



The 19th Annual 2024 “Gift of Giving Back” Food Drive

*Did you know that more than half the visitors to our local food banks are children?
No child should ever be hungry.
“Kids Feeding Kids”*

1) Roll Call

2) Welcome & Introductions

3) Welcome and why is the Gift of Giving Back so Important

- a) **Key messages** - NOT a food drive 😊
- b) Four cornerstones of the Gift
 - i) To encourage compassion and respect in our young people for those in need or in crisis
 - ii) To connect and educate them to and about the hard-working agencies which support the vulnerable in our communities each and every day – 365 days a year. We try to demonstrate to them that “We all rise when we lift others up.” while reinforcing positive shared values.
 - iii) To inspire them to lift other kids up through their own work and actions - in other words, to become champions for those kids who are hurting. We try to demonstrate to them that “We all rise when we lift others up.” while reinforcing positive shared values.
 - iv) to motivate them and their families to embrace community traditions of volunteerism. Volunteerism is one of the greatest validations of civic heroism – giving one’s time, talent and energy without expecting something in return. A community cannot successfully thrive without volunteers.
- c) We are a REGISTERED CHARITY – Donations over \$25.00 get tax receipts - **Charity # 80769 1126 RR0001**
- d) Millions of Meals Delivered over the past 19 years.

4) Team Captains - Thank you for taking on challenge

- a) The quarterback of the team – coordinating, motivating the parents, focusing the message
- b) Get help! Don’t take it on yourselves – share the labour of love with your parent group – no woman/man is an island
- c) ANNUAL COACHES’ CHALLENGE WEIGH IN - **December 3rd, 4th and 5th.**

5) Our Beneficiaries

- a) Feed Halton, Food For Life, Salvation Army, Halton Women’s Place, The Compassion Society, ROCK, the Halton Learning Foundation, the Halton Catholic Children’s Foundation.
- b) Introducing Jessie Chiu, Kerr Street Mission and Melissa Bain, Food for Life
- c) Letter from Kaitlin McKenna, Halton Women’s Place

6) Toolbox and Methods

- a) Shared Documents – sponsor letters, thank you letters, fundraising letters, etc.



Halton Women's Place

Healthy Relationships • Healthy Communities

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The Impact of “The Gift” on Halton Women’s Place

To Whom it May Concern:

The Gift of Giving Back has supported Halton Women’s Place for over a decade and has made a lasting impact throughout all of Halton Region.

Halton Women’s Place is a charitable organization that provides safe shelter for abused women and their children and provides information and education to support a future without violence against women. We operate two shelters, one in Burlington and one in Milton, which hold 30 and 22 emergency beds, respectively. Last year alone, Halton Women’s Place provided services to over 700 women and children across Halton Region through our residential and transitional programs. Our crisis intervention counselors responded to more than 2100 crisis calls. Halton Women’s Place is the only women’s shelter in the region.

The children and youth who call our shelters home are no different than any children and youth, and have the same needs: Safety, love, comfort, and of course, food. These are everyday kids from your children’s school, who do homework, hang out with their friends, and...play hockey.

When I speak to the athletes and parents involved in the Gift of Giving Back and provide our list of the food items we’re most in need of, I encourage them to donate food that they themselves would like to eat. I remind them that food is so much more than a basic need; Food provides an avenue for familiarity, tradition, energy, and last, but certainly not least, comfort. The comfort of knowing there will be a meal to eat when they arrive home from school or extra curriculars. The comfort of having their favourite homecooked meal, while staying in an unfamiliar environment.

Throughout the pandemic, given that Halton Women’s Place is a congregate living facility, we had many strict Public Health guidelines to follow, and were unable to accept donations of non-perishable food items for over a year. We relied on The Gift of Giving Back and its other beneficiaries to help us to stock our cupboards, and keep our shelters stocked. The Gift went above and beyond throughout the pandemic, and during pandemic-recovery, to ensure they were still holding “drive thru” food drives around Halton, which were essential in assisting all the beneficiaries to help those in need in our community during such an unprecedented time.

Not only does The Gift provide essentials to those in need across our community, but it also allows for additional educational experiences for students and athletes of all ages, as well as

their parents and coaching staff. Through its partnership with the beneficiaries, The Gift has helped facilitate visits to the food banks, and opportunities for those involved to hear directly from the charities they are donating to, which is an invaluable experience.

Halton Women's Place has had the opportunities to speak directly to different teams so that we can discuss the impact of The Gift of Giving Back, as well as give the athletes a chance to ask important questions that they might not have previously had the opportunity to ask. In HWP's case, we have spoken to them about what it's like to stay in the shelter and how the donations they collect provide food security, safety and comfort to our clients. Further to this, our staff team and clients are aware of The Gift and how much we receive from the program annually, and it helps to show our clients in particular, that their community supports them and wants them to succeed in living a life free of violence.

The Gift of Giving Back is so much more than a food drive: It is a community-builder, an opportunity for education, an avenue for all ages to practice volunteerism, and it provides a spotlight for essential community agencies all year long.

We are extremely grateful and blessed to have been chosen as a beneficiary of The Gift of Giving Back. The impact of The Gift grows with each year, and it has been truly inspiring to see it expand to different communities in Halton, assisting more and more families each year. The hard work of the entire Gift of Giving Back volunteer team brings to mind Margaret Mead's words, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

I am happy to speak with you if you have any additional questions about the work done at Halton Women's Place, and the impact of The Gift of Giving Back.

Sincerely,



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Ideas for Team Captains Have FUN, FUN, FUN!!

- 1 We have insurance for all teams in field. Contact us.
- 2 Tip/tap terminals will be available for teams to collect cash donations. Please book in advance.
- 3 Grocery Store Tagging – Call or visit grocery store right away. Most are familiar with the Gift of Giving Back. Secure a time for tagging well in advance with the Store Manager- these times fill up rapidly.
- 4 Metro-link -GO TRAIN. - Call and apply. There is a fee, but you will raise more than the fee. Most times, they will waive the fee, if you explain what you are doing.
- 5 GOGB BLUE BAGS
 - a. Best way to collect food.
 - b. Drop off in neighbourhoods and pick up several days later
 - c. Always attach a letter which will contain:
 - i. GOGB logo
 - ii. Contact info
 - iii. Suggested Items most in need
 - iv. Pick up date
 - d. For high-school age players needing volunteer hours
 - i. See attached schedule for blue bag collection
 - ii. Hours available at the drive.
- 6 Many companies have volunteer matching donations. Do any of your teams' parents' employers do this?
- 7 Bottle drives, Raffles, Family Night Slo-Pitch, Survivor raffle, Bingo night
- 8 Birthday parties – your child could ask for grocery store gift cards instead of gifts.
- 9 Car Washes, Shovelling driveways/raking leaves – great for team spirit.
- 10 Delicious Hot Back Bacon Sandwiches at any game/cookies, squares, muffins.
- 11 Sip 'n 'Paint, Fireworks night, restaurant nights. Call your favourite place to arrange.
- 12 Online Silent Auction
- 13 Exhibition game (vs other Burlington team)
- 14 Restaurant events – game night, etc.
- 15 50/50's
- 16 Garage Sales – single or multi-family. Contact us if you need a location.



The 19th Annual Gift of Giving Back Food Drive
Making our Whole Community Better

*The largest youth-led food drive in Canada supporting
ten member agencies in the Halton Region.*

Hello there!

*Did you know that over half of the users of the food banks here in
Burlington are children just like me?*

My name is _____. I live in your
neighborhood and I am collecting non-perishable food items to help stock
the shelves of Oakville food banks. The need has never been greater.

The Gift of Giving Back Food Drive is the largest youth-led known
community food drive in Canada. We support Feed Halton, the Kerr Street
Mission, The Salvation Army, Halton Women's Place, Food For Life, The
Compassion Society, the Rock, the Halton Learning Foundation and the
Halton Catholic Children's Fund.

No child should go hungry and everyone should have enough food. I hope
that you will help me.

I will come back on _____ BETWEEN _____ and
_____ to pick up this bag from your front porch.

If you would like to help, please leave any donations on your front step in
this bag. If you are not able to donate, I would appreciate if you can
please leave this bag for me to pick up and give to someone else.

Thank you!

Non-perishable food items only please.

The Top 16: Canned fish/meat, canned fruit in 100% juice, canned vegetables, whole
grain cereal, brown rice, cooking oil, canned tomatoes, peanut butter, wow butter, tea,
instant coffee, plain oatmeal, pasta sauce, canned soup, baby products (food, diapers
especially larger sizes, formula), and personal care items (shampoo, soap, feminine
hygiene products) are always needed.



Handling Cash

As part of your fundraising activities for “the Gift” , you might be asked to handle cash, especially if your team is tagging in front of grocery stores, or you are running an activity where cash might be used.

We are extremely grateful to all our wonderful supporters and volunteers who give their time to raise money as well as food.

It’s important to follow our guidance when handling cash, to ensure your safety and the safety of our volunteers and to protect the money you raise to help children who are insecure and vulnerable.

Our Guidelines : Keeping Safe and Ensuring Proper Stewardship of Donations

1. Receipts can be given for donations of \$25.00 and over. Simply record the name, address, and email of the donor and request a receipt.
2. All cash handling must be carried out in a safe and secure environment.
3. Cash should be counted and recorded by two individuals.
4. All cash received should be stored securely (ideally locked) until you deliver to our Treasurer.
5. Cash should be bagged in suitable bags, and transported in bags that help disguise the cash (such as a shopping bag). No one should be left to carry the money by themselves after an activity – always walk in pairs to the car.
6. Children under 16 **MUST NOT** be left with any responsibility for handling money and/or responsibility for counting collected money.
7. Unsecured cash must **NEVER** be left unattended.
8. There should always be two volunteers present to take care of cash. They should count the money together and once money is counted it should be placed in an envelope, sealed and signed (over the seal) by both parties with the total displayed on the outside of the envelope.

We thank you for following these guidelines. We appreciate you so much and your safety and well-being is our primary concern.



Introducing Tip Tap Pay

In response to many of you who have asked for this, we are thrilled to introduce our new program, Tip Tap Pay. Since the usage of cash seems to be quickly becoming obsolete, we think that this tool will make your campaigns all the more successful.

We have secured several for your convenience. Teams will be able to reserve them by contacting Deb Hawke-Wende (copied here). We will ensure that they are charged and ready to go for your events. There are both denominations – four for \$5.00 and four for \$10.00. If you have booked a time at a grocery store, you may wish to reserve two or four of these (different denominations), depending on availability to cover two sets of doors. Great also, if your players can make signs to promote donations and/or to inform where the donations go to. We will also have signage available for you to sign out.

We will be able to track your collected donations by terminal identity and time of use so that your team will get credit for funds collected.

These are valuable – so please advise your team members that care should be taken when using. There will be a sign out sheet and waiver form to complete. Email Deb Hawke-Wende at debhawkwende@gmail.com for more information and booking.

Places you can use:

Grocery Stores , Tim Hortons' Locations, LCBO, Go Stations, Eagles, Barracudas and Cougar Games, outdoor festivals or at any event where good people can be found.

We are hearing of some fantastic campaigns already underway. Thank you for all you are doing to help our community and inspire our young people.

See you soon

Jean



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**HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER HOURS
 Checklist and Calculations**

# of Bags Collected Brought to our Nov Drive	# of Volunteer Hours With NO additional planning	Collection Initiatives Planning, Bag Distribution, Neighbourhood Letter Promotion, etc	TOTAL OF VOLUNTEER HOURS GRANTED # of Bags Plus Collection Initiatives
1-10 Bags	2	+1	3 Hours
11-20 Bags	2.5	+2	4.5 Hours
21-30 Bags	3	+3	6 Hours
31-40 Bags	3.5	+4	7.5 Hours
41-50 Bags	4	+5	9 Hours
50+ Bags	5	+5	10 Hours

***HOURS AND COLLECTION INITIATIVES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH GOGB BOARD MEMBER WHO WILL ADVISE BEOREHAND AND SIGN-OFF ON VOLUNTEER HOURS FORM. STUDENTS MUST COORDINATE WITH GOGB BOARD MEMBER ON THEIR PLAN.**

If two or more high school students work together, each team member will receive earned hours (time will not be divided).

Thank You , Students !!

Non-perishable food items only, please.

The Top 16: Canned fish/meat, canned fruit in 100% juice, canned veg, whole grain cereal, brown rice, cooking oil, canned tomatoes, peanut buter, wow butter, tea, instant coffee, plain oatmeal, pasta sauce, canned soup, baby products (food, formula, diapers-especially larger sizes), and personal care items (shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene products) are always needed.