



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEARLY 7,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATIONS COLLECTED DURING SAFARI NIAGARA'S 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOO AT THE ZOO

**Stevensville, ON (October 11, 2018)** Safari Niagara's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Boo at the Zoo took place three days over Thanksgiving weekend (*Saturday, October 6 to Monday, October 8*) and welcomed just over 6,500 members from the community to trick or treat around the zoo. Trick or treating areas were provided with the help of 65 local businesses from the Niagara Region. The event was at no cost for children in a costume and a discounted rate for adults with the donation of a non-perishable food item in support of local food banks.

Throughout the duration of the three-day Boo at the Zoo event and despite the rainy weather, Safari Niagara saw an overwhelming response of visitors wanting to help support the cause and collected a total of eight large bins of non-perishable food items weighing in at nearly 7,000 pounds.

New this season, Safari Niagara has selected Food4Kids Niagara and Community Crew Lunch Angels as two of the recipients of the food donations. Each week hundreds of kids in at risk situations go hungry in elementary schools throughout the Niagara Region. Through sponsors and donations these organizations help to provide lunches for students at school or meals for students to take home with them over the weekend. Donations will also be provided to Fort Erie COPE, Fort Erie Salvation Army and Port Cares.

Sarah Pritula, Director of Community Crew, is grateful for the donation and states, "The generosity from this food drive will go a long way towards making an impact in the schools that we work in. We know that when we can provide a child with a healthy lunch that they are able to focus more in school, they are able to engage in the lesson and no longer worry about where their next meal will come from."

"Through the provision of weekend food packages, we ensure children come back to school on Monday hungry to learn, not hungry for food. The generous food donations

received from the community will have a significant impact on the children who rely on Food4Kids Niagara for nourishment. While the focus is on fun at Boo at the Zoo, I applaud Safari Niagara for opening the door to a family conversation about poverty and food insecurity. We are grateful to have been included in this event and so thankful for the support of our community," says Amber Hughes, Executive Director of Food4Kids Niagara.

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 Bethlehem Housing, St. John Ambulance, Meridian Credit Union, CIBC, Cops for Cancer, Youth Resources Niagara and Autism Ontario to offer discounted admission days with a kickback from admission costs to support charitable foundations. Through these fundraisers Safari Niagara was able to donate \$4,600 this season.

Safari Niagara plans to reopen in May 2019 for their 18<sup>th</sup> season. For more information about Safari Niagara, please visit [www.safariniagara.com](http://www.safariniagara.com).

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### **ABOUT SAFARI NIAGARA**

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 daily keeper talks, narrated tram rides, and behind the scenes tours.

For more information on Safari Niagara, visit [www.safariniagara.com](http://www.safariniagara.com) or join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/safariniagara](https://www.facebook.com/safariniagara) and Twitter @SafariNiagara.