



# Media Release

For immediate release  
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## **Good Shepherd Centres Annual Christmas Party Changes Format this Year**

**Hamilton, ON** – Good Shepherd Centres' Annual Christmas Party will change its format for this year only from a sit-down, traditional turkey dinner to a Christmas Wonderland celebration.

“Due to a scheduling conflict, we were unable to secure our usual space at the Hamilton Convention Centre,” says Bro. Richard MacPhee, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Centres. “So many people in Hamilton look forward to this event, so we decided to change the format so the event could take place. The Christmas party format will ensure all our guests are accommodated and have the opportunity to experience the joys of the Season.”

Good Shepherd Centres' Annual Christmas Party, now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, is a proud Hamilton tradition. About 3000 of this city's men, women and children will attend this year. For thousands of people in Hamilton, it's the only way they can celebrate some of the delights of Christmas in the company of friends and family.

This year, the event has been named the “**Good Shepherd Christmas Wonderland Celebration**” to reflect the format changes. Guests will enter the Convention Centre's Wentworth Room at 1 Summers Lane and be greeted by Bishop Tonnos and Brother Richard in a festive atmosphere, featuring Christmas Carols, Christmas trees, poinsettias and other Christmas decorations. More than 300 volunteers will be on hand to guide the guests throughout the celebration, stopping along the way at a variety of food booths and play areas.

Volunteers will help children play on inflatable games such as the Big Kahuna Slide, Full-Court Press Basketball, Kiddie Korner Obstacle Course and a Winnie the Pooh Jumping Bounce game, just to name a few. And all guests will visit the North Pole where they will be welcomed by elves, Mrs. Claus and, of course, Santa, who will give each guest a gift.

“We've added many special touches this year to make the event more enjoyable for kids and adults alike,” says Brother Richard. “Fond memories of Christmas are so important to our children. It's going to be a wonderful time for everyone.”

Although hunger and homelessness are with us every day of the year, it is often the holidays when the need for companionship and support is most keenly felt. Through the generosity of the community, many of this city's most needy will leave this event knowing that someone cares.

The Good Shepherd Christmas Wonderland will take place **1 – 4 p.m., Sunday, December 17**, at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

**Media interviews with staff, volunteers and guests will be available at 1:00 p.m. in the Wentworth Room.** For additional information, contact Alan Whittle at 905.528.6565 ext. 3322 during office hours or at 905.516.2924 other times.

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