

WINTER 2026

## You're changing lives like Mickey's

Every day, your support touches and changes lives here in Hamilton.  
Mickey's story is living proof.

For more than 30 years, Mickey dedicated his life to helping vulnerable neighbours. He worked in social services in Hamilton, Toronto, and on the East Coast—never imagining that one day, he would be the one who needed help.

Then, a heart condition left him unable to work. He returned to his home town of Hamilton in the hopes of finding somewhere to stay, but for a time, found nothing but closed doors.

*"They wanted too much, or I was discriminated against because I was on ODSP,"* he sighs. With nowhere else to go, the unthinkable happened: Mickey found himself living in a tent.

**Thankfully, Mickey's life was about to change, because of the support of good neighbours like you. In search of a hot cup of coffee and a meal, he found a door that was open wide in welcome: De Mazenod Door.**

### **"They bent over backwards"**

Your caring support fills the cupboards and fridges of the De Mazenod Door, an outreach



program that provides food to neighbours like Mickey 365 days a year.

The De Mazenod Door is a place of compassion and community for people experiencing poverty in Hamilton, where guests are met with dignity, and where no one is ever turned away.

Even a simple meal—or a hot cup of coffee on a cold day—can offer neighbours like Mickey hope.

And that's just the beginning.

Once Mickey shared his story with the team, they jumped into action to help him move forward.

*"They bent over backwards and connected me to the people I needed to talk to. They helped me get off the street and into my place. I feel so much safer now."*

### **You are fuelling fresh starts**

Because neighbours like you stepped up to help him, Mickey is now happily giving back. He volunteers at De Mazenod



## A MESSAGE FROM RADHIKA

Dear Friend,

As I look back over the past few months, I'm filled with immense gratitude for our community, and for good neighbours like you.

Your generosity can be measured in pounds of food, or number of meals — but it can also be measured in moments.

A family gathered in the kitchen, surrounded by the delicious smells of cherished holiday recipes. A parent's worries eased, knowing they can keep the heat on *and* keep food on the table. A lonely senior, having a nourishing meal delivered to their door with a hug and a "how are you?"



**All of these moments—of relief, of comfort, of connection, of joy—are made possible because caring people like you believe in what we do here at Hamilton Food Share. So once again, thank you.**

Looking ahead, our neighbours need us to keep being there. Every day now, about 611 people are relying on us. And each month, more than 600 of our neighbours are turning to Hamilton's emergency food programs for the first time.

Knowing you'll be there beside us motivates us and gives us hope, like the thought of spring around the corner.

With deep gratitude, *thank you* for being there.

*Radhika*

Radhika Subramanyan  
Chief Executive Officer

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Door, helping people who are struggling like he once was.

*"I see families coming here every day, with three or four kids. Their cheques go to rent and hydro, nothing left for food. It breaks my*

*heart to see them here, but I'm glad they can come here to get something nutritious."*

Mickey is a favourite of the kids who come to De Mazenod Door with their families. He often has little chocolate bars and other treats waiting for them. "When I see them smile, I know I've done my job," he grins.

**"We need these places."**

In recent months, Mickey has seen the need in the community grow in leaps and bounds.

"I've seen over 700 people come

through at once. The lines are always long. But we always make sure everybody gets something."

In fact, every Friday, year-round De Mazenod Door hosts a BBQ where guests gather for a hot meal and the chance to connect and get a break from the isolation they often experience.

*"We need these places. We need more of them."*

***"The best way that you can help the homeless right now is to help places like Hamilton Food Share and De Mazenod Door. Thank you."***

### Sharing the sweetness, from farm to families' tables

Since 2012, Snyder's Sweet Corn has donated more than 305,000 cobs to Hamilton Food Share, turning surplus into sustenance—and bringing joy to families in need.

It all began in 1981, with a quaint little corn stand on the side of Regional Road 9. Since then, Snyder's Sweet Corn has grown in leaps and bounds, and four generations of the family have helped the farm thrive.

Snyder's has been a longstanding partner of Hamilton Food Share. Since 2012, they have shared 305,460 cobs with neighbours facing food insecurity. How sweet is that?

#### Feeding families and fighting food waste

*"We put a lot of love and energy into growing the corn," shares Brenda Snyder. "It hurts a farmer's heart, when something we put our all into growing doesn't make its way onto someone's table."*

Snyder's donates every cob left at the end of a market day—an

average of 22,000 cobs a year.

*"We want to be good stewards and prevent food waste. But we couldn't do it alone," Brenda shares. "We're thrilled to partner with Hamilton Food Share."*

#### "It makes people happy"

Snyder's doesn't just put fresh, local produce on families' tables when they would otherwise go without. They help families make happy memories. Few foods spark smiles quite like sweet corn—picking up the bright yellow cob with both hands and chomping away, the crisp kernels popping in your mouth.

*"Corn is a fun thing to grow and a fun thing to eat. It makes people happy," Brenda shares.*

*"For families who might be going through a hard time, to*



*be able to enjoy something that gives them a moment of joy, that's fun to eat—that means a lot."*

Thank you so much, Snyder's Sweet Corn, for sharing fresh food and joy with our neighbours in need. We couldn't do what we do without incredible partners like you!

## YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION



611

people a day can rely on Hamilton's emergency food programs, on average.



841

nutritious meals and snacks provided each day to those in need.



6,397

kids rely on Hamilton's emergency food programs each month.

# HOLIDAY TRAIN SPOTLIGHT

## A magical night at Gage Park: The Holiday Train returns

On November 20, the glow of the CPKC Holiday Train lit up Gage Park, and sparked our community's giving spirit. Thousands gathered to welcome the brightly-decorated train and enjoy memorable performances by Smash Mouth and JJ Wild — all while raising vital food and funds for neighbours in need.

Thanks to the community's heartfelt generosity, this year's Holiday Train raised \$6,822.48 in donations, and 4,552 lbs of food. CPKC made an exceptionally generous \$10,000 donation of their own.

**With every dollar providing five dollars' worth of nutritious food, this incredible support represents more than \$80,000 in food, providing thousands of meals for local families this winter.**



*"The Holiday Train is one of those moments where joy and generosity come together in such a powerful way,"* says Haleigh-Rain Paxton, Senior Manager of Fundraising and Development at Hamilton Food Share. ***"We're so grateful to everyone who came out, donated, volunteered, and showed what community truly looks like."***

This memorable night wouldn't have been possible without the

dedication of our volunteers and partners like ArcelorMittal Dofasco, the Rotary Club of Hamilton Stoney Creek, FirstOntario Credit Union, KX947, and the City of Hamilton.

**More than a concert, the Holiday Train is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together as a community. Thank you!**



**SHARE THE FOOD,  
SHARE THE LOVE**

Follow us for all the latest news about the difference you're making in our community, as well as upcoming developments. Don't forget to tag us when you give, volunteer, or join us at our community events!



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