



## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

*Volunteerism is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds. Bill Clinton*

Happy New Year and Happy Ramadan to all and hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a well deserved rest after such a busy season. Together, with our sponsors, supporters and volunteers we were able to serve over 14,000 local residents last year; thank you just isn't enough to tell you how much your help is appreciated!

### CURRENT STATISTICS

2024	ADULTS	SENIORS	CHILDREN	CLIENTS	FAMILIES
HAMPERS	690	90	565	1345	411
BREAD & EXTRAS	1717	452	1420	3589	877
GOOD FOOD BOX	1491	241	1061	2793	809
SNACK ATTACK			6000	6000	800
AFTER THE BELL			560	560	242
MEALS ON WHEELS		62		6	6
ROTARY BIKES	2		31	33	15
COMMUNITY GARDEN	76	3	68	147	32
BACKPACK			38		19
ADOPT A FAMILY	16	2	36	54	11
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS	121	17	94	232	69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4113</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>9873</b>	<b>14759</b>	<b>3291</b>

### VOLUNTEER VIEW

We are so proud and grateful to our volunteers for stepping up to the challenges faced over the past year with so many newcomers choosing Chestermere as home and with our space shrinking at a steady rate. An average of 283 people were served every week; some with language barriers; some with housing issues and most with food issues.

**SUGGESTIONS OR TO UNSUBSCRIBE?**

EMAIL [help@chestermererefoodbank.ca](mailto:help@chestermererefoodbank.ca) or call 403-273-0777

Bay 105, 100 Rainbow Road, CHESTERMERE T1X 0V2

Office hours 10 – noon Monday through Thursday



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Don't forget to "like" our Facebook Page "Chestermere Food Bank" and share with your friends. Thank You! In 2024 over 5,000 volunteer hours were donated to our Food Bank 😊😊😊

## EVENTS

October is always the beginning of our busy season with the Mayors Task Force holding the first meeting on October 1. Shortly afterward 13 volunteers participated in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training which was very informative and well received. We then attended **Trunk or Treat** with approximately 350 children coming by.

**Haunted House** brought in 257 pounds of food as well as cash after their latest Halloween thriller! **Dr. Giggles** has supported us since day 1 and we couldn't be more grateful. We hope they'll still be scaring us for years to come.

Our fundraising **Medium Night** was well attended and quite interesting. Our thanks to Chris Stiller for donating his time!

**Our Lady of Wisdom** held their annual Turkey Trot and raised over 2500 pounds of food. We always look forward to this event; it marks the first of many donations that will enable us to serve many clients.



**Luna P.L.A.Y. Kids** held their Halloween party and raised over 200 pounds. Looks like a fun and great place for the little ones to learn and play.



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**Older Adults Coalition** of Chestermere held their annual Christmas lunch; a sold out event. Our thanks to



the **SHOUT** girls from **Synergy** for coming in to pack 160 Christmas stockings for the event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Casinos are a very important event for non profit organizations to support their programs and services and there are several coming up this year. Casinos held at Ace Casino Blackfoot are earning between \$55,000 and \$65,000 for a two day event and require several volunteers to work various positions for a successful event. No experience is necessary so if you can spare a few hours of your time to help bring this funding into our community, please sign up.

### STRATHMORE ELKS LODGE 491

Monday/Tuesday, February 24 & 25 2025

[fredsweere@gmail.com](mailto:fredsweere@gmail.com)

Contact:

**Ace Casino Blackfoot**

### FRIENDS OF CHESTERMERE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunday/Monday, February 16 & 17

[friendsofclmssocietycasino@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofclmssocietycasino@gmail.com)

Contact:

**Ace Casino Blackfoot**

### CHESTERMERE FOOD BANK

Saturday/Sunday, April 5 & 6 2025

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49ACAC2CA0F5C16-53105162-2025>

Please sign up at:

**Ace Casino Blackfoot**

### FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE SCHOOL SOCIETY

Saturday/Sunday, June 28 & 29 2025

**Ace Casino Blackfoot**

## DONATIONS and THANK YOU!!!

Christmas is always a great relief to get our shelves re-stocked to last us months into the New Year and last year was no exception. The many food drives held late last year gave us the opportunity to add a few extras to Christmas hampers so clients could enjoy the holiday with their traditional foods along with the amazing Christmas hampers provided by **PRATTS FOOD SERVICE**.

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Here's what 1300 lbs. of food looks like – our thanks to **Rainbow Creek School** for their fall food drive!

Our thanks to **Prairie Waters School** for your many food drives through the year; close to 400 lbs. at Christmas!



We thank the **Chestermere Lake Middle School** for your Christmas drive which brought in another 90 pounds



**Rainbow Creek** held another drive at Christmas and donated another 533 lbs. transported by the best **Fire Department** ever!



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The very new **Eastgate Victory Church** located in the Rec Centre made a generous donation after their event in December.



**Lakeside Quilters** were once again busy making gorgeous quilts and gift bags for our clients. The work put into these homemade gifts is amazing!



The **Rotary Club** and John Jenkins continue to provide us with 'like new' bikes and have donated close to 50 bikes to our clients. Another 3 went out with our Christmas hampers making 3 children very happy!



**Chestermere Station Pediatrics** held their annual Christmas party where they donated over 150 lbs. and **F45** donated food and toys just in time for our Christmas hamper distribution.

**Lakeshore Manor** donated several hand made blankets, slippers, hats and scarves along with a great cash donation from their craft sale. Thank you, ladies and your generous donation will keep many clients warm this winter!



**Chestermere Dental** held a month long food/cash drive and Dr. Yue matched all donations with close to 300 pounds donated along with a very generous cash donation.



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The **Lions Club** stopped by with gifts to support our Good Food Box and Meals on Wheels programs and returned with more support. **Rotary Club** of Chestermere continues to support us both with their awesome bikes and also funding to help our operations in general.



**Satya Prakash Ramayan Mandali** Chestermere youth presented us with a very generous donation raised through their organization and Carollyne was in with another generous donation along with a really pretty box of chocolates for our volunteers.

**Strathmore Elks 491** was in with another generous donation; help them out with their Casino!



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\$5,200 was raised this year through **Tim Hortons** Smile Cookie campaign with all proceeds coming our way. Thank you, Andrew and **Tim Hortons**; these cookies are great!



Our thanks to **Safeway** for inviting us to your grand opening and helping us out with our grocery shopping!

And our thanks to Alex and Seun from **No Frills** for a very generous cash donation as well as enough diapers to last quite a while (we hope) 😊 and congratulations again on the new arrival!



And then there was Christmas..... our elves checked Santa's list for each family and packed up over 70 bags donated by **BWI**. Families received quilts, hats, slippers, afghans, candy, toys, specialty foods, toasters and candy among so many other items so generously donated by local residents.



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11 families were adopted this year and our sponsors went way overboard with their gifts. Some of our families had to make 2 trips to get their gifts and food home. With the gifts received, we thought a family of 3 was actually a family of 10!

Three days before our Christmas hamper distribution day, **Pratts** surprised us with well over 800 pounds of treats for clients. We don't normally have mayonnaise, cheez whiz and cookies on our wish list so this was such a treat for the clients. We seldom receive coffee so this was a real joy to receive!



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returned on Monday, December 23 with hampers to feed over 80 families; a gift estimated at over \$25,000! Each family received 4 boxes of frozen, chilled and non-perishable foods - see their menu on the last page as the donation is truly amazing! We just can't thank them enough!



A fantastic lunch was provided by **Dunn & Company** which kept our volunteers going

throughout the day. Our thanks to Laurie; an extremely nice gesture to do for us even though they were closed!

Once Steve and Mike had local deliveries loaded, it took a mere 4 hours to load up families. Our thanks to Mike, Steve, Trevor, Doug, Steve, Carrie, Jackie, Lori, Laura, and Karen for another great and seemingly effortless end to the year!



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Finally, our thanks to **Harmony Health** for our first donation of the New Year! Our ongoing thanks and appreciation to all those giving through Canada Helps, Benevity Causes, ATB, CAF and Paypal which continues to help us out on a recurring basis. And thank you to **CENOVUS, SHELL, and OVINTIV CANADA** for matching employee contributions and of course our thanks to those **EMPLOYEES** who have chosen us as their Charity of Choice! Special thanks to Sharon, Bob, Glen, Navneet, 100 Men Who Care and On Switch Patent.



This time of year we are always humbled and astounded at the incredible amount of support we receive from all of you and haven't found a way to show how truly grateful we are. Together we have given a hand up to over 14,000 people this year, so THANK YOU!

## PROGRAMS

Many of our programs will not start up until spring this year which will give our volunteers a well deserved break. Continuing programs have already started and are well attended.

### HAMPER PROGRAM

Despite being 'closed' since December 23, we have 3 hampers scheduled so far for the first week of January. We don't see this program slowing down any time soon as this is already an increase from January last year.

### BREAD & EXTRAS

This program is seeing an overwhelming increase. Clients can come in on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and receive bread, treats, potatoes, carrots, foods beyond their best before dates, any excess of food we don't have the storage space for (soup, pasta, etc.) and often household items and clothing donations. The program is designed to give a little assistance to those between hampers and has proven to stabilize our hamper program. Many of these clients no longer require full hampers.

### GOOD FOOD BOX

This program is open to all at a cost of \$30 - \$40 depending on the size ordered. Fresh produce averages around \$1.10 per pound. The next order deadline is January 13; see our website for details.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

This program is also open to all and cost varies depending on menu selection. We pick up the meals in Calgary and deliver to your door.

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Thanks always to our local drop off locations! Donations are now being accepted at:



And our thanks to our ongoing sponsors for supporting us on a daily/weekly/monthly basis!



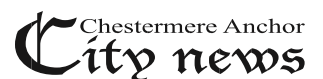
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