



**Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest helps the Food Bank of Waterloo Region spread the Spirit of Thanksgiving with the Onkel Hans Food Drive**

(Waterloo Region, ON - October 13, 2014) - Today the Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest came together to help those in need while enjoying the tradition of the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Dave MacNeil, Executive Director of K-W Oktoberfest Inc., says, "It's a great pleasure to announce that we have raised **10,846 lbs** of non-perishable food items along the parade route this year. We also collected **\$11,587** in cash, which will be used to purchase additional food. We are so proud of Kitchener-Waterloo for opening up both your hearts and your wallets for the Food Bank."

Since the KWO Onkel Hans Food Drive began, it has now collected in excess of 1.4M pounds of food to give those in need in our community a helping hand.

Each year local citizens and visitors share with those less fortunate by donating food and cash as part of the Thanksgiving tradition in Kitchener-Waterloo. As over 150,000 people lined the streets to watch the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade, one of the highlights of Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival, volunteers from corporate sponsors Sobey's; Martin's Family Fruit Farms; NAPA Auto Parts; CHYM 96.7/570 News/Country 106.7 FM; KOOL 105.3/KFUN 99.5 and CTV shared their time to collect the donations along the parade route.

There is still time to donate, the Food Bank of Waterloo Region's Thanksgiving Food Drive ends Friday October 24. Call them at 519-743-5576 to offer your support. Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest runs until October 18th.

**About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest**

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is a not-for-profit Bavarian festival founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers committed to contributing to the social and economic vitality of Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada twin cities with German heritage. Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival celebrates German heritage, food, music and festivities and is supported by more than 50 not-for-profit organizations. The festival is operated by eight year-round full-time staff, over 480 volunteers and 1,300 community and service club volunteers that stage the nine-day festival each October promoting a unique German cultural experience. As well as the economic boost the festival gives the local economy during the international festival, over \$1.5 million is raised each year by the not-for-profit organizations associated with Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, one of the top three most recognized event brands in Canada.

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**For additional information:**

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