

Building a Sustainable Food Bank For Chesley And Elmwood Areas

To: All Community Leaders and Partners

From: Chesley and District Ministerial Association (Chesley Baptist Church, Chesley Community Church, Chesley Reformed Presbyterian Church, Elmwood Brant Lutheran Ministry, Geneva Presbyterian Church, St Aidan Community Episcopal Church, St Mark's Church Chesley)

Food insecurity is a growing challenge in our community. According to Grey Bruce Public Health, 1 in 5 local households—and nearly 1 in 3 children—now lack reliable access to food.

The need is especially urgent following the conclusion of the Hanover Salvation Army's mobile food bank service to Chesley on April 1, 2026. Furthermore, the Elmwood area currently lacks any local food bank services or mobile support. While residents can travel to Hanover, we know that for many, the logistical and financial strain of travel makes these essential services inaccessible.

Current Progress

Chesley and District Ministerial Association (CDMA) is leading a coordinated effort to fill these gaps: **As of April 7, 2026, a new food bank location has opened at Chesley Baptist Church, presently operating two Tuesday mornings per month.** Chesley Baptist continues to provide free hot meals every Thursday, while all members of the CDMA are in the process of harmonizing their own distinctive "hand-up" ministries to most effectively meet the food-security needs of district residents.

The Call to Action

To ensure this safety net is sustainable for both Chesley and Elmwood, we need a unified community model. We invite municipal leaders, local organizations, and residents to a **critical planning meeting**:

Who: Every interested member of the Chesley/Elmwood community

When: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM

Where: Chesley Baptist Church

Purpose: To coordinate resources, identify regional needs, and determine how you or your organization can contribute—volunteers, logistical / financial support.

How You Can Help Today

Please find the attached flyer for this meeting. We ask that you display this poster at your location and share it with your staff, members, and social media networks.

**Together, we can ensure that no resident
in the Chesley and Elmwood area goes hungry!**

Come to the Open Meeting on May 13