



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Charity Robbed of Donated Gifts

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 2022 – OTTAWA: Adrian Benjamin, Multifaith Housing Initiative's Manager (MHI) Community Engagement Manager, was left in shock when he opened the back of his vehicle to discover all the Blake House tenants' donated Christmas gifts had been stolen while parked overnight at his home in Barrhaven.

The would-be criminal made off with toys donated by The Ottawa Police Service and Toy Mountain, gift cards to local grocery stores generously donated by MacKay United Church (valued at \$600.00), and 2023 calendars donated by members of the Barrhaven United Church. It was MHI's hope to bring some holiday cheer to the tenants after a 2-year absence of Christmas celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MHI is a local housing charity with a voting membership that consists of 70 faith-based organizations. The charity owns and operates five affordable housing communities, Blake House being one of them. MHI provides affordable housing to low-income individuals, families, and people at risk of homelessness. It is MHI's mission is to provide and promote affordable housing, to encourage harmonious relations among our tenants of diverse backgrounds, and to mobilise the resources of faith communities and others.

This grinch stole Christmas from the people who need it most.

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