

## MULTI-FAITH ORGANIZATIONS UNITE TO HELP FEED HUNGRY MANITOBANS

*For Immediate Release* – Good food can bridge the gap between faiths, cultures and society. So, it's only fitting that multi-faith volunteers across the city will join together to feed hope by hosting a community food drive for [Winnipeg Harvest](#). From June 17<sup>th</sup> until the 21<sup>st</sup>, members of the [Manitoba Islamic Association \(MIA\)](#) will join the 14<sup>th</sup> annual food drive organized by the [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#). Mormon and Muslim volunteers will be dropping bags on the door-handles of 65,000 Winnipeg homes in Fort Garry, North Kildonan, St. James, River Heights and Selkirk, Manitoba. The food drive falls just a week after the conclusion of Ramadan, a time when Muslims fast, pray, and contribute to charities.

Together with volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 65,000 yellow bags will be distributed throughout Winnipeg to highlight Winnipeg Harvest's 'Top 10 Most Wanted Food Items.' During the collection period, Winnipeggers are encouraged to fill the bag with food items and place them on their front steps by 10am for food drive volunteers to pick up from 1:00-2:00pm on Saturday, June 22. Food contributions will be matched by Peak of the Market.

In addition to the food pickups, a block party and carnival will be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm – 4pm at the church at 45 Dalhousie Drive. All proceeds will go to support Winnipeg Harvest. There will be complimentary hot dogs, drinks and the WSO POPS Orchestra will volunteer their time to perform at the block party.

Keren Taylor-Hughes, CEO of Winnipeg Harvest remarked, "During the summer months, donations tend to run low but the need for food in our communities remains the same. Thanks to the generosity of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Manitoba Islamic Association, we'll be able to get food to the people who need it."

**Media are invited to the food pickup and carnival as community volunteers gather and drop off food donations from the city-wide food drive in support of Winnipeg Harvest on Saturday, June 22 at 11:30am - 12:30pm at 45 Dalhousie Drive. Multi-faith organizations, Winnipeg Harvest and volunteers will be in attendance.**

### Facts on hunger in Manitoba:

- Winnipeg Harvest shares emergency food with **nearly 64,000 Manitobans each month.**
- Of the people Winnipeg Harvest serves each month, **more than 41 per cent are children.**
- Food bank usage in Manitoba is **up almost 58 per cent since 2008.**
- Winnipeg Harvest processes **more than 11 million pounds of food each year.**
- Every day in Winnipeg, an average of **540 children require the use of a food bank.**

### Winnipeg Harvest's Top 10 Most-Wanted Food Items

- Canned fish and poultry
- Canned stew, chili, brown beans
- Canned spaghetti sauce
- Baby formula and food
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Whole grain pasta
- Canned soup
- Cereal

### **About Winnipeg Harvest**

Winnipeg Harvest is a not-for-profit food distribution and training center. Winnipeg Harvest collects and distributes more than 10 million lbs. of food to nearly 400 food distribution agencies in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba each year. These agencies include food banks, low-income daycares, seniors' residences, youth organizations, immigrant support agencies, soup kitchens, missions and school meal programs. To learn more about Winnipeg Harvest or how a donation of food, time or money can change someone's life.

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