



## Our Goal

Reduce hunger in Halton region by collecting surplus perishable and non-perishable food items from the food industry for redistribution to food banks and social service agencies.

## Who Are We?

ReFresh Foods is a food logistics and redistribution program for Halton Region. We collect surplus perishable (including fresh & frozen) and non-perishable food products for redistribution to local food banks and social service agencies.

ReFresh Foods is a Halton collaboration led by Food for Life Canada. FFL is a registered charity operating seven days a week collecting surplus food from bakeries, restaurants and supermarkets for distribution to local charities. Food for Life Canada distributes over \$825,000 of food per year.

## Who Do We Collect From?

Any of the following within Halton Region (Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Acton, Georgetown & Campbellville)

- food manufacturers
- food processors
- food distributors
- primary food producers

## What Can We Collect?

Perishable and non-perishable (including fresh & frozen) quality food items that are:

- close to code
- surplus
- have damaged or mislabeled packaging
- discontinued

## How Will My Donation Be Handled?

At ReFresh Foods we understand the importance of not only food safety but also brand protection. Our fast, free and dependable pick up service treats your donation with care and integrity. Our refrigerated truck delivers your donations to either our cold storage facility or non-perishable facility located in Burlington.

## Benefits to Your Company:

- Lower warehousing, logistics and food disposal costs
- Convenient, dependable and a free way to deal with your quality surplus foods
- Community goodwill (food donations are distributed within Halton region)
- Environmentally and socially responsible



## What about Liability?

You are protected from liability issues via the Ontario Donation of Food Act - 1994 ("Good Samaritan Law").

## Is there a Need for Food Banks in Halton?

According to data from Statistics Canada, over 28,000 Halton residents live below the after-tax low income cut off (LICO), more commonly known as the Poverty Line. When the LICO is measured before taxes, the number of people termed to be living in poverty is almost 37,000.

A 2007 study of Halton's food banking system estimated that 31,000 Halton residents (11,000 children) lack the financial resources to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. The same study estimates that this will grow at 3% per year.

## Who Uses Food Banks in Ontario?

According to the Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB), 318,540 Ontario residents use the services of a food bank each month. The OAFB reports that nearly 40% of food banks consumers are children, followed by new Canadians at just under 30%, and Ontarians with disabilities at 21%. More than 14% of people who accessed Ontario food banks in 2007 reported that employment was their primary source of income.

The Public Health Agency of Canada recognizes food security as one of the 11 social determinates of health and recommends 1,000 lbs of food per individual, key elements are dairy, fresh fruit & vegetables, fish/meat and cereals.

There is a hunger gap in Halton. Food banks are only able to fill 10% of their client's food needs. Food banks serve 15,000 people, but it is estimated that another 16,000 people in our community are in need of these services. The hunger gap in Halton is estimated at 29.5 million lbs of fresh, frozen and non-perishable food.

More food is available in Halton but to tap into additional sources of food, and distribute it, requires a collective solicitation and distribution process. Refresh Foods fills that need with participation on the Provincial and Canadian food sharing systems. There are over 90 food producers and distributors in Halton, most have not been approached on a systematic, collective basis.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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