

## Jewish students collect 22,000 food items for the needy



Solomon Schechter Academy students "feed the truck" during a food drive organized by Federation CJA. From left are Sarah Farber, Maya Waxman, Sophie Miller, Lauren Dym and Matthew Zeigler.

### CJN STAFF

More than 22,000 non-perishable kosher food items were collected by Jewish day school students as part of Federation CJA's Feed the Truck food drive.

Feed the Truck is a community-wide food drive led by the federation's Tikun Olam volunteers.

On Sept. 13 and 14, a special Combined Jewish Appeal truck travelled to each of the participating schools to pick up the food that students had collected over the previous month, giving them the opportunity to literally "feed the truck" – packing it with their donations.

Participating were: Akiva School, Beth Rivkah Academy, Jewish People and Peretz Schools/Bialik High School, Hebrew Academy, Hebrew Foundation School, Les Ecoles Azrieli Schools Talmud Torah/Herzliah High School, École Maïmonide, Solomon Schechter Academy, and Académie Yéchiva Yavné.

Students loaded hundreds of bins into the truck, each holding approximately 50 items.

The food items will be distributed to federation-funded organizations that deal first hand with food security, including the Sun Youth Organization, the Jewish Russian Community Centre of Montreal, Auberge Shalom pour Femmes, and the Donald Berman Chai Lifeline Montreal.

More than 18,000 Jews live below the poverty line in Montreal, with children and youth making up one-fifth of those in need, the federation says.

"Feed the Truck is an amazing initiative from Federation CJA and the parents and students who participated and donated non-perishables. The food we received last year helped our budget tremendously and kept our pantry full all year," said Auberge Shalom shelter and volunteer co-ordinator Beverly Ostronoff. "Operating a shelter means that we provide three meals a day, seven days a week to our clients. As you can imagine, that entails a lot of food. We are so appreciative of everyone's generosity."

This is the second Feed the Truck food drive. Last year the truck went to 10 Jewish day schools in Montreal, collecting 20,000 food donations.

"I am delighted to co-chair the second annual Feed the Truck initiative this year. I feel that this program is so important, not only because it helps families within our community, but also because it teaches our children the importance of charitable giving and working towards a common goal," said Feed the Truck 2016 co-chair Marcy Beraznik.

"As an individual you can do so much to help, but as a team we can accomplish even more. The spirit of Feed the Truck is to bring children, families and schools together to join forces and provide food supplies for those in need." ■



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