



For Immediate Release – December 2, 2008

Local Food Bank Use Increases 19%

Community Resource Service – CRS Food Bank & Distribution Service has seen a dramatic increase in the number of people accessing its Emergency Food Service. “Our current trend is showing a significant increase in the number of households needing to use the Food Bank,” says Heather Vanner, Executive Director. “The Ontario Association of Food Banks has reported today that Food Banks in Ontario have reported an average increase of 13%. Our Food Bank has seen a 19% increase this fall over last.”

Last year, through the months of September, October and November – an average of 856 households used the food bank. This year, an average of 1018 households are using the service in the same period.

Children currently make up 38% of people benefiting from service. “It is quite disheartening to see the most vulnerable citizens of our community, needing to use this service,” says Vanner. “When you see a small child waiting with their parents to pick up food; it’s heartbreaking.”

Local statistics also show that 16% of people using the Food Bank are either working or are receiving Employment Insurance Benefits.

“We are seeing a number of people who use the service are working or have recently been laid off. If they are working, it may be part time or full time, but regardless, people are just not able to earn enough to get through the month.”

One person’s struggle came to the surface just last week – “A father came in to use our service. He had been on Employment Insurance Benefits for quite some time after being laid off. He just couldn’t make ends meet for his family. – He used the food bank for the first time on Friday.”

“It’s getting tough for people right now. The current economic climate is making it difficult for everyone. Seniors will be reviewing the use of their retirement savings, working people are worried about job security, and people looking for work are having a harder time finding it,” says Vanner. “Food Banks across the province are preparing for increased demand.”

CRS – Food Bank & Distribution Service offers the Emergency Food Program and provides people with 2-3 day supply of food, one time per month. It also is a member of the Community Food Providers group and operates the Community Distribution Warehouse that supports other community programs operating meal programs and food cupboards.

Like many charities, CRS is preparing for increasing service demands, and lower donation levels. “We are preparing for a difficult period for our organization,” says Vanner. “Like Food Banks across the province, we need our neighbours to make the choice to help us through it.”

Monetary and Food Donations can be made at Community Resource Service, 103A - 1100 Clarence St. S., Brantford, Ontario. Online donations can be made at www.Canadahelps.org. and choose Community Resource & Employment Service – Brantford.

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For More Information

Please Call:

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