

## MEDIA ADVISORY



### Onkel Hans Food Drive – Stuff a Bus to Support the Food Bank

**October 2, 2024 – KITCHENER, ON** – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#), the [Kitchener Rangers](#), [CTV Kitchener, Laurentian](#) and [Conestoga Mall Zehrs](#), [Ontario Turkey](#) and [Grand River Transit](#) invite you to stuff a bus with them on two days this Festival season to support [The Food Bank of Waterloo Region!](#)

The first [Onkel Hans Food Drive](#) donation opportunity will be this Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Kitchener Rangers vs. Flint Firebirds game. Donations can be dropped off at the GRT bus outside the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The second Onkel Hans Food Drive donation opportunity will be on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Community members are encouraged to drop off nonperishable food items or money donations between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Laurentian Zehrs located at 750 Ottawa Street South in Kitchener and between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Conestoga Mall Zehrs located at 555 Davenport Road in Waterloo.

Onsite entertainment with K-W Oktoberfest's WunderWagen will be at both Zehrs locations for all to enjoy.

"With food costs continuing to rise, more of community neighbours need our support," shares Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest. "If you're unable to contribute to the Onkel Hans Food Drive Stuff a Bus campaign, we encourage you to join us at the K-W Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade on Monday, October 14th. Every food and cash donation makes a difference."

Nonperishable food items and cash donations will be collected along the Parade route by Onkel Hans Food Drive volunteer crews. Parade goers will find donation trucks at the beginning of the parade led by the 2024 [K-W Oktoberfest Ambassador](#), Allie Steffler along with 2025 Ambassador candidates as well as at the end of the parade.

Donations can also be made online [HERE](#).

The Onkel Hans Food Drive is a key component of the [Oktoberfest Cares](#) program.

PHOTOS ENCLOSED OF ONKEL HANS FOOD DRIVE AND 'STUFF A BUS' PARTNERS

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#### About [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#)

The first Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest was celebrated in 1969 at Concordia Club in Kitchener, organized by a group of dedicated founders. The keg was tapped and history was made. Since then, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest has developed its own traditions, becoming one of the largest Bavarian Festivals outside of Germany. Tens of thousands of visitors celebrate annually in our Festhallen, at local restaurants and by attending one of our many family and cultural events. More than just biergartens, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is committed to supporting the cultural, economic and social vitality of Waterloo Region, bringing millions of dollars in economic benefit to the Region each year. *Oktoberfest Cares* provides funding for charitable partners and supports Festival initiatives that enrich our community such as the Onkel Hans Food Drive and keep admission costs low or free for favourites including the Women of the Year celebration and family-friendly events like KIDtoberfest, Thanksgiving Day Parade and Christkinderfest. For more information visit [www.oktoberfest.ca](http://www.oktoberfest.ca).

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