

Media Advisory

For immediate release

Help Alleviate Hunger and Spread Holiday Cheer in Your Community with Clarington Public Library

November 21, 2018—Clarington Public Library is spreading holiday cheer this December! The Library is hosting its tenth annual Food for Fines food drive from Saturday, December 1 to Saturday, December 15, and will again be presenting a holiday card to Lakeridge Health’s Bowmanville Hospital filled with community signatures and well wishes.

Food for Fines allows Library members to help alleviate hunger and food insecurity in their community by donating food in lieu of fines owed on their account, up to a maximum of \$5. Food donations are welcome even if no fines are owed.

“Our members are able to reduce their fines while helping local families,” says Terri Gray, Clarington Public Library Board Chair. “It’s a win-win for everyone involved. It’s a wonderful feeling seeing our community respond with such generosity and all the food that’s collected.”

Over the past years, the Library has collected over 6,800 items of food for the Clarington East Food Bank, the Salvation Army, and St. Vincent de Paul for distribution across Clarington. The Library will display “Dear Santa” tags hung on the Christmas trees in each branch, highlighting food items that are especially in need at the food banks.

“Last year the Dear Santa tags were very successful,” continues Ms. Gray. “We had several families come in to select a tag for each family member and then head straight to the grocery store. The tags feature items that may be overlooked when people are donating, but are needed by local families in need.”

The Lakeridge Health Bowmanville holiday card also allows community members to give back during this special time of year. The large card will be visiting each of the Library’s four branches. Community members have the opportunity to sign, write a message, or draw a picture for those who must remain in hospital over the holidays and their families.

“We’re happy to partner with Clarington Public Library for another holiday season,” says Vicki Adams, Coordinator of Volunteer Resources at Lakeridge Health. “It’s hard when a hospital stay is keeping you away from family and friends, especially at this time of year.

The card helps deliver some of those warm thoughts and holiday cheer right to their rooms.”

The holiday cheer begins on Saturday, December 1 with the start of Food for Fines at all branches, the Lakeridge Health Bowmanville holiday card available at the Bowmanville Branch, and Member Appreciation Day at the Bowmanville Branch from 10am to 2pm.

For more information about Food for Fines, the Lakeridge Health Bowmanville holiday card, and the Library’s full line-up of holiday programs this December, please visit their website at www.clarington-library.on.ca/holidays2018.

-END-

Contact:
Sarah Vaisler, Deputy Director
905-623-7322 ext. 2705
svaisler@clarington-library.on.ca