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Export date: Fri Oct 30 9:17:37 2026 / +0000 GMT

New holiday trend could held fund popular ?Farm to School? initiative

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A new holiday trend in fundraising has hit Dufferin County and it is a perfect fit for the Farm to School program.

The idea is to throw a dinner party to support a local charitable organization. Farm to School organizers say, ?Dinner Party Fundraising is a new exciting approach to gathering with friends over a meal, while raising funds for a particular cause. What could be better for a program that is all about food?

The trend's concept is simple, and does not require weeks of planning like many fundraising functions. Gather your friends and host a dinner party; ask your friends to bring along a donation to support a local cause and ?give back? while getting together during the Holiday Season, says the Farm to School team.

The Farm to School program run by the Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance (HFFA), is an initiative of Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA.) HFFA supports activities that contribute to a healthy food system and encourages locally grown food consumption. The Farm to School program pairs local farmers with area schools to teach students the different aspects of the local food system, offering engaging activities, from Kindergarten to Grade 6, including many curriculum links and full lesson plans.

HCIA lead Shirley Boxem, says she really likes the dinner party theme that the Farm to School group is promoting. ?I'd like to expand that idea,? she says. ?While it isn't officially volunteer month, we sure are entering volunteering and donating season in many people's minds. It's one of the things I love about the holidays, that doing something for community can have an extra sparkle attached to it. Donating to a cause or organization can take so many different forms. Do what you like to do and inspire your friends and family at the same time. You could ask for donations of funds, food, toiletries, toys or something that matches a food theme.?

Get in touch with the Farm to School team if you would like help coordinating a Fundraising Dinner Party to benefit their programs. 519-217-5189 or food@headwaterscommunities.org.