

What's Happening at The Soup Kitchen...



Since early March, we have had to pivot operations at The Soup Kitchen: we shifted our sit-down meal service to bagged lunches, kindly asked that volunteers remain home, and were fortunate to be able to hire two additional staff members through the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund. **All the while, we continue to prioritize our mission, which is to provide fresh & nutritious food to those in need in our community, without judgement, and with dignity and respect.**

Bagged Lunches Will Continue

In accordance with Niagara Region Public Health, we will continue to serve bagged lunches for the foreseeable future, in efforts to keep both our clients and staff safe and healthy. We are disappointed to report to our eager and dedicated volunteers that we will not be requesting volunteer help at this time for health and safety reasons - aside from volunteers assisting in pick-ups, drop-offs, and security help. If you are unable to help in those ways and still eager to get involved, we encourage you to donate in other ways (if you are able) such as:

- donating food items (canned proteins such as canned tuna, canned salmon, canned beans, penne pasta, pasta sauce, cream soups, dressings, canned fruits, grocery gift cards).
- donating financially through our website: <https://nfcommunityoutreach.org/waystogive/>
- sharing our mission via Facebook or Instagram, or through Word-of-Mouth

Please feel free to contact us for more information about giving to The Soup Kitchen at nfsoupkitchen@gmail.com

We Said Some Farewells

Harry and Chris Watling resigned from the Board of Directors this summer, after many years of hard-work, dedication, and true passion. Harry and Chris were at the Kitchen almost daily, tending to repairs, cooking up a storm, dropping off groceries, or organizing the pantry or fridges. Chris and Harry worked hard to ensure our Kitchen was in tip-top shape to help provide our clients with fresh and safely prepared food. We wish them well and thank them for their many years of service and commitment to the Kitchen.

Our Board Treasurer, Kerrie Palumbi, has also stepped down from the Board. Kerrie put in many hours over the years, managing the financial affairs of the Soup Kitchen, safeguarding our finances to ensure we can carry out our mission, and was always working hard at our annual Fill the Bus event. Kerrie will be missed greatly and we wish her well!

We Welcomed Our New Kitchen Manager

We are also happy to report that we hired a new Kitchen Manager, Sarah, who has been working hard to ensure we are in compliance and are up to code with the Ministry of Labour and WSIB - and we recently passed our Niagara Region Public Health Inspection with flying colours! We are very excited to have Sarah onboard and are thrilled by the response of our guests, staff members, and others in the community who have taken to Sarah's passion, care, and commitment to The Soup Kitchen's mission. Welcome, Sarah!

Our daily numbers of clients have been steadily increasing since mid-March, having served over 16,000 bagged lunches to date! We have been serving warm lunches paired with veggies, fruits, a water bottle, and oftentimes a tasty treat to all our guests which are picked up outside of our front doors. We are incredibly grateful to those in the community who have donated either financially or with grocery items to ensure we can continue to carry through our important mission.

THANK YOU ALL!

Thank you to the various community groups, businesses, organizations, and individuals in our community who continue to care for and support organizations like the Niagara Falls Community Outreach Soup Kitchen. This impactful work carries on because of the kindness and generosity of people like you - thank you!