



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Andrea Bouw
Marketing Manager
andreab@safariniagara.com
905-382-9669 ext.242

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Safari Niagara's 5th annual Boo at the Zoo took place during Saturday, October 7 to Monday, October 9 and welcomed nearly 7,500 members from the community to trick or treat around the zoo. The event was at no cost for the children and a discounted rate for adults with the donation of a non-perishable food item in support of local food banks including Fort Erie COPE, Fort Erie Salvation Army and Port Cares.

Throughout the duration of the three-day Boo at the Zoo event Safari Niagara saw an overwhelming response of visitors wanting to help support the cause and collected a total of seven large bins of non-perishable food items weighing in at nearly 6,000 pounds. Safari Niagara would like to thank Attar Metals for their help in weighing the donations and its guests for their generous donations for helping make their community fundraiser a success.

COPE manager, Barb Volzke is grateful for the donation and says, "COPE is the perfect acronym for what we are all about – we are here to help people cope when they do not have enough food. Each and every food donation makes a difference to the COPE food bank. Each item donated helps to fill the bags of food that we distribute to community members who are in need. We are thankful for all that the community of Greater Fort Erie does to support COPE."

Salvation Army manager, Anne Watters states "Providing support to local families in need is the primary role of The Salvation Army Fort Erie Community & Family Services; to accomplish this, we rely heavily on the generosity of our donors. The donations of food allow us to open doors to reach the most vulnerable members of our community and ensure they are aware of and receive the services appropriate to their needs."

"Our ability to help families in need relies on the amazing community and corporate support we receive through selfless efforts like Safari Niagara's Boo at the Zoo initiative. This great event not only helps to provide nutritious food to children and adults who otherwise would go without, it also helps to teach children compassion and caring. Port Cares and our Reach Out Centre salutes Safari Niagara for this great community effort," says Christine Clark Lafleur, Executive Director, Port Cares.

The Boo at the Zoo community fundraiser is just one part of Safari Niagara's initiatives to building strong community partnerships and supporting local organizations. This year Safari Niagara collaborated with Try It Kids to host the Try It Kids Tryathlon in support of the One Foundation with Niagara Health Systems and also hosted the Walk to End Cystic Fibrosis.

Safari Niagara's ultimate plan and goal is to expand their community partnerships in the seasons to come.

Safari Niagara plans to reopen in May 2018 for their 17th season. For more information about Safari Niagara, please visit www.safariniagara.com.

Safari Niagara is a 150-acre family-owned and operated nature park that is home to more than 1000 animals, reptiles and birds. Visitors of all ages and abilities can experience the park's wild inhabitants on their own or through free, educational guided walking tours, narrated tram rides, tours and interactive demonstrations.

For more information on Safari Niagara, visit www.safariniagara.com or join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/safariniagara and Twitter @SafariNiagara.