friendship inn

Winter 2026

Nutrien's $125K Matching donation helps turn generosity into meals, and meals into hope.

The Friendship Inn's annual Fill the Plate campaign has set its most ambitious goal yet: raise 250,000 meals for people in our community who are facing hunger.

It's a really big goal, and the need is even bigger. This year, the Inn expects to serve more than 615,000 meals to people who turn to us for nourishment, connection, and a safe place to belong. Every meal funded through Fill the Plate is an opportunity to offer kindness, connection, and a reminder there is someone who cares.

Again this season, Nutrien is helping make every gift go twice as far by matching donations to the Friendship Inn during December, up to $125,000.

"Nutrien is committed to feeding the future and strengthening the communities around us," says Angela Giroux, Vice President and Chief Integrity and Privacy Officer. "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 250,000 meals possible."

"Nutrien's generosity and support directly benefits guests who rely on the Inn's services," says Friendship Inn Board Chair, Nadine Connoly. "We are so grateful for Nutrien's partnership over the last 14 years. Their investments in community and commitment to championing food security helps ensure the Friendship Inn can respond compassionately when someone comes to us in need. I hope Nutrien's matching donation will inspire everyone to make a gift so the Inn can continue offering food, friendship and compassion to those who are less fortunate. Everyone deserves to feel hope, especially during the holidays."



Nutrien's commitment to the Inn goes beyond financial support. Throughout the year, Nutrien employees proudly wear their green aprons and get to work helping to prepare and serve meals for guests of the Inn. Their smiles, energy, and willingness to lend a hand bring the spirit of community to life.



The Inn relies on community generosity to make meals happen. Every year, we need to raise roughly 95% of the financial and food resources necessary to operate our Daily Free Meal Program. Every gift matters. Every meal makes a difference. And every act of generosity adds up.

Together, with Nutrien's matching gift, we can fill 250,000 plates and help ensure neighbours in need have something to look forward to when they come through the Inn's doors: a warm meal, a welcoming place, and the feeling that they matter. This is hope.

Please join Nutrien this giving season. Give today. Fill a plate. Share hope.

Nutrien™
Feeding the Future™

Matching donations up to $125,000

www friendshipinn.ca
306-242-5122
619 20th St. West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X8

Merry Christmas and Happy Super El Niño!

They say it's going to be a 'Super El Niño' year, potentially bringing one of the warmest winters since 1878! Good news... unless you've just bought a snowblower or are dreaming of building the best snow fort ever in your backyard! Planning for winter, whether for practical reasons or just for fun, is a prairie preoccupation. And we respect winter, even in an El Niño year, because let's face it, the most exciting weather news of the century may still amount to only a few degrees warmer!

Even with a warmer winter ahead, our vulnerable neighbours will continue to face increased hardship.

I was talking with a couple the other day, Charlie and Gina. They are a blended family with five children. Gina uses a wheelchair. They told me they come to the Inn almost every day, and I asked how they managed during the winter months. They looked at each other, then back at me, and said, "...well, Gina doesn't go out much in the winter." I didn't probe much further, figuring Charlie would likely keep bringing the kids to the Inn and then grab something from our take-away window to take home to his wife.

I also chatted with another guest, Sarah, a single mom with a toddler in her arms. Her little one was already dressed in a snowsuit, gripping a spoon, with spaghetti sauce smeared in a big circle around her smiling face. Sarah told me she comes with her family fairly often, especially when their food hampers run out. It was clear this mom was facing some tough choices. Preparing for winter likely meant prioritizing second-hand snowsuits over groceries.

Then there was Gerald. Articulate, reasonably dressed, and with a twinkle in his eye, you wouldn't guess he was 67, or homeless, except for his fairly toothless grin. Gerald had lost two wives, his home, his identification, and, in many ways, his sense of direction. He told me about life in shelters and on the streets. "I'm getting too old for this," he said.

Gerald also shared how the Inn had helped him obtain new ID and encouraged him to file his taxes to see if he might have benefits awaiting him. To his delight, he discovered that a significant amount of pension and other benefits was available. Now, he is looking for a place of his own to rent. Things are looking up for Gerald as he heads into the winter months ahead.

As you prepare for winter, whether for the fun things or the fundamental necessities, would you consider increasing your gift to help us respond to the growing needs in our community? With every additional $5, we can prepare another meal, serve another neighbour, and bring a little more friendship and hope to someone facing hardships this season.

Thank you for your generosity and for the care and warmth you share with us. It's warmth that we, in turn, pass along to our neighbours in need.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a warm El Niño winter ahead! (But be careful... it might just turn out to be the iciest winter ever.)

Sandra Kary

Chief Executive Officer

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.



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

The Board is supported by:

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

Through our most recent three-year Strategic Planning session in Spring 2026, the Board and Management thoughtfully considered how best to refresh the Friendship Inn value statements to ensure they capture and reflect the work and spirit of the Inn. The following Values were formally adopted by the Board in October 2026.

Our Values

Building Friendship with Food: The way we connect with our vulnerable neighbours is with an offering of food, primarily through our dine-in experience. Building relationships and providing support is a focus in our daily work.

Respect for Everyone: We purposefully create a dignified dining experience where all are welcomed as guests – no questions asked. We serve every person with respect, kindness, and offer hope through friendship.

Supported by our Community: We humbly steward the food, financial, and volunteer resources that are shared with us. As our community's dining table, we responsibly serve community need with the resources we have available.

Friendship Inn Family: We build the culture of care through friendship, sharing, laughing, and working together as a team. We actively resolve challenges with empathy, kindness, compassion, and charity. Our goal is that each board and staff member feels a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

Stories from the Inn

A family was evicted due to missing their rent payments. They were homeless and staying with various friends until finally securing a new space - a garage with no heat.
While our team advocated on their behalf and further assisted with housing referrals, the family used space heaters to keep themselves warm in the winter, keeping their outerwear on at all times.
Meals at the Inn supported the family to stay together and remain sheltered by helping them be able to cover the rent for the garage.



Scott was in for breakfast, knowing he would not be attending school that day so would miss out on the food shared there.
Scott wouldn't go to school without his sister, Jen, and she didn't have any clean clothes to wear. The family hadn't been able to do their laundry because of the expense.
We were able to connect the family with emergency resources in hopes both Scott and Jen would be able to have the confidence to attend school again.

Fill the Plate WISH LIST



FOOD:
Turkey, ham, potatoes, carrots, celery, onions, bread, sugar, coffee, hot chocolate mix

FINANCIAL DONATIONS:
Always needed and always appreciated!

COATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, SOCKS & TOQUES:
warm outerwear helps guests deal with cooler weather.

DONATION DROP-OFF:
Daily from 7:30 am - 2:15 pm at 619 20th St. W.
Please ring the doorbell adjacent to the garage door in the alley.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL BOB AT 306-242-3980

Your support makes a difference.

We anticipate serving more than **615,000 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.

$5 provides a nourishing meal. $5 equals one more plate filled. $5 means one less person going hungry.

Thank-you for helping us make the next meal!

YES, I'll help Fill the Plate!

GIVE the GIFT of FOOD

to help us RAISE 250,000 meals this holiday season.
Your $5 donation will make a meal for someone in need.

$5 makes a meal

$10,000 helps serve **2,000 meals** **$8,000** helps serve **1,600 meals**
$6,000 helps serve **1,200 meals** **$3,000** helps serve **600 meals** **$500** helps serve **100 meals**
$1,000 helps serve **200 meals** **$100** helps serve **20 meals**

Nutrien™ Feeding the Future™ *encourages you to "Fill the Plate" by matching donations up to a total of $125,000.*

All eligible donations will receive a charitable tax receipt. | Charitable Registration Number: 11914 0937 RR0001

GIVING IS EASY

Cheque: payable to Saskatoon Friendship Inn, 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 2:15 pm.

VISA or Mastercard: call Orysia at 306-242-3981 to make your donation or sign up to be part our monthly meal giving program.

Securely online at www.friendshipinn.ca/donate-online or **Scan the QR code** to make your donation through our secure online giving portal.

E-transfer to 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.

Gifts of Securities or Share Transfer: call Laura at 306-242-3979 for brokerage instructions.

SCAN TO DONATE

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