



Community Care of West Niagara Asks West Niagara to "Give Hunger a Voice"

Break the silence surrounding hunger in Canada during Hunger Awareness Week (May 5-9)

Beamsville, Ontario – Community Care of West Niagara is calling on West Niagara residents to break the silence surrounding hunger and Give Hunger a Voice during Hunger Awareness Week (May 5-9, 2014). CCWN is asking community members to voice their stories, their concern, their support and their solutions for hunger on Food Banks Canada's online story wall of hunger.

"Hunger is an issue many people are uncomfortable discussing so during Hunger Awareness Week we are working to make sure the voice of hunger is loud and clear," says Carole Fuhrer, Executive Director. "We encourage everyone in Lincoln and the surrounding area to visit the story wall and hear, or contribute to the multitude of voices of hunger."

Nearly 850,000 Canadians will visit a food bank for assistance this month alone. Of those, 36 per cent are children. Here in Lincoln the need is represented by over 130 households turning to CCWN for support, with about 40% of our clients being children.

The story wall (<u>www.facebook.com/FoodBanksCanada</u>) features photos, videos and written submissions of:

- personal stories of hunger
- supportive messages for those living with hunger
- concern about hunger in Canada
- solutions to ease hunger

Hunger Awareness Week is a week-long initiative that challenges Canadians learn more about the issue of hunger, the important work of food banks and to take action. Together, Canadians can make an impact on the solvable issue of hunger in Canada and find solutions to hunger in communities across Canada.

For more information on Hunger Awareness Week visit www.hungerawarenessweek.ca.

About Hunger Awareness Week

Hunger Awareness Week was created to provide food banks with an opportunity to educate about the reality of hunger in Canada and to encourage all Canadians to make a choice to help those in need. Close to 850,000 individuals turn to food banks for support each month, and close to 2 million Canadians are food insecure, struggling with not knowing where their next meal may come from. Today, more than 800 food banks and 2,900 affiliated agencies work in communities across the country to assist Canadians in need.

Hunger in West Niagara is real. In 2013, CCWN collected over 91,000 pounds of food, and responded to over 13,000 requests for food, clothing, and emergency assistance. The need for CCWN services continue to rise and CCWN endeavors to mobilize the resources required in providing over 140,000 meals that our residents will turn to us for in 2015.

Community Care of West Niagara is a registered charitable non-profit organization that has been serving the communities of Lincoln (Beamsville, Vineland and Jordan) and Grimsby since 1967. CCWN provides a bridge between dependency and self-sufficiency through programs and services to create a positive environment for people to support themselves and their families with dignity and purpose.

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* Source: HungerCount 2013, Food Banks Canada. For the complete 2013 HungerCount report please go to: http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/HungerCount.htm

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