

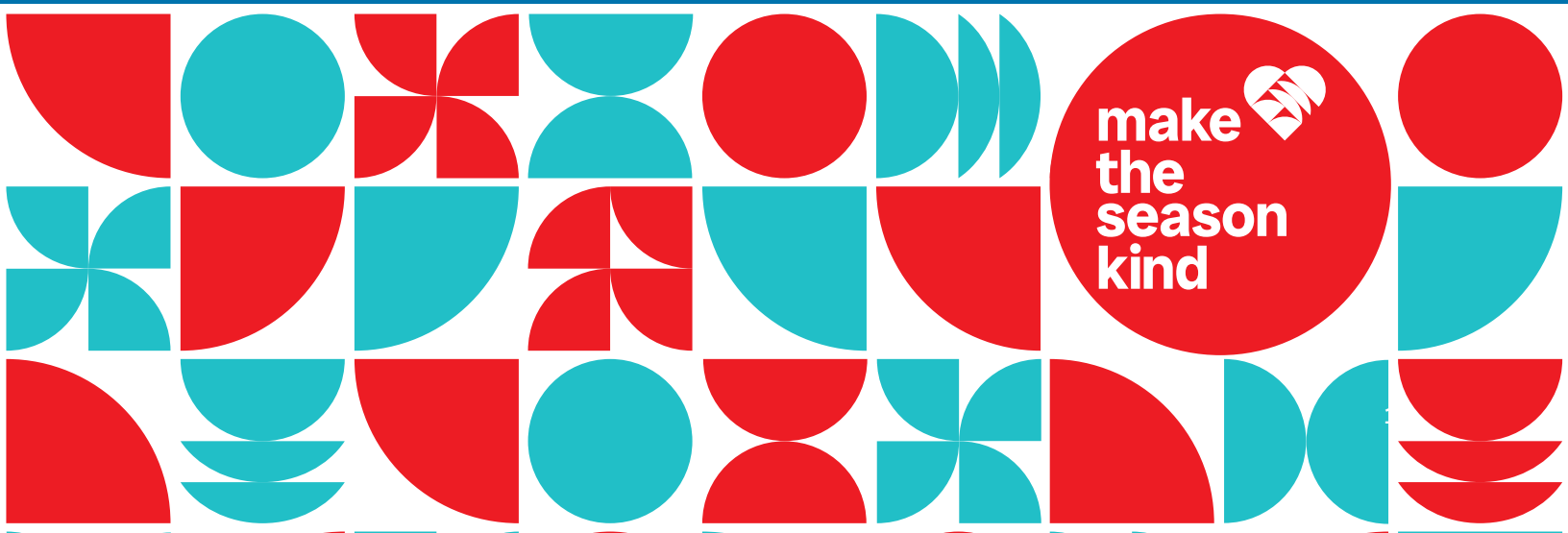
# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Join us and help support local food banks



## SCHOOL CHALLENGE TOOLKIT

Join the fight to end hunger and help provide emergency food access to families in your community this holiday season.



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School Challenge Toolkit

## Attention: Student councils, leadership clubs, and parent councils!!

Hello,

Thank you for raising your hand to help end hunger in our city by mobilizing your school community to participate in the CBC Sounds of the Season School Challenge.

Hunger and food insecurity in the GTA continues to climb, with no sign of slowing down. Month after month, food bank visits continue to shatter records. We are experiencing a crisis. And we need your help.

**Your support will help keep food bank shelves full this holiday season.**

This Toolkit is designed to help you organize a food drive in support of **North York Harvest** as part of CBC's Sounds of the Season School Challenge!

Feel free to get creative in a way that works for your school and school community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need any help!

**And remember - the school that collects the most non-perishable food items by November 30 (proportional to its student population) will win a pizza lunch for the entire school courtesy of Pizza Pizza AND an assembly visit in January with a CBC VIP guest.\***

If you have any questions about running your food drive, please contact Husnia Alokozai at [husnia@northyorkharvest.com](mailto:husnia@northyorkharvest.com).

Thank you in advance for your generous support... and good luck!

*\*See page 9 for details.*

Did you know that nearly 1/3 of food bank clients are children?

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## Benefits of getting involved

1. Help your neighbours who experience hunger and food insecurity
2. Demonstrate compassion and empathy.
3. Become a leader in your school.
4. Inspire friendly competition and creativity.
5. Learn to work as a team.
6. Increase school spirit.
7. Make a difference in your community.

Running a school-wide food drive in support of Daily Bread Food Bank supports the Ministry of Education's strategies for student success, equity, social citizenship, and character education.

## Why we need your leadership now

In the first 6 months of 2023, North York Harvest saw a **34% increase** in the number of visits compared to the same period in 2022.

Food banks receive no government funding for our core operation and rely primarily on the community's generosity to sustain our work.

Fastest growing segments coming to our network – seniors, students, and the employed.

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## Tips for Success

Here are a few tips you might want to consider when planning your food drive:

**Set a start & end date.** We recommend running your food drive for 1-2 weeks. Give students enough notice so that they can bring in their donations on time.

**Set a plan and goal.** Goal setting is a great way to predict the impact that you are going to have in the community. Set a goal for the school and develop a plan to achieve – or even surpass – it! Check on your progress regularly and update the school community along the way.

**Get competitive!** Generate excitement through an intra-school challenge. Give each class a goal. Have classes or grades compete against each other for bragging rights – or even an incentive prize.

**Encourage empathy.** Holding a food drive at your school offers a teachable moment in empathy. Encourage students to imagine what it would be like to go a day without food. How would they feel going to bed hungry or having to focus in class on an empty stomach?

**Give students a chance to lead.** Assign food drive ambassadors in each class and help cultivate the next generation of social impact leaders.

**Spread the word.** Demonstrate your school's leadership and inspire others to help end hunger in your community and keep the campaign top-of-mind. Spread the word during your school's morning announcements. Share a letter with parents. Share posters on your school's website and social media accounts.

**Engage your entire school community.** And neighbours too! Consider creating a flyer for your school and dropping them off at homes nearby. You can invite them to drop donations off during school hours and/or leave a bin outside the main entrance. Alternatively, you can enlist some volunteers to pick up bags from neighbours' front porches on a Saturday or Sunday morning. You can also download [this flyer](#) and add details. Consider promoting your school food drive on community apps like Nextdoor.

**Say thanks.** After your food drive is complete and we've shared your final weight, be sure to thank your school community and celebrate your collective efforts.

*"Some things that helped a lot was doing announcements to the entire school every morning to remind them about the food drive. Also, going to their classes and checking up on their progress was very helpful. We also decided to add a prize for the classes that brought in the most items, and this really encouraged them to continue donating their items. We gave each class a goal and many classes reached their goal as well."*  
– Student Food Drive Organizer

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## Amplify your drive using social media

Engage with your fellow students and your school community online.

**IDEA:** Create a social media plan, prepare content ahead of time to be scheduled and posted by a teacher or a member of your parent council.

**IDEA:** Post about your drive on relevant community platforms like Nextdoor.

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Follow North York Harvest's social accounts and tag us in your content so we can share your campaign with our followers. We love seeing photos of your ideas and events, so please share them with us.



@northyorkharvest  
@CBCToronto



@nyhfb  
@cbctoronto



@nyhfb  
@CBCToronto

#NYHFB

#cbcgives

**REMEMBER,** always follow your School Board's social media policy.

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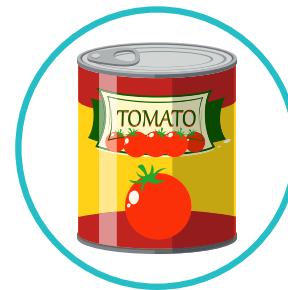
## Most Needed Items



**CANNED FISH  
(TUNA, SALMON,  
SARDINES)**



**RICE, PASTA,  
GRAINS**



**CANNED TOMATOES  
(WHOLE, DICED,  
CRUSHED)**



**CANNED  
VEGETABLES**



**BEANS &  
LENTILS**



**COOKING OIL**

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## Sample Letter to Parents

### We're participating in the CBC Sounds of the Season School Challenge!

[Date]

Dear parents and caregivers,

Did you know that one third of food bank clients are children?

With the rapidly rising cost of living, parents experiencing poverty spend most of their income on housing and utilities, leaving as little as \$8 per person per day to afford food and basic needs.

When children experience hunger, they're at higher risk of developing severe health conditions, behavioural issues, cognitive and physical impairments, and poor grades.

Without enough food, children simply do not have the nutrients or energy they need to learn and grow.

**That's why our school will be participating in the CBC Sounds of the Season School Challenge and hosting a food drive in support of North York Harvest.**

If our school collects the most food (proportional to our student population), we will **win a pizza lunch for the entire school courtesy of Pizza Pizza and an assembly visit in January with a CBC personality.**

Most needed non-perishable foods include:

- Canned fish
- Rice/pasta/grains
- Cooking oil
- Beans & lentils
- Canned vegetables

We are counting on the entire school community to come together. We hope you will join us. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

[Teacher/Food Drive Coordinator Name]

P.S. – To learn more about North York Harvest visit [northyorkharvest.com](http://northyorkharvest.com). To learn more about Sounds of the Season, visit [cbc.ca/sots](http://cbc.ca/sots). If you or anyone you know needs food support, please visit [northyorkharvest.com/find-a-food-bank](http://northyorkharvest.com/find-a-food-bank).

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## Logistics

When you are planning your drive, remember to give yourselves enough time to get your donations back on time.

**REMEMBER: All donations are due back to Daily Bread by 3:00 pm EST on November 30, 2023, to qualify for the Challenge.**

Donations can be dropped off at our main office and warehouse location at 116 Industry Street, Toronto, weekdays from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. When dropping off food, please call ahead at 416-635-7771 x 21 to notify our staff of the time of your arrival. Bring your vehicle around to the back of the building complex and look for the North York Harvest signage.

We also offer pick-up for donations of 500 lbs. or more with a minimum of 1 weeks' notice. To schedule a pick-up, please contact [husina@northyorkharvest.com](mailto:husina@northyorkharvest.com).

**Please download this School Tally Form and attach it to each bag / box/ bin of food your school collects so that we can accurately track your results.**



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## \*The Mice Type – aka the Rules

The Sounds of the Season School Challenge is open to all elementary and secondary schools (Catholic, Public, and Independent) in Brampton, Durham, Mississauga, North York, Toronto, and York.

The winning school will be determined by the total amount of food collected proportional to the student population at the school.

The food must be received by your local food bank no later than 3:00 pm EST on November 30, 2023.

The winning school will be announced by the CBC on December 8, 2023.

The Pizza Lunch prize for the winning school includes: two slices of pizza and one juice or water per student, teacher, and administrative staff. The Pizza Lunch must be coordinated with Pizza Pizza and Daily Bread Food Bank at least two weeks prior. Pizza selection is limited to two toppings per pizza. The prize must be redeemed by January 31, 2024. The value of the prize is based on the student population of the winning school.

The date of the assembly visit in January will be determined in consultation with the winning school, Daily Bread Food Bank, and the CBC.

The prize cannot be substituted.

# Thank You for Your Leadership and Generosity.

Together, we can ensure that our neighbours experiencing hunger can access the nutritious food they need this holiday season.



If you, or anyone you know, needs access to food, please do not hesitate to reach out so that we might help connect you to local food programs.

Learn more at [northyorkharvest.com/find-a-food-bank](https://northyorkharvest.com/find-a-food-bank).

