



# friendship inn

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## Fueling Hope: Nutrien's \$125K Matching Donation Powers Goal to Raise 200,000 Meals for People in Need

200,000 MEALS — it's the most ambitious goal ever for the Friendship Inn's annual *Fill the Plate* campaign. With a growing number of people turning to the Inn for support, nearly half a million meals are expected to be served this year for community members facing hunger.

Every meal funded through Fill the Plate helps to sustain the Inn's Daily Free Meal Program ensuring when someone is struggling, a nutritious meal is waiting. Once again, Nutrien is stepping up to match donations made in December up to a total of \$125,000. With just \$5 providing a meal for someone who is hungry, your gift will DOUBLE to help the Inn reach our goal this holiday season.

"Nutrien has been a key partner for 13 years, and we are grateful for their dedication to addressing food security for our city's most vulnerable citizens," says Friendship Inn Board Chair, Ashala Jacobson. "We deeply value Nutrien's commitment to supporting the Inn's Daily Free Meal Service — especially

as we continue to respond to growing demand. My hope is that YOU will be inspired by Nutrien's generosity and encouraged to give as well, so the Inn can keep serving our neighbours with food and friendship. No one should be hungry."

***"Nutrien is committed to feeding the future and strengthening the communities around us," says Jeff Holzman, SVP Investor Relations & FP&A. "The Friendship Inn's Fill the Plate campaign supports an essential service that offers nourishment, dignity, and connection for individuals and families in need all year long. Let's address food security challenges together – please join us in donating to help make 200,000 meals possible."***

Raising 200,000 meals through the holiday Fill the Plate campaign is vital for the Friendship Inn, as we aim to meet the anticipated need for half a million meals this year. Every year the Inn must fundraise 95% of the financial resources required to deliver its Free Meal Program, so every \$5 donation helps, and ensures someone in our community receives a nourishing meal.

Beyond their financial support, Nutrien employees are also regular volunteers at the Inn. Donning their green aprons, team members from across the company's many sites and divisions roll up their sleeves to help prepare and

serve meals. Their enthusiasm, smiles, and energy are a welcome boost to everyone at the Inn — and a tangible expression of Nutrien's community spirit.

Thank you, Nutrien, for believing in and supporting the Friendship Inn as we make meals happen for people who may otherwise go hungry. Please join Nutrien in helping us reach 200,000 meals raised this holiday season.

**Nutrien™**  
Feeding the Future™



**FRIENDSHIPINN.CA**

# Tidings of Comfort and Macaroni

WE GATHERED ON SEPTEMBER 25TH WITH FIVE INDIGENOUS ELDERS to hear their stories and wisdom about food. Our desire was to hear about the traditions, ceremonies and comforts of food in order to learn and inspire us even more, and deepen our understanding of how we are serving more than just a meal.

We heard stories from Elder Nancy how their people primarily fished and the importance of moose to the northern tribes - the bison didn't come that far north. We heard from Elder Mary how they were taught to be self-sustaining, hunting and using all parts of the animal, and the foraging, gardening and preserving of food. Elder John made us laugh with moose calls and the story of how the loon song came to be. And Elder Allan spoke candidly about the challenges for him to cross cultures and eat unfamiliar foods that were hard to stomach, particularly when they were served without care or love. The sharing clearly shaped that food is more than just nutrition - food is caring, food is family, belonging, and tradition. Food is healing and hope.

Ashley Petite, a Board member and Chair of the Inn's Inclusion and Indigenous Relations Committee, emceed the panel, and shared her own stories of how she would often make a special meal of traditional foods and deliver it to loved ones when they were in the hospital (tomato macaroni was a favourite!). That picture solidifies in so many ways the depth and meaning of a meal - for the one who cooked it with great love and care, and the one who received it and was nourished in every way.

The dining room of the Friendship Inn is not exactly a hospital bedside moment, but some days it's pretty close. Some guests come to us in great need, hungry for food, but also needing compassion and practical support. Every day we are flooded with people who are looking for social connection, a moment to be seen or to experience a kind exchange.

As I write this, Albert's face comes to mind. He's the first one at the Inn each day, often waiting outside and sitting on his walker, eager to get to his favourite spot which is the closest to the door. It's an odd spot to pick, as it would be the coldest place to plant. Every day I say hello to Albert, and every day he tells me 'you're late!' It's kind of true, Albert beats us all to the Inn, even if we are on time to start our workday. Every day I respond to Albert, exchanging a few words and joking that 'I'm early for tomorrow!' Albert greets many who come in, it's his delight, and gives him purpose. He is our sentinel, our greeter, his elderly presence holding space and naturally inviting respect for all who must traverse in and out. Albert is at the Inn for more than just food, and we are grateful and delighted to have him.

The Friendship Inn serves many, many meals each day, and encounters many, many people, some if only for a few moments. We are inspired by the Elders' words and stories of the power of food, and the friendship and hope it conveys. As we head towards a big holiday meal in the Christmas season ahead, I would encourage you to consider that the everyday meal has just as much impact, maybe more. Turkey dinners are amazing, but the tomato macaroni dish that you prepare regularly also brings a sense of comfort and joy!

Thank you for joining with us to serve a Christmas meal and all the everyday meals throughout the cold winter months ahead. Your support inspires us to keep cooking and serving with compassion and hope.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas season,



## 'Indigenous Relationship to Food' Gathering September 25



L to R: Ashley Petite, Elder Allan Bonaire, Elder Mary Lee, Elder Sandra Laliberte, Elder John Merasty, Elder Nancy Netmaker

*The Friendship Inn board and staff and many of our community partners spent time learning from five Indigenous Elders representing various language groups in Treaty 6 about their relationship to food and its cultural importance. Stories of tradition and family were shared, together with the Elders' personal reflections on how food plays a central role in identity, healing, sense of place, and connection to the land. The discussion was a rich experience and helped deepen our understanding of how food is central to well-being.*

# Hope: a feeling of desire for something and confidence in the possibility of its fulfillment. An optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes.

THE INN'S VISION STATEMENT, 'A community without hunger, a people with hope' guides and shapes our daily work. But what does hope actually mean? During a recent staff meeting, the team reflected on what hope means to us personally, and what we think it means to guests of the Inn. A sampling of responses below – in no particular order – are offered to convey the deep connection felt by our staff to their work and the people served at the Inn.

- Maybe tomorrow will be better
- One guest frequently talks about her plans to give back to the community – to provide others with a sense of hope that things will get better
- A wish for change and belief that it can
- Hope is a desire to be recognized as an individual who matters
- Hope is feeling like someone cares
- Lights a fire within you that helps you go through your day; gives meaning and purpose for life
- Hope brings stability and joy for guests
- Hope is reassurance of a good meal to get through the day
- Ability to find friends and build relationships with others who understand
- Hope is the grateful heart the environment of the Inn causes me to have
- What I see everyday at the Inn makes my life so much easier for me
- Hope is the fist bumps, smiles and verbalizations of gratitude from guests
- Hope is the work we do and how we feel here
- Hope is food to survive
- Friendship Inn is a community and it brings hope knowing that we care
- Hope is someone to show they're worth loving and worthy of love

## Leadership

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.

The Board is supported by:

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



Back row L-R: Nadine Connolly (Vice-Chair), Jordan Arndt, Andrew Hodson, Sarah Wingerak, Denis Sirois (Treasurer), Autumn Baptiste, Stella Spanos  
Front row L-R: Melanie Christianson, Samantha Mapletoft, Dani Nichols, Ashala Jacobson (Chair), Sandra Kary (CEO), Tammy Martins  
Missing: Ashley Petite, Karen Lloyd

## Stories from the Inn

MELANIE shared a bit of her journey to finding the Inn. 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.

JONATHAN, a regular guest of the Inn, has a noticeable sweet tooth. He is very focused on familiar routine and patterns, typically arriving only a few minutes before the end of a meal service and choosing to be seated at his favorite table. When returning his own meal tray to the bussing station, Jonathan habitually checks the other returned trays for uneaten cupcakes, pastries and desserts – treasures he 'sneaks' into his pockets for later.



**The Friendship Inn served a record 2,507 meals on Thanksgiving Monday, and we will prepare for a similar offering on Christmas Day.**



# Fill the Plate WISH LIST...

## FOOD:

Turkeys, potatoes, carrots, celery, onions, bread, 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 - 2:15pm at 619 20th Street West.

Please ring the doorbell adjacent to the garage door in the alley.

**THANK-YOU!**

**We anticipate serving over half a million meals for vulnerable people in need this year - and we can't do it alone. 95% of our Free Meal Program depends on fundraising, so every dollar counts.**

**GIVE the GIFT of FOOD and help us RAISE 200,000 meals this holiday season. Your \$5 donation will make a meal for someone in need.**

**YES, I'll help  
FILL the PLATE**



**\$5  
Fills one  
plate**

**friendship inn**

### Recognition as a Fill the Plate Campaign Meal Donor:

**\$10,000** helps serve **2000** meals | **\$8,000** helps serve **1600** meals | **\$6,000** helps serve **1200** meals  
**\$3000** helps serve **600** meals | **\$1000** helps serve **200** meals | **\$500** helps serve **100** meals | **\$100** helps serve **20** meals

### GIVING is Easy:

- **Cheque**, payable to *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 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- **VISA or Mastercard**. Call Laura 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](http://www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online) or scan the QR Code to make your donation through the Friendship Inn secure giving portal.
- **E-Transfer** to [donate@friendshipinn.ca](mailto:donate@friendshipinn.ca) No passwords necessary, we use auto-deposit! Please include your email address in the message so we can issue your charitable receipt.



**Nutrien** encourages you to "Fill the Plate" by matching gifts up to a total of \$125,000.

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