



WHO IS DROP-IN AT THE BRIDGE

Drop-in at The Bridge is in beautiful downtown Kincardine, just two doors south of The Bruce. Our mission is to welcome all people while empowering those often marginalized, disadvantaged, and vulnerable. We have been serving Kincardine for almost six years. Here's what we're all about:

Programs and Services

Drop-in throughout the week:

Mondays 10am-2pm: all are welcome to drop by for coffee, tea, games, and a free lunch. This day is especially popular among seniors and guests from the Community Living program.

Thursdays 11am-1pm: Teens are invited for a free lunch served by our fabulous volunteers.

Thursdays 3:30pm-8pm: Books, Beans & Banter: the ultimate teen hangout! Join us at our café and homework club, where you can receive personalized homework help while sipping on delicious lattes. Enjoy a peaceful reading corner, engage in thrilling games like Crokinole and Catan, or simply kick back and chat with friends.

Fridays 7pm-9pm: Join us every other week for a special event where Ukrainian families in our community come together to connect, share their culture, and enjoy each other's company. We provide a warm and welcoming environment for all to enjoy.

Saturdays, 2pm-7pm: Join us for a fun-filled day of board games like Monopoly, Scrabble, and Chess or card games like Uno, Golf, or 500. We also serve pizza and ice cream and provide a great community atmosphere. Open to all ages.

Special Holiday Meals: We provide special meals during Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. On average, we serve 120 free meals to those in need each holiday.

Frozen Food Program runs every week throughout the year, primarily assists single seniors who are financially or physically challenged and may have difficulty providing for themselves. If you or someone you know fits this description and could benefit from this program, we're here to help.

Volunteer-Driven: At Drop-in at The Bridge, our growing team of dedicated volunteers is the heart and soul of our operations. Their passion and commitment drive our actions, significantly impacting our community members' lives. Whether you love to cook, socialize, or help with strategic planning, there's a way for you to get involved and make a real difference in our community!

Safe Space: The Drop-in at The Bridge is more than just a place to eat and socialize. It's a safe haven, providing people with a secure environment to relax, be themselves, enjoy wonderful company, eat good food, learn more about local culture, and receive help navigating life. We strive to create an atmosphere of inclusivity and acceptance for all, and your support can help us continue to do so. We welcome everyone with open arms and a warm smile.

Not-for-profit registered Charity: Generous donations, sponsorships, and grant funding make all our programs possible. Your contribution, no matter the size, can make a significant difference in the lives of our community's most marginalized and vulnerable members. Every donation, big or small, is a step towards a stronger, more supportive community.



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What's next for Drop-in at The Bridge?

Drop-in at The Bridge Kincardine Food Rescue Program

What is Food Rescue?

- Food Rescue prevents good surplus food from being wasted by collecting it and redistributing it to feed people in need.
- We plan to work with local businesses involved in the local food supply chain to reduce the amount of edible food that goes to waste. This initiative will help prevent additional greenhouse gas emissions and ensure more food is redirected to the Kincardine Food Bank and Drop-in at The Bridge, providing greater access to healthy food for people in our community, especially those in need. Your support in this effort is crucial for the well-being of our community.

How will we do this?

- We are forming a committee, a vital part of our initiative, to investigate the best way to collaborate with local businesses and establish the proper channels for getting food to those who need it. Your contribution to this committee could make a significant difference in our community.
- We want to create a teaching kitchen, working with a local dietician and the Kincardine Health Team to develop menus and teach healthy, low-cost, nutritious cooking. But it is so much more. We want to create a community where families challenged financially to prepare nutritious meals can find a safe place to learn new skills, engage with others experiencing similar challenges, and gain hope while making wholesome meals for their families.
- We plan to open a **free store** where financially challenged families **who access the food bank** can shop for fresh/frozen vegetables, canned goods, paper products, and meat when available. The store will be open three days a week.

How can you help?

- Once we start operations, we will need volunteers to help sort, prep & cook (stay tuned for more info over the next few months)
- We require sponsors who would like to support us financially.
- We require a building with enough space for a small store, an area for freezers, fridges, and even a full kitchen, plus space for sorting and prepping the rescued food.
- We need a van to pick up the rescued food from stores. You can help by purchasing or paying for the lease of the van.



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What are our Guests and Volunteers saying about Drop-in at The Bridge?

Quotes:

- From some of our guests sitting together chatting: “Drop-in is inviting, safe, friendly, it’s family – we can tease Wes.”
- “The Bridge serves our community at a Grassroots level. It is always inclusive, never exclusive. I have been very pleased to take a small part in it. Wishing you continued success.” David McLaughlin Drop-in guest.
- “I have been volunteering since the beginning of Drop-in began. My eyes were opened to the needs of folks in town with no family connections. It is a place of welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee and for us to hear their stories. Many have adopted us as their weekly family for laughter or games. Connections are made to help them even during the week if assistance is needed”. Arnold Stadig a long-time volunteer.
- The Teen Lunch on Thursdays is a great place for all KDSS High School students to enjoy a tasty meal in a safe and welcoming space.” A teen guest.
- “I really enjoy spending time with the kind and helpful volunteers at the Teen Café on Thursday afternoons. It makes me happy to know that an organization in town is creating inclusive programs for teens.” Dana Daetwyler Grade 12 High School.
- “Having gone to the Teen Lunch for the past 5 years, I have really appreciated the years of support and a safe place to go.” Anna Shields Grade 12

~ We invite you to join us in serving our community's most marginalized and vulnerable members! Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome as we strive to improve our services and make a greater impact 🌟 🙌

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