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## Kiwanis come through in a big way for Community Care

Alison Brownlee

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There is an increasing demand for food bank resources in the region, and the Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines helped ease that demand by donating \$15,000 of dry goods to Community Care.

"The food was purchased with proceeds from the Duck Race, which Avondale Food Stores was a major sponsor for," said Jack McKiernan, president of the Kiwanis Club. Everything from dry pasta and sauce to canned vegetables, apple juice, flour and boxed cookies was purchased at cost from Avondale and delivered by the store to the Community Care warehouse in St. Catharines.

"It's good to be able to put back into the community," said McKiernan. "This is one way we do it."

He added that, although there are many groups in need of assistance in the community, Community Care is the club's biggest benefactor.

"This year, Community Care had such a need that we felt the need to help them," he said.

Betty-Lou Souter, CEO of Community Care, who was on hand to watch as the warehouse was filled with almost 20,000 pounds of food, said it came at the best possible time.

"We've hit a critical point with our inventory," she said. "This will give us enough to get through the next few months until our next major food drive."

Souter said Kiwanis partnered with Community Care in December and again in May for the group's 90 for 90 drive. "It's a partnership that makes our community a better place," she said.

Despite reports that the recession has come to a close, Souter said Community Care needs as many donations as it can get.

"People who lost their jobs six months ago are filtering down to us," she said. "They've hit a wall and have nowhere else to go. We're about six months behind the crisis, so we'll need six months to fill that gap."

More than 130 families in the Region are assisted with food from Community Care each day. Demand has increased by 18 per cent since last year.

For more information visit [www.stcatharineskiwanis.com](http://www.stcatharineskiwanis.com) or [www.ccac-ont.ca](http://www.ccac-ont.ca).



### Kiwanis come through in a big way for Community Care.

Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines President Jack McKiernan (left), Community Care CEO Betty-Lou Souter and Avondale Food Stores General Manager Larry Stewart help unload a truckload of dry goods at the Community Care warehouse. *Alison Brownlee/Staff Photo*

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