



November 5, 2020

Dear SOS Members,

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate our way through these difficult times. We have had the pleasure of receiving many uplifting comments and notes from our members over the last six months and they mean a lot to us.

We were very fortunate to be able to reopen the Thrift Shop in mid June and although the modified operations have reduced our income, we are happy to provide service to our many loyal customers and donors.

With the support of our Grateful Hearts fundraising campaign, we have also been able to resume programming that was put on hold when the pandemic started. We are excited to provide financial assistance to local children accessing recreational activities, as well as reconnecting with families participating in our programming. The modified Child, Youth & Family programs have been well received and participants have enjoyed reconnecting with each other and staff. We have also continued to provide essential services throughout the pandemic and these programs have helped hundreds of local residents. Moving forward into 2021, we anticipate that our new Grateful Hearts Circle (monthly giving program) will help us continue to fund these much needed programs.

As we move into the winter season, we are even more aware that the health and safety of our volunteers and staff is our number one priority. Early on, we implemented mandatory masking at all sites, including the Thrift Shop, and most of our customers have been understanding and cooperative of the need to protect our volunteers and staff. We will continue to work on enhancing our procedures in accordance with provincial and federal guidelines so that we are doing our very best to keep everyone safe.

No doubt everyone's Christmas celebrations will be different this year and we will miss hosting our Volunteer Christmas Celebration event. Each year, our event would be a large gathering of 200+ volunteers and even though we can not have our usual get together, just know that we appreciate you and miss the opportunity to tell you so in person. Perhaps the Tigh-Na-Mara Toy Drive Breakfast (November 2-24) and Drive Through Event (November 25) will provide us with an opportunity to see some of you.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas season. As we are all doing our part to keep our families, friends and neighbours safe by keeping our bubbles small, let's connect with each other over the phone, or by sending a Christmas card, just to let each other know that we are still connected and part of the larger SOS Family.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanna Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susanna Newton
Executive Director