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Local breakfast program gets funding boost]

Written By **Brian Lockhart**

A nutritious breakfast is a good way to start the day and allows you to concentrate on the tasks ahead of you.

For many children in the region, being hungry when they arrive at school can be a problem that causes a distraction and won't allow them to concentrate on their studies.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington assists with breakfast, morning meals, snack, and lunch programs for schools in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin.

Home Hardware in Shelburne held its annual Donate a Plate initiative at its Steeles St. location in support of the breakfast program.

The store asked customers to donate any amount when they visited the store. Customers who donated could write their names on paper plates attached to the wall at the front of the store.

Customers donated $10,000. That was matched by the store owner, Bill Gillam, for a grand total of $20,000 donated to the Children's Foundation.

The store donated the funds to the Foundation on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

?Our staff worked hard to do this ? it's called Donate a Plate,? explained Sandy Harron, Home Hardware store manager. ?People would come in and donate whatever they could afford. Their names went up on the wall on a plate. We raised $10,000 from the community and Bill matched it dollar-for-dollar.?

Representatives from five local schools, Primrose, Glenbrook, Centennial Hylands, and Hyland Heights elementary schools, and Centre Dufferin District High School, arrived at the store for the donation to show their support and appreciation for the effort to raise funds to help their students.

?The $20,000 will be split five ways and go directly to the schools and their expenses for food,? explained Heather Verpaalen, Student Nutrition Program manager with the Children's Foundation. ?Each school has a different program. It could be lunch, breakfast, or a snack ? we call it the student nutrition program. Some schools may have three programs while others may only have one program.?

The funds donated will help schools maintain their food programs and ensure every student is taken care of with their daily nutrition needs.