

## DUNDALK FOOD BANK, 2021 COMMUNITY REPORT

The snow fell thick and heavy on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, as vehicles pulled into the parking lot of the Dundalk Wesleyan Church for the Christmas Hamper distribution by the Dundalk Food Bank. A dedicated team of helpers – aged from 18 to (almost) 80 – made sure that people received ham or turkey, fresh vegetables, and pie for Christmas dinner as well as milk, bread, eggs and food boxes. Children and youth received new toys and clothing.

Good cheer prevailed as each vehicle came up and were loaded up. Deliveries for those who could not make it followed, along with help for later requests in the days following.

Planning, registration, shopping, sorting and packing occupied the better part of two months by the Dundalk Food Bank team. Of course, all of this was made possible with your help. Contributions from businesses, churches, community groups, local schools, families, and individuals all added up to help at Christmas and year round.

As a community group the Dundalk Food Bank has some distinctive features:

- **Flexible:** The food bank can be reached 7 days a week at 519-923-0454, meeting people regularly Tuesdays at 1 pm, or otherwise as needed. Most people can be helped within a day or two, sometimes within an hour or two in urgent need. As a community group, we get to know people and always treat them with respect, as fellow community members. The e-mail, [dundalkfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:dundalkfoodbank@gmail.com) is checked regularly.
- **Collaborative:** The food bank provides engagement for older and younger community members, who find meaningful ways of making a contribution. The food bank works closely with the Township of Southgate, which provides our year-round home in the Dundalk Library Building. This year the Erskine site of the South-East Grey Community Health Centre housed the toys and clothing leading up to Christmas. Collaborating with other groups remains really important to the success of the food bank.
- **Zero Overhead:** With no staff and no administrative costs, all donations to the Dundalk Food Bank go directly to provide for people's needs. The Food Bank does not provide tax receipts, but has worked with the Township of Southgate to make this possible when requested.

The Dundalk Food Bank foresees a challenging year for people in need in our community. In 2021 they provided a total of 474 hampers, serving 1,351 people, including 520 children. But the cost of housing and food continues to grow. As in past years, the shelves are full this January but as the food bank looks ahead to 2022 they are preparing for even more need, and will continue to appeal to the community for your support.

2021 DUNDALK FOOD BANK REPORT			
	Households	Number	Children
Q1	78	202	75
Q2	99	273	110
Q3	83	232	84
Q4	114	324	111
Christmas	100	320	140
TOTAL	474	1351	520