

NEWS RELEASE

PenFinancial Credit Union donation aims to help ensure children in Niagara and Haldimand are nourished heading into a new school year



August 30, 2023 – WELLAND ON – As part of their ongoing Truly Local Commitment, PenFinancial has announced a \$12,000 donation to support local school nutrition programs in Niagara and Haldimand.

“With the continued impacts of inflation, ensuring children are sent to school with the nourishment they need to learn has become increasingly challenging for many families in our community” said Theresa Bird, CEO PenFinancial Credit Union. “We are proud to provide this charitable donation to Community Crew and the Child Nutrition Network of Haldimand & Norfolk to support their school nutrition programs leading into a new school year.”

Community Crew’s Lunch Program supports food insecure children in the Niagara region by serving fresh, boxed lunches three days a week to 30 schools located in neighbourhoods experiencing the highest levels of poverty in the region—including DSNB and Catholic schools in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Thorold and Fort Erie. With support from their 80 volunteers, Community Crew delivers 4,000+ lunches each week. Through PenFinancial’s donation, Community Crew will be able to purchase a new commercial refrigerator to support their operations.

“Community Crew is deeply grateful for the partnership of PenFinancial in providing the funding necessary for the purchase of this new commercial refrigerator. Community Crew believes that every child should have access to healthy food each day, and we are thankful for the opportunity to provide our services to support children in Niagara who would otherwise go without,” said Stephen Cooper, Executive Director at Community Crew.

The Child Nutrition Network of Haldimand and Norfolk supports 49 breakfast, morning meal, lunch and snack programs, and provides nourishment to over 8,700 participating Haldimand and Norfolk children and youth 2 to 5 days per week during the school year.

Their Farm to School Program has been running for over 13 years and programs are able to access economical, local, farm-fresh produce from a growing number of Haldimand and Norfolk farms.



"The donation to each of the Student Nutrition Programs in Dunnville will help students start their day in a positive manner and make the programs a success," states Sharon Smyth, Community Development Worker with the Child Nutrition Network. "PenFinancial's donation will enhance the program's ability to provide healthy and safe food for the children participating."

For more information about PenFinancial's Truly Local Commitment, visit PenFinancial.com/TLC. For details on how you can support to work these important organizations are doing in our communities, visit CommunityCrew.ca or HHReach.on.ca.

About PenFinancial Credit Union

PenFinancial Credit Union is a truly local values-based credit union committed to improving the lives its nearly 20,000 members and businesses. PenFinancial delivers a full range of financial services digitally and through a network of six branches across Niagara and Haldimand. Through their Truly Local Commitment, the credit union is a proud Certified B Corporation and Living Wage employer who invests a portion of their pre-tax profits into the communities it serves. PenFinancial is also proud to choose 100% renewable energy with Bullfrog Power as part of their commitment to environmental sustainability. For more information visit penfinancial.com.

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