

Offer a very warm welcome with a welcome basket

a short-term **volunteer initiative**
with a direct impact



What is a Welcome Basket?

A welcome basket is a kit of essential items that can help a newcomer family who has just moved into their first apartment and who is experiencing a very challenging financial situation.

A welcome basket is also a gesture of kindness and a symbol of solidarity. It is a way for you to say: **you are welcome here.**

What is my role?

You are both donor and volunteer: Your role is to **buy items for a newly arrived family** to include in a basket, and **deliver the basket to the family in person.** You'll find detailed information on recommended items and delivery procedure on the following pages.

How much should I plan to spend?

When you sign up, you can indicate the size of the family you'd like to be matched with. In general, **expect to spend around \$25 per person** in the family; a basket for a single parent would cost about \$50, while a basket for a two-parent family with 3 children can cost \$125.

What kind of situation will the recipient family be in?

You'll be offering a basket to a **refugee claimant family who has moved into their first apartment in Montreal within the previous 3 months.** This will be a family that the Welcome Collective team has identified as being in a precarious situation, such as a single-parent family, a family with several young children or a pregnant mother.



Get started!





how to assemble the basket

What type of items should I include in my basket?

We ask that you mainly provide essential items that we all need, but that don't fit into the very tight budget that these families must manage. Suggested items include:

Staple food items

- Dry foods: rice, beans, etc.
- Canned/preserved foods : vegetables, beans, jams, etc.
- Staple items : cooking oil, salt and pepper, spices, peanut butter, etc.
- Snacks : granola bars, cookies, nuts, tea, hot chocolate, etc.

Cleaning products

- Dishwashing soap, sponges, all-purpose cleaner, cleaning cloths, etc.

Personal care products

- Shower gel, shampoo, lotion, deodorant,

toothpaste and toothbrushes, bandages, etc. (children's products, too!)

Household and seasonal items

- Kitchen towels, oven gloves, welcome mats, etc.
- Thermal socks, neck warmer, warm blanket, slippers, etc.

Extras

- Gift card for a grocery store or pharmacy near the family's home
- Children's items: toys, crayons and paper, stuffed animals, etc.

Why do you suggest these types of items?

You'll be offering a basket that will have a **real impact** on a family's ability to settle and thrive in Montreal. This family will have used almost all their welfare cheque to pay the rent. They'll be dependent on food banks for their food, and there won't be much left over for other essentials.

Can I give gently used items?

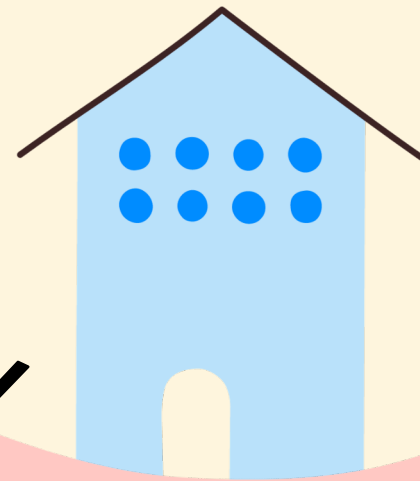
Any used items must be in **like-new or in excellent condition**. We ask that you list the types of goods that you would give to your own new neighbor, or that you yourself would like to receive after your move.

The basket

Any basket will do! But we encourage you to get creative and make the basket a useful item for the family: for example, a laundry basket, a storage bin, a high-quality reusable bag, a wheeled grocery cart, etc.



it's time for a special delivery



How does delivery work?

When a family is assigned to you, Welcome Collective will provide you with their contact information. You'll **contact the family** by text, e-mail, or phone call to introduce yourself and **arrange a time** for delivery.

What if I don't have a car?

Most Welcome Collective clients live in less central neighborhoods, including Montréal-Nord, Ville-St-Laurent, Lasalle, Lachine, the east end of the island and the South Shore. For these areas, plan more time on public transport or consider renting a Communauto.

Other families live in areas more accessible by public transportation, such as Côte-des-Neiges, Verdun, Parc-Extension, Villeray and NDG. When you sign up, you can indicate if you have a geographical preference, and if there's a family who's just moved into that neighborhood, we'll try to match you up with them.

When should I deliver the basket?

We ask that you complete your delivery **within 3 weeks** of receiving the family's information. If you are unable to complete the project, please let us know - the family will expect a volunteer to be in contact with them, and we will need to assign them to somebody else.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please do not ask recipient families for photos of themselves or their family members.

Our priority is to protect the family's privacy and dignity. Even if you ask permission, the family may not feel comfortable refusing.

Feel free to take photos of the activity: of the baskets alone, of you preparing them, or on your way to deliver them. We encourage you to share these photos with us and tag us on social media: **@wecobien**

If the family explicitly asks you to take a photo of them, **we ask you not to publish these photos on social media.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Questions? Write to us! benevoles@welcomecollective.org