



May 1, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for taking a moment to learn what we do beyond the Second Blessings Store in Parkhill.

We are a registered charity and can provide receipts for all monetary and in kind donations.

This letter is solely to inform you of the many needs in our community that Second Blessings is helping to meet.

This month we will be expanding our store size, our group of volunteers and our service to the Parkhill community.

Since 1993, Second Blessings has been serving people in North Middlesex. Through the generous donations of clothing and household goods, we generate income and with that we are able to give practical aid to many people in need.

Each month, we buy and distribute meals to community residents through Heart to Home, and give Foodland gift cards to others as we become aware of their needs.

Historically, we have paid for rent, utility, gas and medication bills for individuals as well as VON transportation to appointments for those who cannot manage these expenses. We have allotted funds to help victims of catastrophic events such as house fires, floods and other personal hardships.

Second Blessings provides any product we have (clothing, household goods, furniture) to anyone in need in our area.

We support our area's youth. There are two minor hockey sweaters with our company logo and we have also supported an area basketball initiative. A deserving graduate of North Middlesex District High School is chosen each year to receive a \$1000.00 scholarship from Second Blessings.

We have sent money to the schools in our area for the Healthy Snack Program and we gave water and water bottles while the drinking fountains were shutdown for Covid.

We help supply products for YMCA children's programs.

During the pandemic we were forced to close our store. However, we encouraged people to make signs of 'hope and goodwill' which we displayed in the store windows. We maintained a lending library of books and games while libraries were closed.

Various sale items are posted on our internet site for those who are unable, or do not want to come into our store. We make every effort to accommodate everyone.

Many families took advantage of curbside pickup of our products and we continue to offer appointments for those still taking Covid precautions, who prefer to shop in person.

We waste very little at Second Blessings and work hard to keep everything out of landfill sites. Excess items are shared with other community thrift stores. All stained or unsalvageable items are sent to be shredded or used to manufacture other products.

We make and sell bags of rags to local mechanics and contractors. All metal is recycled appropriately as are technological and electronic items.

We support out-of-area resources that Parkhill residents use (e.g. Jessica's House in Exeter, Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy). We have made ourselves known to other agencies in Strathroy and remain willing to help as needs arise.

Any food we receive has been given to Ailsa Craig & Area Foodbank. We also send them a monthly financial gift. In the past, when someone gives us a pig, we have paid 'cut and wrap' expenses and forwarded the meat to the foodbank for distribution.

Twice a year, we do seasonal change-over, and unsold seasonal items are boxed and sent to Fr. Simone for his children's charity in other areas of the world.

Our wonderful volunteers are the reason Second Blessings has accomplished so much for our community over the past 29 years!

If you know **other ways we could be of assistance**, or **if you are aware of someone who would enjoy volunteering** a few hours each week, please contact the Manager at the number below.

In closing, I hope this gives you a little more insight into what we do at Second Blessings. Thank you for the opportunity to share this.

On behalf of the Board and volunteers of Second Blessings,
Thank you.



Marysia Coutts
Store Manager

Second Blessings - 519 - 294 - 0271
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