



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** 2024 Dorrell Young Christmas Program

**From:** Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

**Date:** February 6, 2025

**Report Number:** HS-2025-002

## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

Families and businesses in our community generously supported 456 children through The Dorrell Young Christmas Program in 2024.

Feedback received from families supported included: “I truly appreciated the gifts, this has been the hardest year of my life, and it really made me feel loved and supported by the community to be able to have that classic, magical Christmas morning with my little kids. They adored the presents!”

While sponsorship fell slightly, the number of children each sponsor supported increased. The slight decrease in donations may be attributed to the requirement for in person donations during the mail strike and the early winter weather the County experienced. Staff will explore re-launching the online donation option in early 2025.

## Year over Year Statistics

Dorrell Christmas Program Data	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024   2023 Variance
Number of Sponsors	79	101	40	44	42	-5%
Number of Families Supported	210	177	201	226	245	+8%
Number of Sponsored Children	306	175	184	160	201	26%
Number of Children Supported by the Fund	80	157	195	285	255	-11%
Number of Children Served	386	332	379	445	456	+2%
Donation Revenue	\$31,136	\$27,725	\$21,224	\$21,160	\$20,145	-5%

Staff will complete an evaluation to continue to learn about participant, sponsor, and staff experiences. Results will inform 2025 program delivery, efforts to increase ongoing sustainability, and our understanding of the program impacts.

**Background:**

Dorrell Young was a Financial Clerk with Bruce County Human Services. She loved Christmas and assisted with the Christmas program each year by wrapping and distributing gifts. Tragically, in 2002, Dorrell Young lost her life in an accident. In Dorrell’s honour, the Christmas Program was renamed “The Dorrell Young Christmas Program” and continues to support children and teenagers served by the Human Services Department.

**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Partnership with the Transportation and Environmental Services and Government Relations departments facilitated the delivery of packages to the Peninsula and Penetangore Hubs after a snowy week.

Collaboration with the Information Technology Services Department continued to leverage SharePoint in matching family, sponsor, and donation information.

The Dorrell Young Christmas Program receives significant support from staff contributors to the program from across the organization.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Growth and Innovation - Strengthen County's use of technology and innovative initiatives

**Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:**

Person-centric services - making the needs of individuals, families and communities our priority.

**Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Tina Metcalfe  
Director, Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer