

HOLIDAY CARE KITS

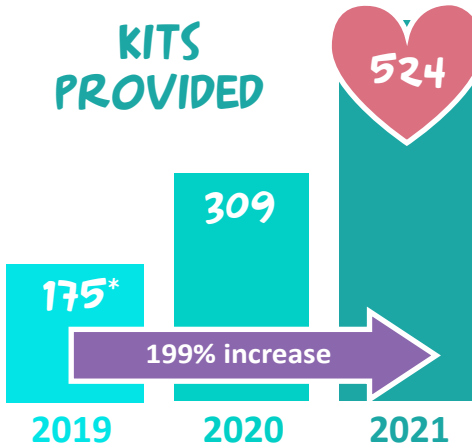
2021 REPORT

The winter holidays can be a difficult time for youth in and from care. Many feel an absence of the connection and belonging that are a big part of this season for other people. With our Holiday Care Kits, we wanted to remind young people that they're supported and cared for, and that their Fed Family was thinking of them and sending them love.

Holiday Care Kits include items for personal care, fun, entertainment, warmth, treats, culture, self-care and more. Requests for Holiday Care Kits opened on November 1, and they were sent out in early December.

I just wanted to say thank you for organizing this and sending this to everyone. The card was so sweet too! *I often feel lonely at Christmas, but this early Christmas gift made me feel loved.* Thank you so much! Please relay my thanks to others from the Fed Family, too!"

HOLIDAY CARE KIT RECIPIENT



The Holiday Care Kits program grew out of our previous long-standing holiday tradition. Every year, we hosted a Holiday Open House at our office in New Westminster where we provided stockings to all the young people who attended. The stockings were donated by MCFD offices and community partners from around the Lower Mainland.

Due to COVID in 2020, we couldn't host our Holiday Open House and had to come up with a new way to ensure youth in and from care enjoyed some holiday cheer with their Fed Family. We started the Holiday Care Kits program, and we were able to provide little packages of goodies to youth all over BC, not just in the Lower Mainland. Based on feedback from young people, we decided to not pack up the kit contents in Christmas stockings, which made space for youth who observe other holidays to participate.

*Approximate number of stockings given out at our Holiday Open House and partner events



KIT DEMAND

NOVEMBER 1

Requests open.

NOVEMBER 12

We reach our goal of **500** kit requests and close requests two weeks early!

NOVEMBER 29

Our original request deadline.



KIT CONTENTS

This year, we grew our Holiday Care Kit partnership with MCFD. They were able to support the Holiday Care Kit project by offering BC Mail Plus to ship Holiday Care Kits requested by social workers for their youth. This significantly reduced our shipping costs from last year and allowed us to include extra items in the kits.

WHO REQUESTED HOLIDAY CARE KITS?

Kits could be requested by youth themselves, or for youth by social workers, youth workers, community members, friends and other supportive folks.

179

requests from workers at DAAs
and MCFD offices

224

requests from community
members including youth workers,
foster parents, friends and more

121

requests from youth!

HOLIDAY CARE KITS 2022

Youth and allies continued to reach out about Holiday Care Kits after we reached our limit of 500, and we hope to send kits to all of those youth in 2022.

\$10,000

in additional
funding

=

200

more Holiday Care Kits for
young people!

THANK YOU!

Huge thank you to everyone in the Fed Family who helped make Holiday Care Kits possible this year! With the support of youth, community partners, MCFD and other allies, we were able to send holiday cheer and love to young people in and from care all over BC.

