MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Onkel Hans Food Drive Supports Food Insecurity

- **Donate at events, along the parade route, online or text**
- **Rangers + Memorial Cup join the Thanksgiving Day Parade**

September 30, 2026 – KITCHENER, ON – Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is bringing the community together once again to support Oktoberfest Cares through the annual Onkel Hans Food Drive. During the Festival, community members will have several opportunities to donate non-perishable food items and funds for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, helping support people and families experiencing food insecurity.

The first Onkel Hans Food Drive Stuff a Bus donation opportunity takes place Friday, October 2, at the Kitchener Rangers game at the Kitchener Auditorium. From 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., fans are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or make a monetary donation at the GRT bus on location and at the main entrances.

The community can also support the Onkel Hans Food Drive during the K-W Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade on Monday, October 12. One of Waterloo Region's biggest annual traditions, the parade will take over Weber Street between Frederick Street and Bridgeport Road, with Onkel Hans Food Drive volunteer crews collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations along the parade route.

Some exciting news for hockey fans! The Kitchener Rangers will also be part of this year's parade, with Rangers players and staff taking part alongside the Memorial Cup, giving fans another opportunity to celebrate the team's championship season while supporting the community.

The Onkel Hans Food Drive continues Thursday, October 15, at Centre in the Square from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Bruce Cockburn concert, providing another opportunity for community members to donate.

Individuals can also donate online or text PARADE to 30333 to make a financial contribution to the drive. Together, we can ensure no one in Waterloo Region goes hungry.

The Onkel Hans Food Drive is part of Oktoberfest Cares, K-W Oktoberfest's community-focused initiative supporting local organizations and causes throughout Waterloo Region. Community members can learn more about the Onkel Hans Food Drive, donation opportunities and ways to support the campaign at oktoberfest.ca/fooddrive.

PHOTOS ATTACHED: 2025 ONKEL HANS FOOD DRIVE AT PARADE AND STUFF A BUS AT THE KITCHENER AUDITORIUM

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About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
The first Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest was celebrated in 1969 at Concordia Club in Kitchener, organized by a group of dedicated founders. The keg was tapped and history was made. Since then, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest has developed its own traditions, becoming one of the largest Bavarian Festivals outside of Germany. Tens of thousands of visitors celebrate annually in our Festhallen, at local restaurants and by attending one of our many family and cultural events. More than just biergartens, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is committed to supporting the cultural, economic and social vitality of Waterloo Region, bringing millions of dollars in economic benefit to the Region each year. *Oktoberfest Cares* provides funding for charitable partners and supports Festival initiatives that enrich our community such as the Onkel Hans Food Drive and keep admission costs low or free for favourites including the Waterloo Region Women's Expo and Women of the Year celebration as well as family-friendly events like KIDtoberfest, Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Willkommen Platz. For more information visit oktoberfest.ca.

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