



## Reverse Advent Calendar

In collaboration with other organizations, the Christian Reformed Church (operating out of First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) of Vancouver) provides and delivers Welcome Boxes for families and individuals who arrived in Canada as refugees during their first few days at the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) Welcome Centre. These boxes, containing basic food and hygiene items, are meant to welcome the newcomers and remove some of the stress of shopping and cooking during their first weeks in Canada.

This “Reverse Advent Calendar” provides opportunity for you to celebrate the anticipation and hope of Christ’s coming by creating one of these boxes. For each day there is a Scripture verse related to the Christmas story, a prayer request for a newcomer whom the Christian Reformed Church has met through its refugee ministry (though names are changed to protect privacy), and an item that can be added to the box.

The complete list of items, sizes, and approximate prices is on the back of this sheet to help with shopping.

The assembly of these boxes can be done in multiple ways and is open to your creativity. Ideas include:

- Cut up the days individually and hang them up in your house
- Cover up the squares and reveal a new one each day
- Buy all of the items at one time and then put them in a box each day
- Buy each item separately

\*We understand that some groups/households may not be able to afford the complete cost of a box and that’s OK! Any number of the items you can collect will be very gratefully received. You can also feel free simply to make a financial donation to the project if this is easier.

*It will be most helpful if drop-off of these baskets to First CRC takes place in the New Year, not on Christmas week. Thank-you!*

Please contact Dena Nicolai with questions or to arrange drop-off ([dena@van1crc.org](mailto:dena@van1crc.org) or 604-928-3094)

## “Welcome to Canada” Box

\*Please note that while the item list must be held to strictly so as to keep boxes consistent, the boxes can be personalized with cards, handwritten/hand-drawn notes and pictures, etc. We place the items in shipping boxes (from Staples –size 18X18X18) but you can place them in whatever container is easiest for you.

<u>Food Packages</u>	<u>Size/Quantity</u>	<u>Est. Price</u>	<u>Notes</u>
• Rice	2 kg	\$ 3.50	
• Pasta	1 kg	\$ 2.37	
• Pita bread*	2 packets	\$ 4.48	\$2.19 / 6 pack
• Vegetable oil	1.5 L	\$ 6.00	
• Yogurt*	1 kg	\$ 3.20	
• Olives (canned or fresh)	1 jar/container	\$ 3.00	
• Eggs*	1 dozen	\$ 3.00	
• Flour	2 kg	\$ 3.58	
• Black tea	Packet of 50	\$ 5.00	
• Salt	1 kg	\$ 1.37	
• Sugar	2 kg	\$ 2.98	
• Cookies/biscuits	1 box	\$ 3.50	
• Tuna	3 cans	\$ 6.00	\$2.00 / can
• Jam	500 mL jar	\$ 5.00	
• Dried Chickpeas	1 kg	\$ 5.78	
• Red Lentils	1 kg	\$ 5.78	
• Fava Beans	2 cans	\$ 3.36	\$1.68 / can
• Fresh Halal Beef*	1 lb	\$ 5.89	
• Fresh Halal Chicken*	1 lb	\$ 5.89	
*As these items are perishable, it is most helpful if you can include \$25.00 in an envelope towards them (this should not change the overall cost of the basket).	These items will then be purchased immediately prior to the delivery of the basket.	Any leftover funds will go towards more baskets.	

<u>Toiletries: Family Pack</u>	<u>Size/Quantity</u>	<u>Est. Price</u>
• Toothbrushes	Minimum pack of 4	\$ 5.98
• Toothpaste	1 large	\$ 1.97
• Sanitary pads	Pack of 20 - 30	\$ 6.00
• Men's razors	Pack of disposable	\$ 6.00
• Women's razors	Pack of disposable	\$ 6.00
• Shaving Cream	2 (Men's and Women's)	\$ 6.00
• Shampoo	800 - 900 mL	\$ 4.50
• Conditioner	800 - 900 mL	\$ 4.50
• Body soap (bars)	Pack of 4	\$ 2.93
• Women's deodorant	2	\$ 6.00
• Men's deodorant	2	\$ 6.00

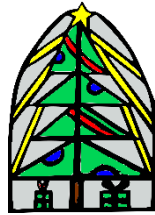
**ESTIMATED TOTAL COST: \$135.56**

### DECEMBER 1

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**Prayer:** Bruna, from Brazil, who is battling Stage 4 cancer

**Item:** Rice (2 kg)



### DECEMBER 2

**Scripture:** Luke 1:5 - 17

**Prayer:** Tareq, from Afghanistan, who is searching for a place to live

**Item:** Pasta (1 kg)



### DECEMBER 3

**Scripture:** Luke 1:18-25

**Prayer:** Mariam, age 18, from Syria, for courage in school as she is struggling with English

**Item:** Vegetable oil (1.5 L)



### DECEMBER 4

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Prayer:** Samia, from Iraq, as she looks for a better place to live

**Item:** Perishables (Pita bread, Eggs, Meat, Yogurt – put \$25.00 in an envelope)

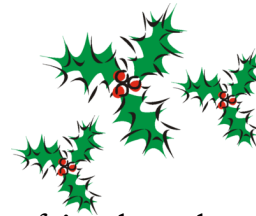


### DECEMBER 5

**Scripture:** Luke 1:38-45

**Prayer:** Michael, from Uganda, who is looking for friends and a community his own age

**Item:** Olives (1 jar)

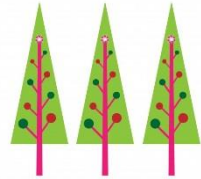


### DECEMBER 6

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Prayer:** Abdi, age 8, from Somalia, as he tries to make friends at his new school

**Item:** Flour (2 kg)



### DECEMBER 7

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-5

**Prayer:** Eman, from Sudan, who is struggling to find work

**Item:** Black tea (36 – 50 bags)



### DECEMBER 8

**Scripture:** Luke 2:6-7

**Prayer:** Latifa, from Pakistan, who is trying to bring her sons to Canada to be with her

**Item:** Salt (1 box)



### DECEMBER 9

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8

**Prayer:** Amira, from Syria, who is expecting a baby in January

**Item:** Sugar (2 kg)

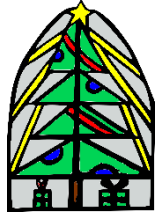


## DECEMBER 10

**Scripture:** Luke 2:9-14

**Prayer:** Maria, from Guatemala, who worries for the safety of her 5-year-old daughter who is still there with her parents

**Item:** Cookies (1 box)



## DECEMBER 13

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

**Prayer:** Zakir and Fatima, from Bangladesh, as they anxiously await a decision on their refugee claim

**Item:** Dried chickpeas (1 kg)



## DECEMBER 16

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:13-15

**Prayer:** Liya, from Ethiopia, as this is her first Christmas away from her home and family

**Item:** Women's sanitary pads (package of 20-30)



## DECEMBER 11

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-20

**Prayer:** Tadros, from Eritrea, who is nervous about his first winter in Canada

**Item:** Tuna (3 cans)

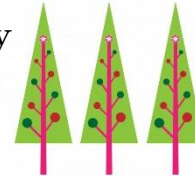


## DECEMBER 14

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:3-8, 11-12

**Prayer:** Johanna, from Syria, who misses his community in Aleppo

**Item:** Red lentils (1 kg)

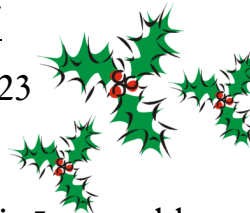


## DECEMBER 17

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:19-23

**Prayer:** Massoud, from Iran, as he deeply misses his 5-year old daughter who is still in Iran

**Item:** Toothpaste



## DECEMBER 12

**Scripture:** Luke 2:19

**Prayer:** Tony, from Mexico, who feels alone and isolated in Vancouver

**Item:** Jam (500 mL jar)



## DECEMBER 15

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 22-33

**Prayer:** Hoda, from Iraq, who is celebrating successful treatment for cancer

**Item:** Fava beans (2 cans)



## DECEMBER 18

**Scripture:** Luke 2:40,52

**Prayer:** Rahim, from Iraq, as he seeks medical treatment for pain

**Item:** Toothbrushes (package of 4)



## DECEMBER 19

**Scripture:** John 1:14

**Prayer:** Abbas, from Iraq, as he battles Stage 4 cancer at only 17 years old

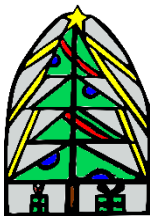


**Item:** Men's and women's razors (package of disposable)

## DECEMBER 22

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:1-5

**Prayer:** Shayda, from Iran, who misses her children who are scattered in countries across the world



**Item:** Conditioner (800-900 mL)

## DECEMBER 20

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**Prayer:** Charles, from the Congo, as he looks for work in Vancouver



**Item:** Men's and Women's shaving cream

## DECEMBER 23

**Scripture:** John 1:9-10

**Prayer:** Fatima, from Afghanistan, as she misses her home



**Item:** Body soap (package of 4 bars)

## DECEMBER 21

**Scripture:** Psalm 96:11

**Prayer:** Reh, from Burma, as he seeks to bring other family to Canada from refugee camps in Thailand



**Item:** Shampoo (800-900 mL)

## DECEMBER 24

**Scripture:** Romans 15:13

**Prayer:** For people across the world, including Canadians, who are welcoming refugees



**Item:** Men's/ Women's deodorant (2 each)

## DECEMBER 25

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20

**Prayer:** For people across the world who are seeking refuge

**Item:** "Welcome to Canada" cards  
(made by you if possible)

