

## Hamilton hits food share goal

### 'Tis the season to give

Canada Helps says donations skyrocket in the last week of December.

And Dec. 31 is its biggest day for online donations.

Nearly 50 per cent of its annual online giving happens this month.

Its average online donation from January through November jumps from about \$150 to around \$250 in December.

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**RACHEL DE LAZZER**  
HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Hamilton did it.

In the wake of the city's toughest year yet for food banks, the agency that supplies food to nine food banks across the city was singing a song of gratitude.

Hamilton Food Share released its tallies on Christmas Eve day amidst the cheer and melody of the Hamilton police choir at central station.

Rachel O'Reilly, Food Share resource development director, said the agency needed to fill 12,300 food hampers this Christmas — it seemed almost impossible.

"It would require raising double the amount of food we raise in one month and we only had 20 days to do it," she said.

The food share goal was to bring in 300,000 pounds of food.

Well, they got that and then some with 385,000 pounds.

"We surpassed our goal by 28 per cent and our local food banks have been able to fill 12,569 hampers up to this point.

"People just stepped up to the plate."

She said the key to the success was help from media sponsors who got the word out.