

Execulink Telecom Provides Aid to Local Food Banks During COVID-19 Pandemic

(Woodstock, ON) April 22, 2020 – With a <u>well-documented history</u> of community involvement, <u>Execulink Telecom</u> has announced donations totalling \$5,000 to food bank organizations in many of its service communities in Oxford, Norfolk, Lambton, and Middlesex Counties.

Ian Stevens, President and CEO of Execulink Telecom, states "COVID-19 is a unique situation full of challenges and adjustments, but our dedication to supporting our communities has not and will not change. Our <u>Vision</u>, <u>Mission</u>, <u>and Values</u> guide and drive us to continue finding ways to give back to our local communities, because they're more than customers; they're family."

Execulink is seeking to help ease some of the strain for six food aid initiatives: St. Vincent de Paul and Mission Food Bank, both of Norfolk County, Watford Food Bank of Lambton County, Ailsa Craig Food Bank & Thrift Store of Middlesex County, and Helping Hand Food Bank and Operation Sharing – Food for Friends, both servicing Oxford County.

"At Execulink, we strive to live our values every day," says Andrea Atkinson, Vice President of Customer Experience at Execulink Telecom. "This is an unprecedented and uncertain time, but it's also the time to come together and support each other. We're proud to create positive impacts in our local communities. It is the benchmark of who we are."

<u>Food Banks Canada</u> has <u>highlighted the challenges Canadian food banks are facing</u> in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, stating that "already there are signs of COVID-19's devastating impact on the food bank system." Negative impacts include a dwindling volunteer force, a decrease in food supplies, and a threat to financial support for food bank organizations.

<u>The 2019 Hunger Report</u> released by <u>Feed Ontario</u> revealed that more than half a million people in Ontario utilize food banks each year, equating to over three million unique visits. Of those accessing food banks in Ontario, just over 33% are children. With these numbers reflecting an Ontario that was not battling a pandemic, it is expected that food banks will see an increase in visitors as unemployment rates rise.

About Execulink Telecom

In operation since 1904, Execulink Telecom has evolved from a small independent local telephone company into one of the leading telecommunications providers in Ontario. Through innovation and forward-thinking, the telecom provider has cultivated what began as local telephony offerings to provide a full-scale suite of telecommunications services including data, internet, television, mobility, and advanced voice features. These services are now available to all levels of industry, encompassing 50,000 business, enterprise, government, and residential customers.

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