



Holiday
Cheer

Bringing Holiday Cheer to Calgary!



Something was cooking on a cold Sunday in Calgary Alberta, Canada on December 19, 2021, just like it has been for thousands of years.

Alberta's history began when settlers arrived from far away lands. Between 1600 and 1850, several thousand European and Canadian fur traders arrived, followed by several hundred British immigrants. They created dozens of small outposts and a settlement, where the Métis became the largest part of the population. In the early 1900s many more immigrants settled in tribes and clans and brought with them a pioneering and frontier spirit.

Today this spirit is embodied in Albertans and the Zoroastrian community that calls Alberta home.

Going back to the cold Sunday, ZFTC (Zoroastrian Fire Temple of Calgary) and ZAA (Zoroastrian Association of Alberta) organized a group of young adults to come together to do something special for our Zoroastrian seniors.

Persis Cooper, Renaz Atashband and Robina Kapadia with fourteen kids/young adults ranging in ages from nine to seventeen fried bhakras (Parsi donuts), mixed chivda (Indian savoury snack) and rolled Toot (Persian marzipan candy) for twenty-three senior Zoroastrian families.



The group worked together in Persis and Zubin Cooper's kitchen. The air smelled delicious with the aroma of sizzling curry leaves lightly frying in oil, ready to be mixed in with the other ingredients for chivda. Trays piled high with bhakras filled up the counter space and Toot was perfectly shaped like a Christmas tree, symbolizing the holiday season.

The house was filled with laughter, loud cheerful voices, and excitement, no different than what it might have been when the pioneers gathered to cook community meals. After all the cooking and packaging was completed, the youngsters created handmade Christmas cards to accompany the goodies. The evening was spent surprising our seniors with the goody-bags.



Calgary seniors wrote their thanks several-fold including "What a lovely idea of sending the goodies to all the seniors", "What a wonderful and thoughtful initiative! Looked like a lot of fun!" and "Thank you very much ZAA, ZFTC for your thoughtfulness, touched me to know that our young generation thought of us and worked hard to make the goodies for us. Tasty, yummy filled with lots of love – thank you children and all the parents who were involved in the activity." What a fabulous way to wrap up the 2021 year!

