

Georgetown Bread Basket invites residents to Coldest Night event

By Eamonn Maher
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The volunteer-run Georgetown Bread Basket is asking residents to get involved in a nationwide fundraiser in the early evening hours of Saturday, Feb. 25 to support the local food bank and homeless people in general.

It's the first time that the GBB has taken part in the Coldest Night of the Year event, joining dozens of other food banks across the country in community walks measuring 2, 5 or 10 km in distance.

Organizers encourage businesses, service clubs or sports groups to assemble teams and individuals can register and fill out pledge sheets as well.

The goal, said GBB chair of the board Lori Brading, is to raise \$30,000, which would go towards the acquisition of infrastructure and to bolster the food purchasing program.

We're hoping to shed some light on the perils of homelessness, the hungry and hurting in our community, said Brading, who is also co-event director of CNOY.

(The walk) is just long enough to get everybody chilly and give them an idea what people who have to stay out all night in that type of weather.

The Bread Basket does not receive funding from any level of government, relying on the contributions from the public to remain in operation, although it recently purchased two new fridges and freezers thanks to a grant that will allow for adequate storage of fresh fruits, vegetables and proteins, Brading added.

Since its establishment in 2011, the CNOY has raised more than \$12 million Canada-wide for charities that support the homeless and 114 communities are slated to host events on Feb. 25.

The walk, for all distances, will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Hillview Active Living Centre at 318 Guelph St. Unit 9 (back of the building).

The family-friendly 2km walk will lead down Guelph St. to Delrex Blvd. and back to the HALC, while the 5 & 10km routes lead down Guelph St. to Delrex, over to Mountainview Rd. heading north to Guelph St. and back to the start.

Should extreme winter intervene, the event may be shortened, but as organizers say, the event was conceived with the intent of showing Canadians what it's like to walk in someone-less-fortunate's shoes.

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