

OUR GROCERY GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER



Our "Grocery Card/Gift Card" fundraiser at Grand Bend United Church continues to be a painless way to make a donation to our church. Just buy your groceries with a gift card. It's also the easiest and quickest way to pay at the checkout. The card orders are placed on the last Sunday of each month. To date, over \$67,000 has been raised by members of our congregation choosing to use gift cards purchased through our church to pay for their groceries.

How does the program work? By purchasing these cards in bulk, the stores allow us a discount which varies between 2% and 5%, depending on the store and the size of the order. That discount goes to the church and we each get credit for our portion as a charitable donation and therefore an income tax credit. It's easy to see how greater participation could make a significant difference to our church's finances.

Currently, our Sobeys order and our NoFrills order are each about \$5000. Sobeys and its affiliates give a discount of 5% and NoFrills and its affiliates give a discount of 3% for a \$5000 order. It's interesting to note that if you donate at least \$200 to charities over a year, the government refunds slightly over 40% of that donation in the form of a tax credit. Thus, when you buy your groceries with a Sobeys gift card, the government is refunding 2% of your grocery purchase as a tax credit. So the church gets 5% and you get 2% on your grocery purchases. That's a better incentive than any credit card offers. Besides, I'd rather have the HSUC reap the benefits rather than my credit card company.

A benefit of using these cards can be a tax credit of up to 2% on your grocery purchases. At the same time, the church is getting up to 5% of our purchase as a donation – all at no cost to us. Can your credit card can beat that? To us, it's an easy choice.

We are not limited to buying groceries in the Grand Bend stores. These gift cards may be used at most Foodland, IGA, Lo-blaws, Zehrs and Independent stores as well.

Orders are taken monthly. On the last Sunday of the of the month, the orders are submitted electronically to the appropriate card distribution sites shortly after noon. NoFrills (PC) cards usually arrive at our house by courier from Minnesota by the end of the week. Sobeys cards come from Nova Scotia by Canada Post and currently arrive at the local Sobeys store 1 - 1 1/2 weeks after placing the order. You receive an email from me as soon as we receive them, and they may be picked up at our house at 14 Brooklawn Drive any time after that or at church on Sundays.

Two kinds of order forms are available on the church website or by contacting me by email at dlprocter@hotmail.com. One form is suitable for those who would find it convenient to place a repeating order at the beginning of the year and write monthly post-dated cheques to cover it. The other is a regular order form. Please don't hesitate to call me at 519 238-2973 if you have any questions.

Please consider joining the 50 or so families in our community currently purchasing most of their groceries with these cards. It's a "game" where everybody wins.

Doug Procter
Project Coordinator

