

Food drive

Spirit of charity at Festival

Main Street visitors can help those who are less fortunate in York Region as Markham's Business Improvement Area (BIA) hosts its first Christmas food drive with the help of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank.

Beginning Friday evening, in conjunction with Festival of Lights, visitors are asked to donate non-perishable food

items. Two trucks, supplied by Richlor Developments Ltd. of Markham, will be parked in front of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (located at the north end of Main Street) and on the northeast corner of Hwys 7 and 48 in the Petro Canada parking lot.

"The Daily Bread Food Bank will be glad to take any non-perishable donations, but there

is an urgent need for high protein, nutritious foods, including canned meat and fish, canned fruit and vegetables, powdered milk and peanut butter, which are staples during the cold winter months," explained Muriel Hammond, public relations director of Old Markham Village BIA.

The Daily Bread Food Bank was founded in October, 1983 and is a non-profit organization. Located at Keele St. and St. Clair Ave., the food bank distributes food to charitable food programs throughout the Metro area, including York Region.

Thousands are unable to provide food for themselves despite their own best efforts. The Daily Bread Food Bank's most immediate function is to ensure that crisis needs are met by supplementing the food programs of social agencies and religious groups responding to people in emergency.

The basic premise of a food bank is to collect the tons of good food which is wasted each day. Much of it is unsaleable because of mislabelling, approaching expiry dates or over production and would be thrown out if not for food banks.

The Daily Bread Food Bank is specifically designed to pool these food resources for their distribution.

It is estimated that more than four million pounds of food will be distributed to numerous food programs, including several in York Region, in 1987.

Daily Bread Food Bank estimates that 60,000 people are forced to seek emergency food aid from programs it supports in the Metro Toronto area.

Daily Bread Food Bank is a non-profit, non-political, non-denominational registered charitable organization. Established in 1983 it was Ontario's first food bank operation.

In 1985 it was endorsed by Bruce Springsteen at his concert in Toronto, where the singer donated a generous cheque toward fighting hunger in this immediate area.



Visitors to the Festival of Lights on Markham Main Street are invited to bring along a non-perishable food donation for the Daily Bread Food Bank. Preparing their food basket are from left, John and Jessica Idnurm and Stephen James. Daily Bread distributes donated food throughout Metro Toronto and York Region.

— Bill Lanning

In 1986 Daily Bread initiated special Metro and area-wide public food collections which brought forth huge responses from the community.

The operational costs of Daily Bread Food Bank are entirely supplemented by the community through contributions from individuals, foundations, unions and corporations.

"For each dollar expended in operations the food bank is able to distribute \$30 worth of food," according to Daily Bread Food Bank Director, Gerard Kennedy.

According to Kennedy more than 70 per cent of the food received at the food bank is supplied by the local food industry.

Daily Bread has identified raising the level of awareness and changes in public attitudes as ways to solve the unnecessary so-

cial and economic problem of hunger.

With the Daily Bread's last major food drive, before Thanksgiving, over half a million pounds of food was donated from people in the Toronto area, the largest such volume ever collected by any city in North America.

But, according to Kennedy the supplies rapidly diminish. With the number of hungry increasing and the winter months fast approaching, the need becomes even greater to stock the food bank's shelves.

Trucks and volunteers will be on hand Dec. 4 to accept non-perishable donations during the Festival of Lights. Main Street merchants will also have boxes set up in their shops all weekend, taking further donations from those who might miss the event.

Festival of Lights Special

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318 MAIN ST., MARKHAM
294-6919

THE KITCHEN DOOR FESTIVAL SPECIALS

Half price Christmas glasses
Highball set of 4 . . . \$10⁹⁹
Old Fashioned set of 4 . . . \$11⁵⁰
Turkey Platters, boxed . . . \$17⁹⁵ (reg. 24.95)
Teddy Bear Mugs . . . reg. \$6⁹⁹ — 2 for the price of 1

THE KITCHEN DOOR
69 MAIN ST., MARKHAM, 294-0676
(open every Sunday until Christmas)

Help us Celebrate

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF MARKHAM

cordially invite you to join them for The Festival of Lights
6:30 p.m. Friday, December 4
At 6:45 p.m. the same evening, we are going to celebrate the completion of improvements to Markham Main Street.

It's a street event for the whole family.
We look forward to seeing you there.