

A Special Time To Give

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This pandemic has taken a toll on everyone in Newmarket, and it has shown me that volunteering can really help people. In April of 2020, my mother had proposed the idea of volunteering at the Newmarket Food Pantry, to help with deliveries. This experience showed me first-hand, where the food that you donate goes. The people that I delivered food to looked as though they really needed it, and these donations were a big part of why their families were being fed. They always looked grateful and were happy for any food they got, and there was always enough to go around, but then came Christmas.

We all know Christmas as a happy time of eating traditional food, celebrating with family, and opening presents. However, the holidays are a crucial time of year for food banks, because there is an increased demand for food. For this reason, donating to food banks is important, especially around holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving. The sudden spike in demand near Christmas could overwhelm a food bank, and result in them giving out lower portions. Luckily, this almost never happens, and people are always generous to food banks around this time of year. My goal was to make donating as convenient as possible for those who would want to donate, but don't know where to go or how to do it.

Volunteering at the Newmarket Food Pantry with my mom gave me the idea to start a food drive in my neighbourhood. I decided to do this through my Newspaper delivery route. My plan was to put a notice on the outside of the Newspaper on the week of Black Friday. I did this because Black Friday is the busiest time of year, where just about everyone checks the newspaper for deals, news, etc. This notice consists of the products that the Food Pantry accepts, the date of the food drive, and the link to the website for any monetary donations they would be willing to make. Then, the next week, I would complete my route as usual, whilst also having my father follow me in a car in order to collect donations.

This is my second successful food drive. This year, some of my friends were very excited and happy to help me collect donations. That excitement for giving was apparent in the eyes of the homeowners who donated. It was great to see how happy the residents of my neighbourhood were that we were donating our time to this worthy cause. Many of the residents on my route were so generous and kind with donating. I was delighted to learn that we raised more this year than last. Going out of your way to donate to the less fortunate can make a significant impact on how that person thinks and acts, no matter how big or small it may seem.