

Feeding Windsor Essex: After School Soup Konnection (A.S.S.K)

The Kiwanis Club of Windsor is pleased to partner with Feeding Windsor Essex to deliver the After School Soup Konnection (A.S.S.K) program, an ongoing initiative designed to support children living in low-income housing. This program, spearheaded by Rodger Fordham, aims to address food insecurity and social isolation among children from Junior Kindergarten and up in the Lassaline, Grandview, and Curry/Mckay communities.

Program Overview

The A.S.S.K program operates every Friday after school, serving 50 children in each of the three communities. Each child receives a nutritious 12oz bowl of hearty soup, a bun, and a to-go bag filled with instant oatmeal, apple sauce, a sandwich, instant soup pack, granola bar, cheese stick, carrots, dip, fruit, juice, and more, depending on donations. This initiative ensures that children have access to healthy food options over the weekend when school meals are not available.

Community Impact

Feeding Windsor Essex serves a total of 150 children across Windsor's low-income neighborhoods. The Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation has generously provided space in all three housing complexes, allowing us to distribute the soup and to-go bags directly to the children in need.

Volunteer Contributions

The success of the A.S.S.K program is made possible through the dedication of volunteers from the Kiwanis Club and the University of Windsor CKI club. These volunteers not only help prepare and package the meals but also deliver them to the designated locations. Their commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in the program's ongoing success.

Funding and Support

The A.S.S.K program is funded through a combination of grants and donations. The Kiwanis Foundation of Canada Community Street Outreach Grant has provided \$2,000, with matching funds from Kiwanis Club of Windsor. Additionally, the University of Windsor CKI club has secured \$1,000 USD through the Tomorrow Fund to support this initiative. The total project cost is approximately \$30,000 per year, covering the cost of meals for 150 children over 40 weeks.

Looking Ahead

As the A.S.S.K program continues to grow, we look forward to hosting end-of-year hotdog days and a beginning-of-school bash to further engage and support the children in our community. These

events will provide additional opportunities for children to connect, have fun, and enjoy nutritious meals.