



October 24, 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

The Fort Saskatchewan Food Gatherers Society's Christmas Hamper & Toy Campaign is underway for 2022! The Society operates the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank, in addition to organizing the annual campaign, which is the primary Christmas-assistance program available within Fort Saskatchewan. This year is the 37th year for the campaign and fundraiser. The fundraising goal for this year's campaign is \$85,000.

City residents who are in need of support, are encouraged to apply for assistance. The campaign provides for seniors, individuals, and families and provides gifts for children up to 17 years old.

Application details can be found on the Food Bank website: www.FortSaskatchewanFoodBank.com.

Applications are accepted November 1 – December 12.

Every year Christmas hampers and toys are delivered to recipient's homes by community volunteer drivers the Saturday before Christmas. This year DELIVERY DAY is Saturday, December 17.

Watch the Food Bank's website and social media pages for updates about Delivery Day!

A Christmas Open House is being held to kick-off the Christmas Campaign this year! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual event has not been held since 2019, but we are excited to once again be able to invite the community and enjoy an evening together. Those interested in volunteering during the holiday season can sign up during the event.

Open House Date: November 3rd

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Location: Food Bank 11226 – 88 Avenue

As part of the Open House, two organizations will be recognized for their early contribution to the 2022 Christmas Campaign:

Twice But Nice Society – Their donation of \$5000 will fund the purchase of turkeys that are included in the holiday food hampers.

The Majestic Chapter #126 Order of the Eastern Star – Their donation of \$5000 has equipped the toy department with much needed racking and storage.

Healthy Fresh and Non-Perishable Food Pick Up and Delivery • Toiletries and Pet Food • Shopping Days • Christmas Hampers
Strategic Partnerships • Corporate Team Building • Off-Campus Events • Volunteer Opportunities

780-998-4099 | 11226 – 88 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan | Mailing: PO Box 3404, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 2T3

FortSaskatchewanFoodBank.com | fortsaskfoodbank@gmail.com

Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director: "2022 has been a struggle for many households within the community. The food bank has experienced a significant increase in new registrations and our hamper program has distributed approximately 40% more hampers this year, so far, compared to last year. Folks are having a difficult time making their dollars stretch to buy enough food for their table. We are anticipating an increase in requests for holiday help this year, but we know that our community is supportive and generous, and we are hopeful of reaching our goal of \$85,000 and having a successful campaign!"

2020 Christmas: 200 Food Hampers & 300 Toy packages were delivered

2021 Christmas: 247 Food Hampers & 371 Toy packages were delivered

Individuals and businesses wanting to donate to the Christmas Campaign can either give online through our website, or by mailing a cheque. Food donations can be dropped off at the Food Bank during business hours and there are collection bins at all grocery stores in Fort Saskatchewan.

Anyone interested in holding a food drive or fundraiser can submit their event on our website, or phone the Food Bank office for support. The website has a list of most needed food items and Christmas Campaign details.

Toys are needed! New and unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Food Bank or in any of the grocery store collection bins.

Food Bank volunteers will be in local grocery stores throughout the holiday season, accepting donations:

Main Street Co-op November 15 – December 1

Freson Bros' December 5 – December 10

Safeway December 12 – December 16

For details regarding the Twice But Nice Society donation please contact: Cindy Cook at 403-392-2689

For details regarding the donation from Majestic Chapter #126 Order of the Eastern Star please contact: Marilynne Zulkowsky at 780-998-5494

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Executive Director, Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank

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