

FirstOntario Credit Union and Hamilton Food Share confirm new long-term partnership with \$50,000 donation

The five-year agreement offers annual funds to help boost much-needed resources for those in need

Hamilton, ON, August 30, 2022 – Two like-minded, local organizations have come together to help ensure those who rely on food banks can get the help they need. FirstOntario Credit Union and Hamilton Food Share will work alongside each other and continue to make a positive impact in the community with a \$50,000 commitment from FirstOntario. Hamilton Food Share is a hub that supports food bank agencies and programs across Hamilton, Niagara and Haldimand. The funds will be distributed by FirstOntario over the next five years.

The \$50,000 is earmarked to support Hamilton Food Share's Priority Food Project, which was piloted during the pandemic to ensure the food banks supported could always offer staples such as dairy and frozen meat. The contribution from FirstOntario will enable the pilot project to continue which is especially important given the impact of inflation on the cost of food, leading to rising community need.

"Working with Hamilton Food Share demonstrates in an actionable way our ongoing commitment to support community food initiatives and causes," said Lloyd Smith, FirstOntario's CEO. Investing time and resources in the needs of our communities, particularly food insecurity, is central to the makeup of our credit union. I consider it a privilege for us to partner with Hamilton Food Share and help facilitate a reliable supply of healthy food for people in a position of need over the coming years."

The partnership also includes support from FirstOntario's Blue Wave team, made up of over 200 employee volunteers who donate their time. They will be at the Tiger-Cats' Labour Day Game, collecting food donations for Hamilton Food Share as part of the Purolator Tackle Hunger initiative.

"Food insecurity has deepened since the pandemic. The impact of this remarkable \$50,000 donation from the Ontario Credit Union will initially resource the supply of nutritious priority food for our network and ultimately will provide a lifeline of food support to people struggling with hunger in our community," said Joanne Santucci, CEO of Hamilton Food Share. "Additionally, our community partnership will find the amazing Blue Wave Team volunteering at our Tiger-Cat Labour Day classic food drive. We couldn't be more thrilled!"

According to the Hamilton Food Share Hunger Report 2021, on a typical day in Hamilton, 286 children and 45 seniors will visit a food bank, and food equal to 13,981 meals will be distributed. The full report can viewed [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving members for more than 80 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$5.8 billion in assets under management, FirstOntario is one of Canada's largest credit unions. Everyone is welcome to be part of FirstOntario for financial services including daily transactions, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario profits are invested into the communities we serve through support for entrepreneurs, competitive rates and charitable pursuits including our award-winning student nutrition program. Learn more about us today at FirstOntario.com.

About Hamilton Food Share

Hamilton Food Share is a registered Canadian charity, founded in 1988. It is the distribution hub of the Emergency Food Network in Hamilton, serving 16 hunger-relief organizations and operating 23 emergency food programs. Our purpose is to increase our community's capacity to reduce hunger. We do this by supplying much needed food supplies and short-term storage to food banks and hot meal programs, establishing community partnerships, donor relations and fundraising activities that support our food recovery operation. We also work collaboratively across every sector of the community to raise awareness about hunger, its root causes and the impact it creates for people in need. Learn more at hamiltonfoodshare.org.