



friendship inn

Winter 2024

friendshipinn.ca

\$125,000 donation from Nutrien helps Fill the Plate in a BIG way!



partnership on Fill the Plate over the last 12 years has helped encourage community support for the Friendship Inn by shining a light on the struggle for food faced by our neighbours in need every day.”

Beyond Nutrien’s generous financial commitment, their employees volunteer at the Friendship Inn regularly. Teams from across Nutrien’s many divisions and sites are often found in their green aprons, hairnets and gloves working in the kitchen, serving meals and bussing tables in the dining room. Hundreds of volunteer service hours have been invested and shared just this year.

NUTRIEN HAS KICKED-OFF THE SEASON OF GIVING by making a \$125,000 matching donation to help Fill the Plate. The gift – the largest ever in Nutrien’s 12-year history of supporting Fill the Plate – is meant to inspire others to help neighbours in need by addressing hunger.

“At Nutrien, we believe that everyone deserves a warm meal every day, not just during the holiday season,” says Holly Kral, Vice President Commercial Development and Integration. “Countless individuals and families rely on the meals and compassionate services provided by the Friendship Inn. Our mission at Nutrien is to feed the future, beginning with addressing food security challenges in our local community. The Friendship Inn serves as a critical resource for those facing hunger, and we encourage our fellow community members to join us in supporting the Inn’s essential work.”

“The reality of a growing number of vulnerable people in our community translates to greater need for the Friendship Inn’s daily Free Meal Service,” says Friendship Inn Board Chair, Ashala Jacobson. “We are grateful to Nutrien for once again lending their commitment and support of the Inn and our Mission to offer food and friendship to vulnerable people here in Saskatoon. Nutrien’s decision to increase their matching contribution to \$125K this year will help the Friendship Inn keep pace with the growing need for daily meals. Nutrien’s

The Friendship Inn relies on the community to help raise 95% of the funds needed to continue serving meals for vulnerable people. **Fill the Plate** is the Friendship Inn’s biggest fundraiser, and every dollar donated helps to provide a meal for someone who is hungry. Every day, the Friendship Inn is serving an average of 1200+ meals for children, adults and seniors in need.

\$6 helps to fill one plate. And thanks to Nutrien’s \$125,000 donation, gifts received in December up to that amount will be matched! Every dollar donated helps to provide a meal for someone who is hungry.

Thank-you Nutrien, for believing in and supporting the Friendship Inn in our Mission to offer food and friendship for the most vulnerable people in our community.

Nutrien™
Feeding the Future™



Generosity comes in many forms

SOME DAYS I'M A CHEAPSKATE, SOME DAYS I'M LAVISH – my kids figured that out when they were young and would strategically time their requests for things. My husband, on the other hand, is consistently generous, maybe too much so. The other day he came home without socks – he literally gave away the socks he was wearing to someone in need. He scores off the charts with his level of generosity (and trust me, I have many, many more stories I could share).

I suppose that's my point – generosity comes in many forms, and in various times and seasons. At the Friendship Inn, I have the privilege of experiencing remarkable acts of generosity almost every day. I see people being incredibly generous with their actions, their words, with their time and their money.

For example, a friend of the Inn took it upon herself to help gather donated bread to support the many sandwiches we make and serve daily. She would pick up 500 loaves of bread, twice a week, in the early evening hours, to bring to the Inn the next day. Her SUV probably smelled like a bakery all the time (maybe that's a nice perk...!) I would consider the sacrifice of two evenings a week of your valuable time and effort as 'off the charts' generosity!

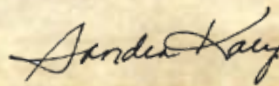
Another volunteer recently stopped by the Admin offices specifically to hand us an envelope. We opened it to discover a donation cheque. He had struck up a conversation with our Director of Operations while cutting vegetables one day, and heard of our plan to create greater efficiency, better inventory flow and storage space. He wanted to help – and this was his expression of 'off the charts' generosity.

Last week, I struck up a conversation with a guest who shared a bit of her story. Hers was a tragic story of loss. She was a victim of violence, had experienced living on the streets, and endured many seasons with literally no earthly possession to her name. Because of her experience, her mission in life is to take care of others on the street, and share anything she can to ease another's burden. Being near someone who is so 'off the charts' in her generosity while still in a place of poverty – it really was breathtaking.

Generosity comes in many forms – gifts of money, the sacrifice of time and effort, sharing material possessions, or even just a kind word. And you know, the biggest lesson I've learned about generosity is that it's not really intended for spectators, it's best enjoyed as a participant.

As we enter the Christmas season and the spirit of generosity abounds, may you receive generosity, and also be inspired to give generously in all of the wonderful and unique ways that are available to you. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas. Thank-you for your generosity to the Inn and the guests we serve.

In friendship,



Sandra Kary,
Executive Director



Honouring Stephanie Hughes

FEW PEOPLE EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY AND DEDICATION QUITE LIKE STEPHANIE HUGHES. As a long-time donor and devoted volunteer, Stephanie's commitment to the Friendship Inn is evident. Serving seven years as a member of our Board of Directors, including two years as Board Chair and an additional year as Past Chair, Stephanie offered leadership, thoughtful guidance and wise counsel. She was instrumental in helping to steward the Inn through dual crises of a global pandemic and an exponential increase in the community's need for meals.

With her time on the Board coming to an end this past October, we were grateful to publicly recognize Stephanie as an exemplary friend of the Inn with an Honoured Supporter Award during *National Philanthropy Day celebrations*. Stephanie's unwavering passion inspires those around her and makes her a true champion of the Inn. Thank-you Stephanie!



We wish to acknowledge and thank the volunteer members of our Board of Directors

WHO COLLECTIVELY GUIDE THE INN by offering expertise, insight, sage advice and strategic direction to our daily work.



Back row L-R: Jordan Arndt, Andrew Hodson, Sarah Wingerak, Sandra Kary (ED), Ashley Petite, Holly Kelleher

Front row L-R: Dani Nichols, Denis Sirois (Treasurer), Melanie Christianson, Ashala Jacobson (Chair), Tammy Martins, Karen Lloyd

Missing: Nadine Connolly, Jonathan Huntington, Joelle Sparvier

The Board is supported by:

- Executive Director, Sandra Kary
- Director of Operations, Robert Wyma
- Development & Engagement Manager, Laura Herman
- Finance & Administration Manager, Matthew Hutchings

The Friendship Inn served a record 2,384 meals on Thanksgiving Monday.



Offering food & friendship A glimpse into the Friendship Inn dining room ...

GUESTS OF THE FRIENDSHIP INN represent our city's most vulnerable population, so we strive to treat everyone compassionately and without judgment. For many people, a warm welcome from staff and volunteers at the Inn may be the only kindness they receive in a day. Often, the Inn is someone's sole source of stability, providing a sense of belonging, connection and humanity.

There are no broad strokes to define or paint a picture of a typical Friendship Inn guest, except for their basic need for nourishment. In some way, each person is impoverished and vulnerable, regardless of their age or ability, race, religion, gender or background. We see newborn babies alongside seniors whose bodies show the toll of many years lived. We welcome those who are able-bodied and those who are painfully frail. We serve friends who are boisterous and happy together with those who are silent, angry or traumatized. The playful squeals of a child can echo simultaneously with the voice of someone in distress or delusion.



Often, the Inn is someone's sole source of stability, providing a sense of belonging, connection and humanity.

The Friendship Inn dining room is a picture of humanity: a community table where those in need are served with compassion by our dedicated team and energetic volunteers who try to offer hope with every meal.



Hunger is happening.

We're serving well over 1200 meals everyday, and we need your help to make sure no one goes hungry.
\$6 fills one plate.

FOOD:

Turkeys, potatoes, carrots, onions, sugar, coffee, hot chocolate mix

FINANCIAL DONATIONS:

Always needed and always appreciated!

COATS, MITTS, GLOVES, SOCKS & TOQUES:

Warm clothing helps guests deal with cooler weather.

DONATION DROP-OFF:

Daily from 7:30am-2:30pm at 619 20th Street West
Please ring the doorbell adjacent to the overhead garage door in the alley.

THANK-YOU!

YES, I want to FILL the PLATE



friendship inn


GIVE the GIFT of FOOD this season!

All eligible donations will receive a charitable tax receipt. Charitable Registration Number: 119140937 RR0001

- \$6000 Fill the Plate Daily Sponsorship
- \$3000 Fill the Plate Half Day Sponsorship
- \$600 helps serve 100 meals
- \$300 helps serve 50 meals
- \$150 helps serve 25 meals
- \$120 helps serve 20 meals
- \$60 helps serve 10 meals



WAYS TO GIVE:

- Cheque**, payable to the *Saskatoon Friendship Inn* and mailed or dropped off at 619-20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X8. We're open 7 days a week from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- VISA or Mastercard**. Call us at 306-242-3979 to make a single donation or sign up to be part of our monthly giving program.
- You can give securely online at www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online/....or scan this QR Code now 
- E-Transfer to donate@friendshipinn.ca** No passwords necessary, we use auto-deposit!
Please include your NAME, MAILING ADDRESS and EMAIL ADDRESS in the message section so we can issue your receipt.

