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Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal

To most of us the festive season brings back images of spending time with loved ones, enjoying the spirit of giving and a special Christmas feast.

Unfortunately, for some residents this just isn't the case. You can experience the true magic of Christmas and help ease the burden of someone in our community this festive period by donating to the 2008 Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal.

Townsville Mayor, Cr Les Tyrell, said the Christmas Tree Appeal is an important community event at a time when giving and sharing is culturally and socially important.

"This year we are relying on the community's generous spirit to raise \$120,000 in cash, gift and food donations, which will be distributed amongst 30 local non-profit organisations," Cr Tyrell said.

"All of the funds raised will go directly to local families in need – this could be your neighbour, your child's school friend or someone you've never met, whose thanks you'll never hear."

The Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. This means that monetary gifts over \$2 are tax deductible. Such a small contribution can mean so much to someone else.

Monetary donations can be made online at www.townsville.qld.gov.au or at council's customer service centres on Walker Street or Thuringowa Drive.

Non-perishable food and gift donations can be left at council's customer service centres or CityLibraries, iSynergy Amcal Chemists (Kirwan, Bamford Ln, Aitkenvale), 4TO reception, Willows Shopping Centre, Castletown Shoppingworld, Stockland, and Life Church Townsville on Dalrymple Road.

Have a heart this Christmas and give a gift that will rekindle the festive spirit of families in need.



Townsville Mayor, Cr Les Tyrell launches the Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal, which aims to raise over \$120,000.

Message from the Mayor

Reflecting on the year gone by, it has certainly been an exciting and historic time with our new city being formed on March 15.

One of the many challenges which faced us was our budget which was handed down in August, totalling \$477 million.

In that document, we started on the journey to a secure financial future and also set out some ambitious but vital infrastructure initiatives such as signing a

Memorandum of Understanding on water and waste water management, and building better roads.

It hasn't all been hard work. Along the way the councillors and I joined the community in a variety of events from the increasingly popular Pioneer's Party to the many awards ceremonies as well as hosting conferences of national and international significance.

This time of year I also ask the community to consider those less fortunate and I commend to you the Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal.

As the Christmas decorations go up in the city, as a community we can celebrate with our events team organising an outstanding array of entertainment with

something for everyone in December and January.

The annual Christmas school holidays program also boasts a range of entertaining and educational activities at various venues across the city.

I hope this is a time of relaxation, joy and celebration for you, your family and friends.

Please take care on the roads during the festive season and I wish you every happiness for the New Year.



Cr Les Tyrell
Mayor of Townsville