

August 27, 2024

For Immediate Release:

Rotary Community Food Bank Drive - 2024 Campaign

We are back! Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 12, 2024!!

For over 30 years the Rotary Clubs of Grande Prairie have been leading an annual campaign to collect food for the Grande Prairie and area Salvation Army Community Food Bank. What began as a brown paper bag in the weekend newspaper has grown into a door-to-door campaign, collecting donations of food and items necessary for daily living for those in need. In 2019, over 1,000 volunteers canvassed the entire city of Grande Prairie as well as nearby county residents collected and stored 47 tons of food within 3 hours, possibly making this the largest foodbank drive of its kind in Canada.

Sadly, the need continues to increase. From 2022 to 2023 the need for the foodbank has increased over 46% and kept rising in 2024 with over 8100 hampers distributed. Close to half the supplies given were to feed children.

We need your help!

On **Thursday, September 12, 2024**, we need volunteers to go door-to-door and collect donations for the Food Bank.

Watch your mailbox – mailers should arrive early September with times and ways to help.

Visit our website www.gpfooddrive.ca sign up your team, donate online or BOTH!

What do we need to register a team?

- Visit www.gpfooddrive.ca and sign up your team of 4-6 people. Invite friends, your children, co-workers, church group, youth group, sports team, or community members at large!
- The teams provide their own transportation and are dispatched with collection boxes and bags as well as signage to identify themselves. The routes take an average of 2 hours to complete. When the route is covered, the team returns to the warehouse to unload the food and enjoy a barbeque.

What should I donate when they come to my door?

- Healthy, non-perishable items. Canned protein (i.e. fish, legumes), canned fruits and vegetables, hearty soups, and school snacks.
- Unopened personal hygiene items (i.e. toothbrushes, feminine products). Tough decisions are made monthly between paying a bill or purchasing the necessary hygiene items.
- Baby items. i.e. non-perishable food, pampers and formula.

Please ***watch the best before and expiry dates.***

Monetary donations:

- The online store is open! Visit www.gpfooddrive.ca have some fun “shopping” and donate funds to the Food Bank! Your donation provides the opportunity to purchase high need items. Tax receipts are available.

Lori Pollock, Committee Chair
Swan City Rotary
780-814-9988

Captain Peter Kim
The Salvation Army
780-933-8013