

## Raise a pint and do some good at beer festival Sept. 19

By Victoria Fraser

Head for the Hills Craft Beer Festival

On Sept. 19 at the Trafalgar Sports Park you have the chance to be part of something big by coming to the inaugural Georgetown Craft Beer Festival, Head for the Hills. You should come for the beer, the food, the music, and the friends, but most importantly, you should come for the cause. Head for the Hills is donating all proceeds from this event to local charities. This year's main recipient is Food4Kids North Halton, a group operating in Georgetown and Acton that provides food to kids (ages of 2-14) in need of nutrition.

Food4Kids started three years ago when Lena Bassford of Hamilton arrived at a primary school early one Monday morning for a breakfast program and found a young boy waiting eagerly outside the still-closed school doors. When asked why he was so early for school, the boy replied he hadn't eaten since Friday and couldn't wait for breakfast. This inspired the need for a charity like Food4Kids. During the school week it is often possible for kids to get food from nutritional programs, but what about over the weekend, or on Christmas or summer breaks? Food4Kids distributes bags of fresh, nutritious food to kids in need every Friday and during school breaks, ensuring they have something to keep them going over the weekend.

Food4Kids quickly expanded, serving not only Lena's area in Hamilton, but also our very own Halton Hills. Leslie Salisbury, the sole administrator for the North

Halton program, says that Food4Kids now serves over 60 kids in Georgetown and Acton alone. An average of 25 kids are enrolled in public schools in Georgetown who rely on Leslie and her volunteers at Food4Kids for meals. Leslie and her team get to know each child and their families while enrolling them in the program, ensuring that their work remains community-focused. Leslie shares that "What is just as important as filling hungry bellies is showing these kids that they belong to a community—a community that makes them feel cared for, makes them feel important, and shows them they have help." What is truly magical about Food4Kids North Halton is that it only costs \$10/week per child. This is money that goes towards ensuring kids have fresh fruit and vegetables to go home with every Friday. Leslie laughed, saying she develops quite a rapport with the kids over time: "One time I packed green beans in the bags...you wouldn't believe the flack I got! To this day, when I instead put in a peach or a banana, some kids open the bag and say 'Phew! At least it's not those green beans!'"

Leslie and her team of volunteers are changing the lives of kids and their families in our community, but too many times Leslie has worried that they won't have enough money to get the job done. Food4Kids is 100 per cent community funded, receiving no funding from any government or granting bodies. Join us at Head for the Hills and help this worthy cause. Email Leslie Salisbury at [leslie@food4kids.ca](mailto:leslie@food4kids.ca) to learn how you can help. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.



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