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MEDIA RELEASE

26th Annual Hotel Dieu Hospital Food Blitz hits the streets Wednesday, May 18

(Kingston ON, May 11, 2011) Volunteer canvassers for the 26th Annual Hotel Dieu Hospital Food Blitz will run door to door 6 to 9 pm, Wednesday, May 18, their sights set on collecting 100,000 non-perishable food items for the Partners in Mission Food Bank.

The Food Bank is in particular need of peanut butter, juice, rice, tuna, canned fruits and canned vegetables, but all donations are welcome. Baby food and formula will be gratefully accepted also.

Collection bags will be inserted in the *Kingston This Week* newspaper on Thursday, May 12. On Blitz night, householders can give the filled bags to canvassers or leave them on the doorstep for pick-up.

Donations can also be dropped off weekdays at the Food Bank at 140 Hickson Ave. or at all major grocery retailers. Monetary donations can be made via the Food Bank's website at www.kingstonfoodbank.net.

A few fast facts:

- Since the Food Bank opened its doors in 1984, 213,503 food hampers have been distributed to low-income families throughout the greater Kingston area.
- Each year, the Food Bank targets 100,000 food items for collection. Last year it exceeded that goal by 16,000 lbs. In total, the Blitz has collected 2,270,411 lbs.
- Since the fall of 2008 the Food Bank has experienced a 22 per cent increase in demand for assistance.
- In 2010, the Food Bank distributed almost 38,000 lbs of food to area hot-meal and shelter programs.

For details about the Blitz, please call the Food Bank at 613-544-4534.

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