



*Helping women and  
their families help  
themselves.*

April 30, 2020

Dear Referring agencies,

I hope this email finds you well, and that you are all staying healthy and safe.

In the midst of uncertain and stressful times due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and its great impact on the economy, the Women In Need Society (WINS) has been busy trying to find ways to best serve the community. To that effect, we have been restlessly seeking the support of different retailers who believe in our mission to help us serve low income Calgarian women and their families by meeting their basic needs.

We are honoured and excited to announce that as a member of the Furniture Bank Network, sponsored by Furniture Link, WINS was chosen as one of nine charities across Canada to receive a donation of 400 kits containing mattresses and household items from IKEA. This donation is part of IKEA's pledge of over \$2 million to its ongoing community relief efforts to help Canadians struggling during this global crisis. With this donation, we will be able to provide greater support to our clients setting up their homes, especially those who are heavily impacted by the pandemic. We are beyond grateful for this generous gift from IKEA and what it means for those we serve.

In an effort to benefit as many people as possible with this donation, we are reaching out to our 85 referring agencies to ensure that you are aware of the continuation of our Free Goods Program and the addition of these generous additions.

Since the start of this pandemic, our FGRP has expanded days of operations to seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to support the increased demand for basic needs such as furniture, clothing, household items and emergency food hampers. All five WINS Family Thrift Stores remain closed until further notice.

We wish to assure our clients and referring agencies that we have increased our health and safety measures accordingly as this pandemic spreads, including social distancing regulations in compliance with the government and health authority guidelines. To ensure the safety of our clients and WINS employees, clients interested in receiving an IKEA kit are requested to call the program team by phone to arrange a curbside pickup at our Dover location. We are not accepting drop-ins at this time.

For more information about this donation and how your clients can access our programs, feel free to contact Vera Nassar, Senior Coordinator, Programs by email at [vnassar@winsyyc.ca](mailto:vnassar@winsyyc.ca) or at 403.255.5102 ext. 224 or the Referral team at 403.234.8081.

I am excited to share this opportunity with our amazing referral agencies and look forward to working together to support our mutual clients.

Sincerely,

Karen Ramchuk  
Executive Director  
Women in Need Society



[www.womeninneed.net](http://www.womeninneed.net)