



Apartment building owners, residents donate more than 126,000 pounds of food in Greater Toronto Apartment Association's annual Spring Hope Food Drive

800+ apartment buildings give to Daily Bread Food Bank, North York Harvest Food Bank and The Mississauga Food Bank

April 15, 2011 - Apartment building owners and residents from over 800 buildings across the Greater Toronto Area joined forces last week, donating more than 126,000 pounds of food as part of the Greater Toronto Apartment Association's (GTAA) annual **Spring Hope Food Drive**.

"Not only is the **Spring Hope Food Drive** an annual tradition, it's a clear example of what can be achieved when we come together as a community to support those in need," said Brad Butt, President and CEO, Greater Toronto Apartment Association. "With the current economic situation, the need this year is greater than ever and I'd like to thank all the participating buildings, residents and volunteers for their continued support and generosity."

The **Spring Hope Food Drive** is a door-to-door collection effort in GTAA-member apartment buildings and demonstrates the GTAA's continued commitment to combating hunger across the GTA at a grassroots level. While Daily Bread Food Bank is the central recipient of the generosity of building owners, staff and tenants throughout the region, local food banks will also directly benefit from the **Spring Hope Food Drive**. The food collected from apartment buildings in the Mississauga and North York regions will go directly to support the clients of The Mississauga Food Bank and the North York Harvest Food Bank.

"Apartment buildings in the GTA play a critical role in helping the Daily Bread Food Bank reach our collection goals and we are grateful to the Greater Toronto Apartment Association for their ongoing support in helping us meet the growing demand for our services," said Gail Nyberg, Executive Director, Daily Bread Food Bank. "Despite these challenging economic times, the building owners and residents dug deep to support this year's drive, which resulted in close to 68,000 pounds of food donated to Daily Bread Food Bank. Even if just one or two small items are donated by each person, it goes a very long way in helping us combat hunger in our city."

"The Mississauga Food Bank is thrilled with the results of this year's **Spring Hope Food Drive**," said Chris Hatch, Executive Director of The Mississauga Food Bank. "Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved in the 2011 drive, more than 21,000 pounds of food will go directly to support our clients in the Mississauga area. The collective effort of all involved will go a long way in helping us address the ever increasing need for the services that food banks provide."

"The food collected from apartment buildings in North York will directly benefit those in need of our services," said Anette Chawla, Executive Director of the North York Harvest Food Bank.

“The local connection and knowing that the food you donate could be supporting someone from your own community really motivates donors. We can’t thank the **Spring Hope Food Drive** participants enough for their generosity, which resulted in more than 36,000 pounds donated.”

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About the Greater Toronto Apartment Association

The GTAA is a municipal association that represents close to 240 companies that own and operate more than 150,000 private apartment units in the Greater Toronto Area. The Association advocates for residential property owners and managers and provides a source of information, representation and leadership in the rental housing industry.