



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Soup Kitchen's \$24,000 Campaign Challenge: 4,000 Meals In 40 Days**  
*in recognition of 40 years of providing vulnerable, at-risk residents with a safe, welcoming place to be nourished without judgement.*

Volunteers and donors gathered today around a new professional bread slicer in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral to kick off a 40-day fundraising campaign to pay for 4,000 meals in recognition of The Soup Kitchen's 40 years of continuous service. The Soup Kitchen is the city's longest-serving food resource, providing nutritious meals each weekday to vulnerable residents in Victoria.

The shiny new 250 lb. bread slicer, the result of a \$5,000 donation from the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, Victoria Commandery, is a game changer for this 100% volunteer run organization. Since the onset of Covid-19, the group has been preparing over 3,000 protein-rich sandwiches a month as part of each carefully bagged meal.

Joining The Soup Kitchen volunteers to christen the new slicer and kick off the campaign to raise \$24,000 in the next 40 days was Bob Plecas, of the Sovereign Order. He presented The Soup Kitchen's Campaign Chair, Teri Hustins with a further \$1,000.

"We are thrilled to support The Soup Kitchen," said Plecas whose organization is the Sovereign Order. "This small, yet mighty, volunteer-based organization has consistently provided warm meals to people at risk for 40 years in the downtown core. And today, with food inflation, we are seeing more suffering; our neighbours are suffering, and the vulnerable in our community are suffering."

Since 1982, The Soup Kitchen has prepared and served more than 1-million meals. And the organization pivoted quickly to a soup-to-go service during Covid without missing a day

"We are so very grateful. These charitable contributions are extremely valuable to us, and to the people who come through our doors each weekday in search of kindness, respect and a healthy meal," said Hustins who has been a volunteer with The Soup Kitchen for seven years.

"Our volunteers have spent countless hours hand slicing bread. This automated bread slicer will save time, allowing us to transform the fresh loaves of bread, that are donated from Cobbs Bakery, much faster into sandwiches for our hungry guests. Today's generous \$1,000 financial contribution from the Sovereign Order will feed over 160 people and we hope that others will step forward to assist us in meeting our goal of 4,000 meals in 40 days."

The Soup Kitchen's 40-year volunteer operating model makes it possible to offer a nutritious meal for only \$6.00 a person. The fundraising goal of \$24,000 represents 4,000 meals for our city's vulnerable residents, many of them fixed income seniors. To date The Soup Kitchen has raised \$3,040 towards its \$24,000 goal.

To donate to The Soup Kitchen's 40-days, 4,000 meals fall campaign go to: [thesoupkitchen.ca/40days/](https://thesoupkitchen.ca/40days/)

**About The Soup Kitchen**

On Friday, November 12, 1982, founders Murray and Edna Black opened The Soup Kitchen in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral to welcome hungry local residents in need of a safe haven, to be nourished without judgement. Today, 40-years later, their fierce dedication to making a difference in the lives of those in need continues as a comfort and in some instances, a lifeline, for the downtown community.