



**For Immediate Release**

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## Santa for Seniors Holiday Donation Drive Supports Grande Prairie Seniors

***Popular Holiday Campaign Expands to Grande Prairie Region Helping Even More Seniors in Northern Alberta***

**Grande Prairie, AB** – All Hannah wants for Christmas this year is a photo frame, books and for everyone to get better and feel happiness. Anne wants a blanket, slippers, Oilers stuff, as well as peace and love for the world.

These are the actual wish list items from two of the seniors being supported this year through the London Drugs Santa for Seniors program supporting Grande Spirit Foundation.

Now in its second year, the program started in 2015 in Edmonton with the goal of helping 40 inner city seniors. However, the overwhelming outpouring of support from Edmontonians enabled organizers to bring gifts to 500 seniors.

This year, the program has expanded to include Grande Prairie with a goal of helping approximately 200 senior residents through Grande Spirit Foundation.

The program allows Grande Prairie residents an easy way to provide meaningful or useful items to seniors who might not otherwise receive gifts or companionship during the holiday season. Like Hannah and Anne, the wish lists for each senior are completely personalized to items they select for their wish list.

"It's so humbling to read the wish lists that come through from the seniors, as most the items are truly modest, and some people only put one simple item on their lists," says **Shelly Abrey, London Drugs Store Manager**. "On occasion, we see a request for a Blu-ray DVD player, but for the most part people are asking for slippers, razors, travel mugs and treats like cookies or crackers. It's such simple things and it really puts things into perspective during the holiday season."

"Grande Spirit Foundation has been providing housing and quality care to seniors in the Grande Prairie area for over 55 years," says **Debbie Normington, General Manager of Grande Spirit Foundation**. "The Grande Prairie community has always been most generous to the seniors living in our facilities. We are excited for this unique opportunity to partner with London Drugs and the community to bring the true spirit of the holiday season to our seniors!"

Anonymous santas can visit [London Drugs](#) in Grande Prairie between November 21 and December 11 and take a tag with a senior's personalized wish list from the Santa for Seniors tree. They can then fulfill the items on the list and bring it back to the store in which they picked up the tag. Santa and his volunteer elves will wrap and deliver all personalized gifts on December 15, 2016.

Often, the visits from the gift-bearers are even more precious than the presents themselves. The human contact and social interaction spreads holiday cheer for older adults who do not have family close by with whom to spend the season.



## 10 POPULAR GIFTS FOR SENIORS

- Blankets or throws
- Slippers or socks
- Candy and chocolate
- Coffee or travel mugs
- Warm clothes such as gloves or scarves
- Paper products such as paper towels and tissues
- Gift cards for groceries and toiletries
- Books or magazines
- Board games or puzzles
- Kitchen essentials

Santa for Seniors supporters are being asked to Tweet or post a photo of their personalized tag using the #LDSantas hashtag to be entered to win a special prize package from London Drugs as thanks for their support of our seniors.

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### **About Grande Spirit Foundation**

Representing 12 municipalities and with over 100 dedicated staff, the Grande Spirit Foundation provides reasonably priced housing, quality care and dignity to seniors and families in the Grande Prairie area.

The Grande Spirit Foundation was formed in 1960, although the commitment to housing and caring for area Seniors Citizens goes back to just after the Second World War. The municipal leaders of the region decided that a home for the Seniors Citizens of the area was needed and in 1949 the first home was built.

### **About London Drugs**

Founded in 1945, B.C.-based London Drugs currently has 79 stores in more than 35 major markets throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Renowned for its creative approach to retailing, the company employs more than 7,000 people and carries a diverse range of health and consumer electronic products. With its strong commitment to innovation and customer appreciation, London Drugs has established itself as a reputable and caring company and continues to position itself for future growth and development.

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