



Advent initiative launched: Saskatoon Christian leaders sign letter in support of the Good Food Junction at Station 20 West

“This Christmas season many churches in Saskatoon seek to enhance the momentum of a vital project – the community-owned Good Food Junction cooperative store located at Station 20 West. It is a community project that the churches seek to support as a concrete expression of God’s love.

Christians share the conviction that in Jesus Christ God has drawn near to us. The Advent and Christmas seasons remind us that when God in Christ came to dwell among us he was born and lived in poverty and simplicity. In Jesus’ ministry, we see his profound concern for those who were in need. He gave dignity to those who were poor, suffering or oppressed. He identified himself with those who were hungry or thirsty, saying that whatever we do for those most in need, we do for him (Matthew 25:31-40). As his disciples we have a moral imperative to follow his example.

Church groups serve in many projects which support the people of the core neighbourhoods, such as the Food Bank, the Bridge, the Salvation Army and Friendship Inn, among others.

Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods are the heart of the city. For our city to be healthy, it needs a healthy heart. Maintaining good health is a challenge for many in the area whose needs are high and whose resources are limited. Access to healthy food is vital for wellness and self-reliance. Since 1997, no full-service grocery store has operated in our core neighbourhoods. Many residents have no cars and thus have little access to healthy, affordable food.

The Good Food Junction, at 20th St. and Ave. L, will provide in-store nutrition education and offer healthy food at reasonable prices, close to home. Equipping the store will cost approximately \$650,000. Being able to accomplish this without going into debt is crucial to the store’s success.

Together we can bring this essential service to the people of our core neighbourhoods. This is not specifically a church initiative: neither is it the project of a single political party, nor should we as Christian communities allow it to be so. The potential for good is immense.

As church leaders and as individuals we commit ourselves to making the Good Food Junction a priority for the weeks leading up to Christmas. We will express support through our prayers, practical assistance, and where appropriate through fundraising to equip the store. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel, God-with-us.”

Signed Nov. 24, 2010 by

Bishop Bryan Bayda, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon
Bishop Donald Bolen, Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
Rev. Jeremiah Buhler, Area Church Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
Rev. Amanda Currie, Minister, Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan, Presbyterian Church
Rev. Claire Ewert-Fisher, Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee
Bishop Cynthia Halmarson, Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Bishop David Irving, Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon
Rev. Ron McConnell, Chair, River Bend Presbytery, United Church of Canada
Rev. Harry Strauss, Chair, Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship

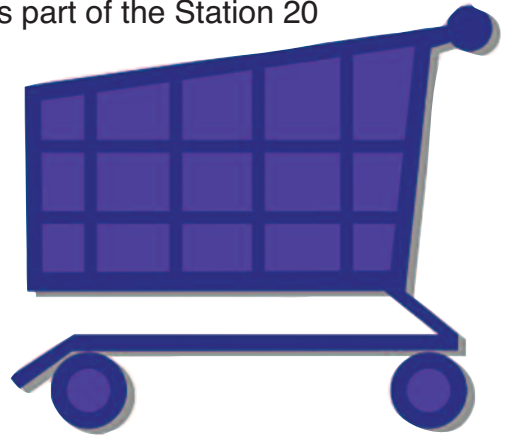


Joining together to ensure nutritious food is available in the heart of Saskatoon

It will soon be time to shop for Christmas dinner: but what if you are without a car, and the nearest full service grocery store is far away?

That's the situation for many in Saskatoon's core area, which has been identified as a "food desert," with limited access to the fresh and healthy produce, dairy products or other basic food items that most of us take for granted.

Convinced that the core neighbourhoods need more than just soup kitchens and food banks, community members are banding together to build the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store as part of the Station 20 West project. This Advent, Bishop Don Bolen is joining Christian leaders in Saskatoon to voice support for this grassroots community project. Please consider making a donation toward the \$650,000 cost of equipping this much-needed full service grocery store.



*"We do this in the name of Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel, God-with-us."
- Letter of support for Good Food Junction signed by Saskatoon Christian leaders (see reverse)*

Please consider supporting this project:

in gratitude for all God has given us



in solidarity with those who are struggling



as a gift in the name of someone on your list 'who has everything'



by joining together as a faith community to host an event or discuss the issues



in prayer and by spreading the message



Why the Good Food Junction?

- The last full-service grocery store on 20th Street closed 13 years ago.
- The number of people owning vehicles in the core neighbourhoods is significantly lower than in the city as a whole.
- The need for a grocery store has been consistently identified in community consultation and local planning processes over the past decade.
- 44 per cent of people living in the core neighbourhoods live below Statistic Canada's Low Income Cut-Off, compared to 17.7 per cent for Saskatoon as a whole.
- Studies show that people who live farther from grocery stores have poorer health than those living in better-served neighbourhoods.
- The Good Food Junction vision is for a vibrant store that strengthens our community by promoting healthy foods and providing a positive working, learning and shopping environment.
- Good Food Junction currently has nearly 250 members. When contacted, future customers have pledged to spend over \$1 million at the store during its first year of operation.
- The presence of essential services – such as a grocery store – tells local residents: "You are worth it!"

PLEDGE CARD:

Use attached envelope to drop your pledge into the collection basket at your parish, or mail to Good Food Junction, #210, 230 Avenue R South Saskatoon SK S7M 0Z9

I wish to support the GOOD FOOD JUNCTION at Station 20 West by helping to stock and equip the co-operative grocery store.

- \$250:** contribution to refrigeration equipment
 \$100: contribution to produce and meat equipment
 \$50: contribution to check-out equipment
 \$25: contribution to shopping carts and baskets
 Other: _____

My Preferred Payment Arrangement:

(Tax receipts will be issued by Station 20 West, Charitable Registration #80749-7672-RR0001)

- Cash
 Personal Cheque: *Made payable to "Station 20 West" with a notation that your donation is for the Good Food Junction.*
 Credit Card: VISA or M/C (please circle one) Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____

Cardholder Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____