



December 23, 2008

St. Andrews Anglican Church  
2553 St. Margret's Bay Rd  
Timberlea, NS B3T 1H1

Dear Friends:

Thank you so very much for your gift of \$465.50 from your "white gifts Sunday" collection. Christmas is just around the corner, but as shoppers bustle in and out of shops bundled in warm coats and wooly hats, I can't help but think of the thousands of Nova Scotians whose only wish this holiday season is to have enough to eat. While I decorate my tree and wrap gifts for friends and family, there are thousands of Nova Scotians who wonder if they'll be able to provide Christmas dinner for their children this year.

Unfortunately, hunger does not disappear with the holiday season. Food insecurity is a year-round concern, and we expect that demand for food support at local food banks will only increase as individuals and families grapple with the effects of the current economic downturn in the New Year. Food Banks Canada, the national organization that represents the food bank community across Canada, recently released the results of its HungerCount 2008 survey – a comprehensive report on food bank use and hunger in Canada. HungerCount 2008 reports that many individuals and families across this province continue to struggle to meet their daily needs. Currently, the working poor represent ten per cent of households who receive food from food banks in Nova Scotia. For these Nova Scotians, the end of the workday is not a time to think about what they'll have for supper tonight, but if they'll have supper at all. The full HungerCount 2008 report is available for viewing at [www.feednovascotia.ca](http://www.feednovascotia.ca).

Christmas can be stressful even at the best of times, but for those experiencing financial or family crisis, the holiday season can feel hopeless, especially for families with young children. Every parent has the same desire – to provide the best Christmas for their children – but for families struggling to make ends meet, this would not be possible without your support. I want you to know that we will share the gift of hope you have given this Christmas – in the form of a beautiful Christmas hamper and turkey – with the many families who have reached out to us for help this holiday season.

As you celebrate Christmas with your family and friends, may you be blessed by knowing that somewhere in Nova Scotia a family is enjoying a delicious turkey dinner because of your generosity.

Peace & Joy of the Season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Swinemar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Dianne Swinemar  
Executive Director

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0809-516

