

Hawks4Hunger event this weekend ? Caledon Hockey holding massive food drive

The Hawks4Hunger Program does work.

This homegrown initiative of the Caledon Hawks Rep Hockey Association is very simple. Minor hockey teams raise food and funds to help support the local area food bank.

A surprise to most, but Caledon does need a well-stocked food distribution centre, despite the relative affluence of the community. The current building of the Exchange in Caledon will result in a facility where food insecurity will be integrated into a broader curriculum of nutrition and wellness promotion.

For the 2013-14 season, the Caledon Hawks are partnering with the Mississauga Steelheads and Caledon Community Services (CCS).

In November 2012, the inaugural year of collection and promotion, the Hawks collected more than 42,000 pounds of food. This was an outstanding contribution which enabled the summer distribution of food in Caledon well into August. The Hawks made a huge impact in support of the food bank and provisioning to over 250 families in need. This weekend (Nov 9 and 10), the goal is to surpass last year's 42,000 pounds of food.

All Caledon Hawks Rep teams have been challenged to collect even more food and/or cash donations for the newly designed Exchange in 2103. The Hawks and Steelheads recognize these tremendous efforts and have been very supportive. The Steelhead organization has partnered with the Hawks to recognize the children and community Caledon Day, which will be Feb. 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. (go to www.mississaugasteelheads.com for more information).

The Hawks4Hunger program has naturally helped build community awareness about the often-hidden issue of poverty in Caledon by linking it to the well-recognized love of hockey. The Caledon Rep Hockey families are a close-knit group and proud to address the challenge of poverty reduction with a homegrown solution. They have exhibited that they can create change by involving young people, and they will continue to provide players an opportunity to demonstrate leadership off the ice, along with the meaningful experience of community service and volunteerism.

The community is asked to join the event at the Albion-Bolton arena this Saturday and Sunday. Items in high demand are canned chicken/ham/turkey and fish, canned fruits and vegetables, sauces for pasta, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter and jams, juice boxes, coffee and tea, toiletries, shampoo, conditioner, dental floss, saran, ziploc bags, aluminum foil and bathroom tissue. Cash is always appreciated as are grocery gift cards ? any contributions (with receipts) of more than \$20 will be allocated a tax slip.

The Hawks would like to send a sincere thank you to their partners: CCS, CRHA, Cavalier Transportation, Garden Foods, George's Arena Sports, The Mississauga Steelheads, SignOne, Sunday/Wednesday Night Men's League, United Rentals, We Are Creative, Zehrs Markets.