

St Nicholas Fund



Give the Gift of Connection

The St. Nicholas Fund, inspired by the philanthropic legacy of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, seeks to emulate a commitment to charity and relief from poverty.

Co-founded by a small group of entrepreneurs and operated by City In Focus, a registered non-profit now in its 36th year in operation, the St. Nicholas fund focuses on providing timely, nimble, boots-on-the-ground assistance and pastoral care to the most vulnerable in our local community.

The recipients include a wide range of individuals and smaller charitable organizations whose efforts directly aid single parents, women, children, seniors, refugees, immigrants, those struggling with homelessness, addiction, loneliness, mental ill-health, food insecurity and more.

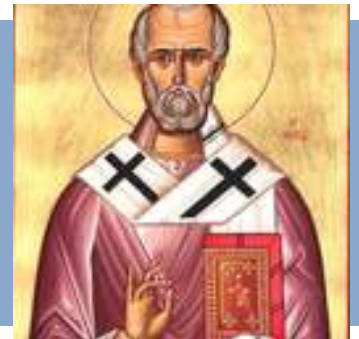
The Fund has already distributed more than \$2M, positively impacting hundreds of families.

Pastoral and financial support for those facing desperate circumstances.

In a world where gift-giving often aligns with consumerism, The St. Nicholas Fund stands apart by celebrating the true spirit of giving and charitable acts. The fund seeks to revive the essence of St. Nicholas, transcending the materialistic aspects associated with the modern figure of Santa Claus.

Support for the St. Nicholas Fund directly uplifts lives and amplifies the compassion and generosity that already exists in our community.

City In Focus is committed to transparency and will issue an annual report, respecting privacy by excluding names, while detailing the positive impact and outcomes achieved with the fund **ensuring that every contribution is accounted for, celebrated and communicated.**



The St. Nicholas Fund can accept donations by cheque, credit card, online or e-transfer (info@cityinfocus.ca) See p.4 for more details.





Stories of lives touched...

♥ Last Christmas, a struggling single mother of four found herself facing an unexpected challenge when her sister tragically passed away, leaving behind three young children. Without hesitation, the mother took in her three nieces and nephews.

In an effort to bring some joy and relief, we immediately sent \$1,000 and followed up with both pastoral support and contacts for further assistance, ensuring the family was able to enjoy a festive meal and exchange gifts as they adjusted to their new life together.

♥ Over the years we have provide numerous grants to ensure that low income children in East Vancouver can take music lessons for free and have a good meal every day after school.

♥ We support the CLEAN Break Program (Community Laundry Enterprise Assisting Neighbours). The program runs out of a laundromat on Commercial Drive and is coordinated by a volunteer who hosts homeless or poorly housed neighbours who do not have access to laundry services, with donated coffee, tea, and refreshments.

♥ A retired grandmother, single-handedly raising her grandson after the tragic loss of his mother to overdose and with the father battling drug addiction, receives annual financial support from us. This assistance aims to ease the burden of providing a stable and nurturing environment for the child amidst challenging circumstances

♥ We provided a \$1,000 gift to a pastor. This funding supported him in articulating his vision for caring for those living on the streets in the downtown Eastside. In the years that followed, he, along with many volunteers, was able to turn his vision into reality, offering continuous support and care to hundreds of those in need.



Together, we make a difference.

This past year the St. Nicholas Fund helped over 400 people, many of them families with children.

Cash or financial gifts to our recipients usually range from \$200 to \$2,500.

They are often given directly, especially when time is of the essence, but we also extend our reach through partnerships with other charities and non-profits, many of which City In Focus has had the pleasure of working with for many years.

Some of these organizations include:

A Rocha - for food security through education

L'Arche - an inclusive community for those living with developmental disabilities

Hope in the Shadows - for assistance finding employment

Mission Possible - for job training to increase employment opportunities

More than a Roof - affordable housing units and healthcare service support for families and seniors

St. James Music Academy - providing music lessons for low-income children

Street Outreach Initiative - providing pastoral and sacramental care in the downtown Eastside

The Door is Open - drop-in ministry and shelter services

And many others...



This Christmas season, we invite you to embrace the spirit of St. Nicholas and embody the true spirit of giving.



St Nicholas of Myra

Inheriting great wealth in his youth, St. Nicholas devoted his life to practicing charity, particularly for the poor and marginalized. He viewed his resources as a divine gift to be shared with those in need and became widely venerated for his generosity, compassion and anonymous gift-giving, which over time evolved into the modern figure of Santa Claus.



One poignant story involved rescuing a family trapped by dire financial hardship. On three separate nights, St. Nicholas anonymously threw bags of gold through the family's window, providing dowries for three daughters who otherwise would have been sold into slavery.

Join us in tossing metaphorical bags of gold through the open windows of our neighbors in need.

Donors can contribute by phone, snail mail, e-transfer (info@cityinfocus.ca) or our [Canada Helps online form](#).

Administrative overhead is covered by City In Focus. **Your gifts will directly aid those in our community who are facing desperate circumstances.**



We could not do the work we do without you.

Thank You!

Please contact us if you would like more information.



cityinfocus.ca



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caring for the soul of the city