

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bins to the Brim! And \$5600 in cash for Community Food Banks!

At the 14th Annual Christmas Lunch & Food Drive

The Niagara Construction Association (NCA) is thrilled to announce that as a result of their 14th Annual NCA Christmas Lunch & Food Drive which took place on Friday, December 6th at the St. Catharines Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel & Conference Centre, NCA members generously donated \$5,642 in food and monetary donations, bringing their cumulative 14-year total to \$18,642. Falcon Crane & Concrete Pumping brought in a whopping \$3000 bank draft, making them the top donor this year. Other notable donors included Four Aces Traffic Control (\$2111), Cotton Inc. (\$687), Wiens Underground Electric (\$500) and many others. Said Chris DeValkenaere of Falcon Crane, "Betty-Lou is a great person, and Community Care is a great cause. If anyone out there can do anything at all to help, please do."

This year's total donation was also made possible through sponsorships from CLAC (Christian Labour Association of Canada), Falcon Crane & Concrete Pumping, the OGCA (Ontario General Contractors Association), Touchstone Contractors Inc., O'Hara Trucking & Excavating, Peninsula Lakes Golf Course and Advantage Flooring. Proceeds benefit Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold and other Niagara food banks.

Betty-Lou Souter, CEO of Community Care, St. Catharines & Thorold provided an overview of the social and economic state of the Niagara Region in relation to the resources Community Care provides. Of the many sobering statistics mentioned, of note is that this holiday season the agency will support 13,000 individuals through the Christmas Program as well as delivering another 21 programs and supports. The Region is currently "experiencing a perfect storm – an opioid crisis, increased mental health and the lack of affordable housing are putting extraordinary demands on the system and this is compounded by the increased cost of living. Although there are more people in the work force, they are not making enough money to make ends meet and there has been a marked increase in the number of 'working' poor accessing our services."

Ms. Souter commented, "Having the members of the NCA recognize and value the work we do in such a tangible way is gratifying. We know they are in the background supporting us in the important work we do, and on the busiest of days that means so much to all of us."

Stated NCA General Manager Karin Sheldrick, "It continues to astonish us how generous our NCA members are in donating to our community at this very important time of year. Their generosity is nothing short of inspiring."

#CDNConstructionGives

#NCAconstruction

#OurCommunityCares



Betty-Lou Souter, CEO of Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold, delivers a heartfelt but sobering keynote at the 14th Annual NCA Christmas Lunch & Food Drive.



Left: Just a sample of the bins and bins of donations provided by generous NCA members.



Right: Kevan Peters of Halucha Cost Consulting (and NCA Young Leaders Chair/Board member) congratulates this year's top food drive donor, fellow NCA Board Member Chris DeValkenaere of Falcon Crane and Concrete Pumping.

MEDIA RELEASE



About the Niagara Construction Association:

The Niagara Construction Association (NCA) is an NFP member organization established in 1952 to represent the interests of the Niagara ICI construction industry. Members are general and trade contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, architects, engineers and other professionals affiliated with the industry. Members automatically receive membership with the CCA and COCA. We keep on top of industry issues and advocate on our members' behalf, and offer numerous safety and educational courses (including Gold Seal), seminars and workshops. Additional benefits include project leads, industry updates, events/networking, Young Leaders committee, Women in Construction committee and targeted marketing opportunities.

#NCAconstruction

