



THE
FoodBank
OF WATERLOO REGION

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Every day.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release -- April 4, 2007

Food Bank Continues To Fill a Gap

(Hunger Count demonstrates importance of Spring Food Drive)

Statistics derived from our local Annual Hunger Count show that approximately 5% of Waterloo Region residents needed food assistance in 2006 – a very similar situation to 2005.

The overall number of people accessing food in 2006 was essentially unchanged from 2005 (24,605 in 2006 and 24,415 in 2005). There were 61,364 emergency food hampers provided in 2006 compared to 62,349 in 2005. 385,638 meals were served in 2006 compared to 398,147 meals served in 2005.

‘We continue to be most concerned about working families and individuals as well as the growing number of seniors on fixed incomes who are accessing emergency food in our community,’ stated Katharine Schmidt, Executive Director of The Food Bank of Waterloo Region. ‘The consistency in the number of hampers and meals provided through our member agency food programs each year points to the need for workable longer term solutions.’

The Food Bank of Waterloo Region believes that finding workable solutions will take the collective effort of government and agencies and the community. The newly announced poverty reduction initiatives of both the federal and provincial governments are an important first step and are greatly needed. In the interim, The Food Bank continues to “fill the gap.”

‘The food raised this week during our Spring Food Drive is critical. We are helping families. 47% of those needing help are children,’ says Tim Jackson, President of the Food Bank’s Board of Directors. ‘We have a very caring community and I believe that with everyone’s help we will meet the goal of raising 150,000 lbs of food this spring.’

Individuals, businesses and organizations are asked to help with our community’s 2007 Spring Food Drive by coordinating a food drive to raise food and funds to assist their neighbours. Get involved by “setting an extra place at your table”!

To set an extra place at your table by coordinating a Spring Food Drive or making a donation please visit The Food Bank of Waterloo Region online at www.thefoodbank.ca or call 519-743-5576.

The Spring Food Drive ends April 11, 2007.

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For information about this release, please contact
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Food Bank Facts:

In 2006:

- ✦ 25% of food hampers went to people who were earning income.
- ✦ 31% of food hampers were shared with individuals on Ontario Works.
- ✦ 14% of food hampers were provided to disabled persons. This figure continued its upward trend with a 17% increase over 2005.
- ✦ 3% of food hampers went to people receiving Old Age Pension.
- ✦ 8% of food hampers were provided to people who had no source of income.

The Food Bank of Waterloo Region has 67 member agency food programs. In 2006, two new food programs emerged to meet the needs of our community: WLU Student Food Bank and Community Ministry.

