

## **SANTA ANONYMOUS PROJECT- HISTORY**

Two individuals in the Town of Stony Plain, started Santa Anonymous in 1979. Murray Kulak and Imelda Kruger, felt the need to give to others in the Community who were less fortunate than themselves. They wrote letters to a number of different business' in Stony Plain, asking for assistance in this project, under the name of the Chamber of Commerce. Both Murray and Imelda were members of the Chamber of Commerce at this time and the Chamber of Commerce name was used since they felt most people and businesses would donate to a group but would be reluctant to donate to individuals. The business', in true Christmas spirit did donate to the Santa Anonymous Project. A number of families, whose names were obtained by word of mouth, were supplied with a turkey, ham and a box of oranges.

In 1980, the second year of the project, names were obtained from social services and businesses were again approached for donations. Additional help was obtained from schools, who were asked to supply one gift for each child, and volunteers used their own vehicles to deliver gifts and food.

In 1981, The Kinette Club of Stony Plain was approached to take over the project as it had become too large for two individuals to handle. The Kinette Club was approached because Murray and Imelda felt that a service club should have the project.

“Although this project takes a lot of man hours at a time when everybody is so busy with their own Christmas preparations, we feel that it is very worthwhile and gratifying to give to others. Through this project, the Kinettes are helping to serve the Community's 'greatest needs.’”

The Kinette Club continued to provide hampers of food and gifts to needy families in the community every Christmas until 1988 when the Kinette Club folded. The project was then turned over to the Kinsmen Club of Stony Plain. In 1988, 98 families were assisted.

History was submitted by Annie Stewart, research of the history was done by speaking with Imelda Krueger and verified through Murray Kulak.