



CRC

Orléans-Cumberland



December 2018

Hello,

My mom sacrificed for us.

When I was nine my dad left, leaving behind three kids, debt and heartache. While we didn't know it at the time, Mom would collect bottles – in addition to her full-time job – to make sure we never went hungry and had small presents at Christmas. She was often tired but made sure to keep her struggles from us.

Mom's lessons of sacrifice stayed with me. So, while I'm not wealthy, I believe in helping where I can. I volunteer and I donate to causes I believe in.

Life would have been so much different for my mom if a place like the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre (OCCRC) had been around when I was a kid. So, when I was asked to support the Flipping for Charity community pancake breakfast event, I chose to help out families instead of paying for some needed dental work for myself. Not only did I support a cause that really meant a lot to me at the time and continues to do so, it was also a way to quietly honour my mom and her sacrifices. I could live with a tooth missing for a while longer, but supporting an agency that serves so many people seemed like the right thing to do. I would like to think Mom would have been proud of my choice.

I have a personal reason for supporting the OCCRC. You may have your own reason. I'm proud to be part of a community of folks like you who care, who believe in supporting people in need and who show it by donating. **I hope you'll join me and you'll donate again this holiday season – right now while you're reading this letter** – so that families in need can have a holiday that is a little brighter.

Each year, the OCCRC runs a program to make sure that families in need have groceries and gifts for the holiday season. A donation of \$215 will provide food for a family of four for a week. Maybe you would also like to donate new, unwrapped gifts or gift cards (of \$35 value or more) to purchase a gift for a child. Just contact Cindy MacKay (cmackay@crcoc.ca or 613-830-4357, ext. 305) to sort out the details. All gift donations should be dropped off by December 7th at noon at the latest. If you are dropping by the OCCRC, feel free to drop off some food as well to help make sure the shelves of the OCCRC Food Bank are full to support the more than 700 people who will come to the Centre over the holidays for support.

While I'm not wealthy, I'm not in the difficult financial straits my mom was in. But no matter how far you get from the circumstances of your childhood, you never really get too far away from who you really were, deep down, as a kid. The memories of my mom's tiredness and tears are never far away. While I was powerless to help my mom when I was a kid, I am grateful to have the chance to give back. I feel like it's a way to thank my mom for everything she did for me and my sisters.

I'm grateful to be part of a group of donors like you who care for those less fortunate in our community. Thank you for making a difference!

Sincerely,



Steve Sicard
Long-time OCCRC supporter and volunteer

P.S. It's clear to me now how much a place like the OCCRC would have meant to my mom. I hope you will consider donating to support individuals who may be facing the same kinds of challenges my mom faced when I was a kid. You **can make an online donation to the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre** at <https://crcoc.ca> or send a cheque in the enclosed return envelope. I also hope you will **consider making a monthly donation**. It would mean the Centre can count on you the way so many in our community count on the OCCRC.