

Fill a bus, feed a family

The HSR has loaned a city bus to the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association, but it won't be picking up any passengers.

The wheels of the fourth annual Fill a Bus, Feed a Family food drive will be put in motion Saturday morning.

Any neighbourhood residents who would like to donate can leave their non-perishable food items on their front porch before 10 a.m. There are also drop-off stations at Zarky's Fine Foods on Dundurn Street South, Dell Pharmacy on Aberdeen Avenue and Mr. Tony's hair salon on Locke Street South.

Volunteers who would like to help gather the donations can meet at the city yards, at the corner of Studholme Road and Beddoe Drive, at 9 a.m. that day.

The summer months are "typically slower" for food bank donations, said Rachel O'Reilly, resource and development director of Hamilton Food Share, "but the need for food is 365 days a year.

"Every month more than 18,500 people visit food banks" in Hamilton, she adds.

Volunteers will travel around in the bus through the Kirkendall neighbourhood, which is bounded by Main Street to the escarpment and Queen Street to Hwy 403.

On streets that are too tight for the bus, volunteers in vehicles will collect the donations.

Food items most needed include canned fruits and vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, soups, baby formula and cold cereal. (Please, no perishable food.)

"No child should go to bed hungry," but in Hamilton every month, more than 8,100 do just that, O'Reilly says.

Last year, the campaign raised 9,000 pounds of food and \$700.

"Each year, we keep beating the previous record," says Mary Lou Reman, president of the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association.

"We never set goals, and hopefully we will beat last year's numbers. Also, cash and cheque donations will be welcome for all those who haven't done their grocery shopping yet."

Participation certificates will be handed out to high school students that can be put toward their community service hours required for graduation.

How to help

For more information or to donate visit hamiltonfoodshare.org or mission-services.com or call Mary Lou Reman at 905-308-9678.

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