

Charitable donations make meaningful Christmas gifts

By Wendy Gillis
of The StarPhoenix

Charitable donations have become a popular way to give meaningful gifts during the holiday season. For those who want to see holiday donations have a local impact, here are a few gift ideas that will make a difference in the Saskatoon community this Christmas.

Habitat for Humanity: Help Habitat for Humanity purchase land in Saskatoon on which it can build affordable homes for low-income families. The organization is hoping to raise \$62,000 through this initiative in order to purchase the land for six homes. Buy one square foot for \$5, 20 square feet for \$100 or 200 square feet for \$1,000. Call 343-7772 to donate.

Station 20 West: A donation to the Station 20 West community enterprise will help the organization in its goal to raise \$3 million to build a health and community centre in Saskatoon's downtown core. Make a donation on behalf of someone and a thank-you gift card will be sent to that person's home. A donation of \$25 will buy one piece of drywall with tape, \$50 will purchase floor plywood with nails and \$100 will go toward four bundles of shingles with paper proofing. Log on to Canadahelps.org to make a donation online, or call 343-9378.

Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op: As an alternative high school program, the Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op offers



—SP File Photos

The Saskatoon Food Bank is always in need of donations

programs that teach life and employment skills to at-risk youth. Various products made by youth are available for purchase including bookshelves, tables, compost bins, rain barrels, lazy Susans, trivets for hot pots and small boxes. Located at 905 20th St. West, the co-op is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays by appointment only. Call 665-3889 for more information.

Saskatoon Zoo Society: Grant someone access to the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo for a year while supporting a non-profit envi-



Habitat For Humanity is looking for funds to buy more land to build on

ronmental education organization. A family membership costs \$60, a single membership is \$30 and memberships for students and seniors are \$25 each. Members also get discounts on society-sponsored programs and at Paws Inn Gift Shop. Contact the Saskatoon Zoo Society at 975-3395.

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation: The foundation is raising money to purchase two new high-definition cameras for the operating room. Each camera costs \$54,000 and will improve the hospital's laparoscopic

surgery abilities. The foundation is also accepting donations to the Irene and Leslie Dube Centre of Care fund to help purchase new technology for the breast health centre. Contact the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation at 655-8489 for more information.

Saskatoon Food Bank: Money donations are always welcome, but especially needed during the holidays. Donations help the Food Bank purchase milk, baby formula and other much-needed food items. Food donations are also welcome and can be dropped off at 202 Ave. C South or call 664-6565.

Meewasin Valley Authority: Make your gift beautiful by beautifying Saskatoon's riverbank and donate to an organization working to conserve the South Saskatchewan River valley in Saskatoon. Purchase a tree to be planted along the riverbank and maintained for two years. Native shrubs can be purchased for \$50, deciduous trees for \$150 and evergreen trees for \$250 (upon availability). Grass roots can be planted for any amount under \$50. Call 665-6887 for more information.

CHEP Good Food Inc.: Looking for unique Christmas cards and an opportunity to give to a local organization? Child Hunger and Education Program offers personalized Christmas cards for either you or your company featuring work by a local artist on the cover. This year's order deadline has passed, but consider it for next year's holiday season. CHEP benefits more than 1,000 families each month and more than 1,500 children every school day. Contact CHEP at 655-4733.