

In-Kind Donations

While financial donations are an effective way to help the women and children we serve, we know that many donors prefer to give a physical gift. If you would like to give a gift “in-kind”, please consider one of the following items.

Before buying or delivering a gift, contact our Fundraising and Events Manager at 905-356-3933 x 241 or CatherineL@birchway.ca to confirm our greatest areas of need (which can change throughout the year) and to arrange to drop off your donation.

Non-Perishable Food / Groceries

Take a moment to think about your family’s grocery bill. Now imagine what that bill would look like if you were housing 45 women, youth and children. By providing non-perishable food and other grocery items, you are helping to offset some of the expense of running our shelter, allowing our budget to be spent where it is most needed: helping survivors of violence get back on their feet. Please consider donating some of the following items.

Please ensure that all foods are not approaching or past their expiry date.

- Cereal (hot & cold)
- Sugar
- Rice (brown & white)
- Ground coffee & teas
- School snacks (nut-free)
- Microwave popcorn
- Kraft Dinner
- Complete meals in a box or can (e.g., soup, pasta)
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna
- Cooking oil (canola & vegetable)
- Flour (whole wheat & white)
- Pasta (dry, whole wheat & white)
- Pasta sauce/alfredo sauce
- Butter chicken sauce
- Peanut butter (or Wowbutter for school lunches) and jams
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Muffin and cake mixes
- Potatoes (boxed/dehydrated)
- Cooking spices
- Laundry detergent
- Fruit (canned) & apple sauce
- Liquid dish soap
- Juice
- Paper towels
- Plastic food storage bags

Toiletries

- Razors (disposable)
- Sanitary napkins & tampons
- Shampoo (including moisturizing shampoos)
- Conditioner: regular, leave-in (spray or cream), deep, hydrating, detangling, hair masks
- Styling gel
- Curl enhancing / curling cream
- Mousse
- Edge control
- Brushes and combs including rat tail combs with metal picks, curly hair pick combs, wide-tooth combs
- Baby wipes
- Diapers (disposable)

Birchway Niagara's clients have diverse needs (e.g., various hair textures) so a wide variety of toiletries are welcome.

Gift Cards

Gift cards allow a woman to choose the items that she and her family need the most. Consider gift cards to local grocery stores and chain stores (e.g., Walmart) that sell a wide variety of items she might need to help her family get back on their feet after leaving shelter. On occasion, gift cards may also be used to purchase items that are needed to support our clients while they are still in shelter (e.g., small household items or groceries for our clients' use).

New Clothing

The women, youth and children who seek refuge in our shelter will sometimes arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs. Providing a family with clothing during their stay can make a big difference. We help women of all ages, as well as infants, children and youth (both male and female)... who, of course, are all shapes and sizes. Clients often need the following items:

- Pajamas
- Slippers
- Casual wear (e.g., yoga pants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jeans)
- Housecoats/robes
- Socks
- Seasonal wear (e.g., winter/fall/spring coats & jackets, snow pants, boots)
- Underwear
- Sports bras
- Onesies/baby items

Please note that for storage reasons, we generally do not accept used clothing unless we have an urgent need for a particular item, which we generally post on our Facebook site ([@BirchwayNiagara](#)). If you have used clothing to donate,

please consider donating it to Value Village in Niagara Falls or the Goodwill in Welland, as we have agreements with these two organizations that allow our clients to access clothing from their stores free of charge.

Books

We accept used books, which we sell to raise funds at our annual [Birchway Book Riot](#). **Please drop off your books at Apple Storage during business hours (4655 Kent Ave., Niagara Falls).** We also accept **games, puzzles, DVDs, video games and music (CDs and vinyl)**. Please ensure that items are in good condition. We regret that we cannot accept magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, atlases, VHS tapes, cassettes or Reader's Digest condensed books. Donations are accepted from early July to mid-May each year. Please check our [event page](#) for more details.

Household Items

While we refer our clients to local organizations for larger household items, we do keep a limited inventory of small household items that can help a client to set up her new home when she and her family leave shelter. Consider donating items you use every day such as:

- Alarm clocks
- Kettles / toasters
- Coffee makers
- Bedding/linens (new)
- Towels (new)
- Pots & Pans
- Plates, bowls
- Glasses
- Hot water bottles
- Hair dryers
- Reusable water bottles
- Can openers
- Tupperware

Thank you!