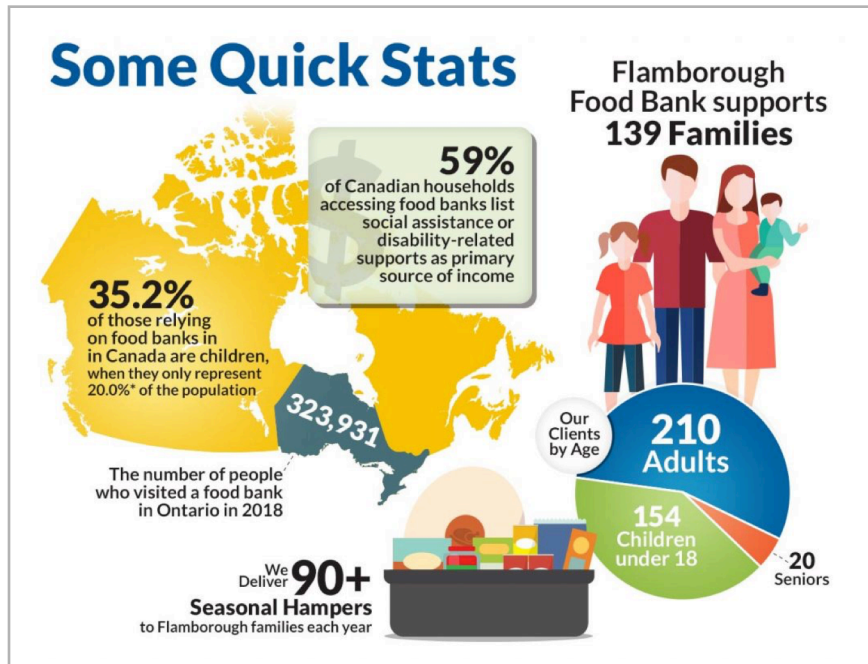


# Flamborough Food Bank – the need has grown by 200%

By: Madison, Prime Minister of the Student Body, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021



The Flamborough Food Bank has helped our community so much over the past years, but with Covid-19, normal fundraising can't take place. But we can make a difference!

In the fall of 2020, the weekly visits to the food bank went up like never before. Usually they have 40—50 visitors per week but that shifted to over 140 visitors each week! That is like almost half of Balaclava visiting the food bank every

week! Due to Covid-19, the food bank has organized appointments with the families so that they don't have to wait in lines and be in the cold while waiting for their food. But donations in our community have declined in our area because schools and churches aren't able to preform the normal food drives. The Hamilton Food Share has been given the food bank support, but the food hampers have run out. The food bank has to make their own boxes every week just to meet the demand.

The food bank had concerns about their normal events because once again they could not happen due to COVID-19. This created a challenge as food demand continues to grow and funds are dwindling. In response to this problem, the Flamborough Food Bank created a holiday campaign called "Here for Our Community". This holiday campaign was to raise money for the oncoming year of food demand, which is sure to bring new challenges and victories. The goal for this event was to raise \$10,000 by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

It brings me great joy to announce, that not only was that goal met, but they were able to raise \$17,000 which was matched by the G Foundation bringing the total to \$34,000 raised for the food bank! 155 families signed up for a time slot with the curb side system, in response to the demand of food the food bank has extended their hours 1:00-8:00pm every Wednesday. In addition to the extended time the Flamborough Food Bank has launched two new programs to meet the high demand, the first program is a children's school snack program, which currently supports over 90 children. The second program is a baby program that provides families with wipes and diapers every other month and now supports 19 babies. With the funds collected, the food bank was also able to offer a secret Santa program, which provided 80 families and 200 children with toys and other gifts, including the provision of gifts for seniors in our community.

This amazing food bank has thought outside the box partnering with Migrants Matter to provide the migrants working with food as they face a tough predicament with COVID-19. Given travel restrictions, some migrant workers found themselves unable to travel back home. In addition, getting another job in the meantime is impossible as work permits are tied to the farm they were originally granted the permit for, limiting their resources. The Flamborough Food Bank has provided migrant workers with the coordination, delivery, and a pickup schedule with the farms in the program.

The Flamborough Food Bank has done so much for our community and now is our chance more than ever before to make a difference and help each other in this time of great uncertainty and need. Donations can still be made at: [Flamborough Food Bank – Serving those in need in the Flamborough area](#), by e-transfer, or by visiting the food bank at 1432 Centre Rd, Carlisle, On. L0R 1H1.