

**FirstOntario support for student nutrition tops \$2 million to help kids get food they need to start their day right**

*The latest donation of \$230,000 goes to local agencies across several communities*

**Hamilton, ON, October 20, 2022** – When children head off to school each day, most have a lunch bag full of nutritious food in their backpacks. It is an unfortunate fact however, that a number of students often arrive at school with no food to sustain them. Youth health and wellness for all in our communities is a key priority for FirstOntario Credit Union. Recognizing that food insecurity is on the rise and continues to be an ongoing challenge affecting students in our schools, FirstOntario is doing even more to help address this issue with a recent pledge of \$230,000 in additional funding for student nutrition programs. The funds will be shared among eight different agencies that prepare and provide healthy meals and snacks in local elementary schools.

“Food insecurity continues to be an issue that is very close to home and FirstOntario will continue to offer our support,” said FirstOntario CEO Lloyd Smith. “Student nutrition programs are a lifeline for many children in the communities we serve, and we want to do our part to help facilitate these services that so many young kids rely on.”

The funds will be distributed to several agencies that cover the neighbourhoods where FirstOntario operates. They include [Brant Food for Thought](#), [Halton Food for Thought](#), [Niagara Nutrition Partners](#), [Haldimand-Norfolk REACH \(Child Nutrition Network\)](#), [Southwestern Public Health](#), [Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation Breakfast Program](#), [Hamilton Tastebuds](#) and [Hamilton Food Share](#).

FirstOntario Blue Wave volunteers are also planning to head back into the schools this year to prepare the nutritious food that is offered to students throughout the day after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic.

This year’s announcement aligns with *International Credit Union Day* when the global credit union movement recognizes the positive impacts we can make in our communities and the importance of working together. FirstOntario is proud to continue supporting student nutrition programs in partnership with local agencies that all strive to help one another.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**About FirstOntario Credit Union**

FirstOntario is a full service cooperative financial institution, serving members for more than 80 years throughout the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario. With \$5.8 billion in assets under management, FirstOntario is one of Canada’s largest credit unions. Everyone is welcome to be part of FirstOntario for financial services including daily transactions, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario profits are invested into the communities we serve through support for entrepreneurs, competitive rates and charitable pursuits including our award-winning student nutrition program. Learn more about us today at [FirstOntario.com](#).