

Media Release - Photo and interview opportunity.

For release April 11, 2016

Volunteers are the Roots of Strong Communities

The Food Bank celebrates volunteers!



National Volunteer Week is April 10-16 and The Food Bank is celebrating! The Food Bank of Waterloo Region relies on volunteers to help acquire and distribute food to help neighbours in need, offer corporate engagement activities and educational programs for youth. The nature of their contributions varied but the impact is impressive --- each hour of volunteer time provided 175 meals in Waterloo Region!

Last year volunteers donated more than 25,000 hours to help The Food Bank acquire 5.4 million pounds of perishable and non-perishable food. This food helped 80 community programs serving 1 in 20 households in Waterloo Region.

During National Volunteer Week The Food Bank will be showing appreciation for the work of our volunteers in a variety of ways including conga lines and treats throughout the week. In addition, the warehouse will be transformed into an Enchanted Forest for a special recognition event supported by several local restaurants on April 14, 5:30 to 8 pm. The evening will feature food, live music and heartfelt recognition thanks to sponsorship by a number of local businesses. Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to Kathy Hicks. Mekhi Simmonds will receive the Youth Volunteer of the Year and the Waterloo Potters Workshop has been named Volunteer Group of the Year. In addition, 5, 10 and 15 years of service pins will be awarded. Hours contributed, ranging from 100 to more than 400 hours will also be recognized.

“Thank you to the more than 2000 people that chose to volunteer their time and skills for The Food Bank,” said Wendi Campbell, Executive Director. “Every day we see the effect they have on our work. They truly are the roots of this strong community!”

Volunteers are involved in all areas of The Food Bank’s activities: accepting donations on-site; planning special events; picking up donations throughout the region; preparing and delivering food orders to our member agencies; helping to raise donations; educating youth and raising awareness of local hunger; providing organizational direction as board members; keeping our facility well maintained and clean.

“Whether choosing to help as part of a work place team, a youth group, a faith-based group, as a family or individual, volunteers mean the world to The Food Bank,” said Campbell. “Most importantly, they make it possible to distribute food for the more 6 million meals that will be needed at emergency shelters, hamper programs, and other food support programs throughout Waterloo Region.”

The Food Bank extends special thanks and congratulations to all volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

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