

# Hands Across Niagara



Anglicans in Niagara are responding to God's urging to care for our neighbours. I am pleased with the outpouring of support we have received for our 140th Anniversary Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. Your gifts are changing the lives of many people starting anew in Canada, and of the many faithful people engaged with this important ministry.

I know that we have the capacity to respond to other justice issues as well. Hands Across Niagara is one of the key ways that our diocesan family equips our communities to stand for gospel values alongside those who are marginalized and oppressed.

Last year your gifts helped us to: build relationships among vulnerable people who were learning cooking skills, create access to healthy food through community gardens, raise awareness about ways to safeguard the health of the environment, and, assist women as they reintegrate into society following incarceration.

Dozens of other grassroots projects are fuelled by your gifts. Together, we make a difference. I am counting on your support in 2016. With my sincere gratitude,

Michael A. Bird, Bishop of Niagara



Citing the vision of one of his predecessors, your bishop speaks of a "new" church... more tolerant, more loving, more alert to the day and the need. "Hands Across Niagara" is supporting many life changing ministries not only in your own diocese, but in Council of the North dioceses and in your companion diocese of Cuba.

Thank you for your generosity. Keep up the good work, and may God bless it all.

Fred J. Hiltz, Archbishop and Primate

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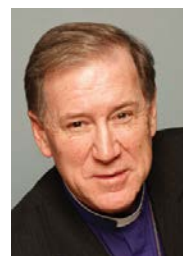
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The ministry partnerships made possible in our region through the work of Hands Across Niagara are changing lives.

The inspiring work of St. John's in Thorold is just one example. Partnering with Community Care, members of St. John's are hosting a monthly community kitchen. In a supportive environment, participants are building relationships with parishioners while learning cooking techniques and preparing three different meals to take home with them. The project empowers participants as they learn cooking skills, as they talk together about sources for nourishing food, and as they grow together in relationships with an eye towards future advocacy and organizing initiatives.

In Thorold, Hands Across Niagara is making it possible for a vulnerable group to find community and to support one another. We are overcoming barriers to social inclusion, and we are finding that we are stronger together.

Your generous gift through Hands Across Niagara makes a difference in our region, across Canada, and around the world.



Participants in community kitchen at St. John's.



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