Moving in the Spirit: Fill a Van Event (FAVE) Overflows with Community Generosity

Our community came together in a spectacular way to support the London Food Bank **through our recent "Fill a Van" event.** What began as an urgent response to a critical shortage turned into a heartwarming celebration of collective goodwill.

Turning the Tide on Hunger

The idea for the event sparked ten days ago when we learned some concerning news. Just one week before the end of the London Food Bank's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, city-wide donations were down by 25% compared to the previous year.

Thankfully, the wider London community stepped up in the final days of the drive, pushing total numbers 25% past last year's goals. Here at Wesley-Knox, we wanted to keep that incredible momentum going.

A True Collaborative Effort

Our designated donation window ran from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM outside the church Sunday afternoon.
Food Bank co-founders Jane Roy and Glen Pearson and EJ Lamb were on-hand to personally accept the offerings.





Jane quickly proved herself to be an absolute expert at packing the vehicle—her impressive skills looked exactly like a real-life game of Tetris!

A variety of local groups and individuals stepped up to make the afternoon a success:

- **Wesley-Knox congregation members** who brought bags filled with non-perishable staples.
- **The London Spiritualist Church** members stopped by on the way to their gathering
- **Friends** from the neighborhood popped in starting at 11:20AM.
- **Shout Sisters Choir** members who raised their voices and their support.
- **Halloween Bingo players** who generously kicked off the giving the night before the main event.
- **City Councillor Skylar Franke** and her young son, who dropped by to deliver a donation and share in the community pride.



Catch the Coverage

The energy outside our doors caught the attention of local media outlets. If you missed the live broadcasts, you can still check out the coverage online:

- **CTV London:** Brent Lale was on-site capturing the bustling afternoon: https://www.ctvnews.ca/london/article/old-south-church-helps-fill-the-van-for-london-food-bank/
- **CBC Radio:** Chris Ensign hosted an on-air interview on *London Morning* ahead of the event. Listen to the CBC Soundbite: https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-158-london-morning/clip/16244620-one-day-only-donation-drive-london-food-bank



Keep an eye out for additional upcoming feature articles in the *Wortley Villager*, Western University's *Gazette*, and the Fanshawe College student news.

Thank You!

By the time the doors were closed, the London Food Bank van was well stocked with canned goods, cereal, pasta, fresh produce, and essential household items.

To everyone who, donated, promoted, or packed: **THANK YOU!**

Seeing what can happen when we collectively put our faith and love into action truly makes the heart warm.