

Annual effort brings Christmas cheer to 500 households

# Community hamper program returns to city

**Malin Jordan**  
Cloverdale Reporter

The Cloverdale Christmas Hamper program is once again in full swing.

Cloverdale's Pacific Community Church runs the program through the Cloverdale Community Kitchen (CCK). It started the hamper program 26 years ago to provide food and gifts to hundreds of families during the holiday season.

"The Christmas Hamper Program is the big push we do from now until Christmastime," said Matt Campbell, director for CCK.

Campbell said the program is based on the generosity of the Cloverdale community, as the effort relies on donated food, gifts and money.

"The program supports about 500 households and it helps families in the Cloverdale area," he added. "We have recently expanded to offer hampers to Langley, the rest of Surrey and even White Rock, too."

The initiative helps about 200 families and around 300 seniors each Christmas.

Once the donations are



File photo

**Cloverdale Christmas Hamper Program organizer Matthew Campbell stands with a donated bike in 2018.**

collected, CCK has a hamper-packing week where volunteers come out and fill hampers with various items.

"We want to give people food, but we also want to make sure there are toys to bring happiness to the season for the kids," Campbell said.

"So they can see that people do care for them and love them."

Campbell said an army of about 2,000 volunteers works to fill the hampers. The hamper program accepts unwrapped gifts for children and teens up to the age of 18.

Campbell said each year

they have a hard time filling gift needs for teenagers. He suggests donations such as gift cards, headphones, makeup, or clothes for 12- to 14-year-olds.

"There are numerous food and toy drives that are going on (in the community) to support the hamper program, and we'd love people to support them."

Many Cloverdale businesses and schools have collection boxes. Donations can also be dropped off at the Pacific Community Church, at 5337 180 St.

For more information on the program, to donate or to volunteer, visit [www.myccck.ca](http://www.myccck.ca)