to women in shelters just before the holidays. These shelters provide emergency and transitional shelter and services to women who are homeless because they flee abuse or difficult living situations, they are poor or afflicted with mental illness or they are new Canadians who require assistance.

These shoeboxes brighten the holiday season and let the women know they are special and not forgotten. They are filled with items that a woman would enjoy but would not splurge on for herself in times of difficulty.

A small gesture such as this donation has a big impact. The Program Supervisor at Street Haven shelter in Toronto wrote about the Shoebox Project:

*“The women loved the boxes and all of the items in them, a few of the women were ecstatic as they have never received or owned a bottle of perfume, they loved the make-up, chocolates and body care products. ... I personally have worked the holiday for the past 7 years and this year was one of the most successful. The women were shocked to see that women in the community cared enough to put such wonderful things together for them.”*

The Shoebox Project operates in many cities across Canada and this year we would like to brighten the holidays of women living in Vancouver shelters.

We hope you will participate by making a shoebox! A few suggestions of what you could include in your shoebox are (but are not limited to):

- Body or hand lotions
- Makeup: mascara, lipstick and nail polish. *(Please no concealers or foundations)*
- Toothbrush, toothpaste and floss



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- Chocolates, cookies, candies
- Mitts, hat, scarf
- Perfume
- Brush, comb
- Bus or subway tokens / phone card
- Gift certificates (McDonald's, Tim Horton's, Shoppers Drug Mart, Wal-Mart, Cineplex). *Please include the receipt!*

You can create your own box or get together with a group of friends and have each person contribute one element to many boxes. Here are some general guidelines:

1. **Value:** Please keep the value of your shoebox contents to approximately \$50. At this time, we will not be able to provide tax receipts for your donations.
2. **Packaged Goods Only Please:** Please make sure that the gifts are all packaged, sealed and unused!
3. **Decoration:** You may decorate your shoebox with a pretty holiday or Christmas bow but *please do not wrap your shoebox as it must be opened for inspection before it can be distributed.*
4. **Drop off:** You may bring your shoebox to our following drop off locations starting today and until **Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**:
  - Vancouver: 2305 McLean Drive (Mon to Fri: 8AM to 6PM; Sat: 11AM to 6PM)
  - Downtown: 1088 Richards Street (only available on select evenings and weekends). Please email to confirm drop-off prior to.

Our goal is to collect a total of 100 shoeboxes for women at the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre and Downtown Eastside Women's Centre in Vancouver to provide them with a special gift this holiday season. **Please help us by forwarding this letter to anyone you think would be interested in participating** or spread the word about [www.shoebboxproject.com](http://www.shoebboxproject.com). You can also find us on Facebook or Twitter (@shoebboxcanada).

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [vancouver@shoebboxproject.com](mailto:vancouver@shoebboxproject.com) should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this meaningful project.

With very kind regards,

Brittany Wong & Carrie Christenson  
*The Volunteers at the Shoebox Project Vancouver*