



## Chris Brothers to give \$50,000 support to Ray of Hope Soup Kitchen

### Company feels it can even do much more

Dieppe based Chris Brothers / Bonte Foods announced they are committing a \$50,000 donation to the Ray of Hope Soup Kitchen as well as other support initiatives. The commitment will be a \$10,000 annual donation over five years.

Nicole Churchill, Vice President of Food Safety for Chris Brothers / Bonte Foods and project manager for the support project says the company is excited to be able to contribute to an organization that has done so much to help the most marginalized people of our community. "This was a real team effort on behalf of the company," says Churchill adding "every person in the company felt this organization truly deserves a big thank you and the need is real. We are looking at hopefully doing even more by having a place for our staff to volunteer at and participate on fundraisers and voluntary payroll contributions."

The support comes through the United Way of Moncton and was part of the United Way Campaign Blitz for the 2016 campaign which aimed to raise \$2.5 million. "At the United Way one of the focus areas is moving people from poverty to possibility, and Food Security is a large component of that. The contribution of Chris Brothers, and their employees will go a long way to increasing the access to the support that is needed for the most vulnerable individuals in our communities," says Kirk Muise Campaign Chair - Regional Vice President, Financial Planning, Atlantic Region | RBC Royal Bank.

David Small of IGT is Board President of the Ray of Hope. "This partnership with Chris Brothers, Bonte and the United Way will cover a significant portion of our annual operating costs and will be a huge step toward ensuring our long term sustainability. The passion and enthusiasm they have shown for supporting our community is admirable!"

Barbara Ann O'Brien- is the Executive Vice President of Bonte Foods. "We feel we can make a real difference by helping the Ray of Hope Soup Kitchen. It's so important to everybody at Chris Brothers to give back. Food is what we do, so it's a natural fit. "

The Ray of Hope Soup Kitchen is an inner city meal provider and serves up to 100 people a day- many of whom are working and trying to make ends meet.

With the support and leadership of Father Peter McKee the Knights of Columbus founded the Ray of Hope Needy Kitchen in 1984. It was one of the first soup kitchens in southeastern NB. Both the Knights and Father Peter recognized a need to help the homeless and financially challenged in Moncton by providing them with a hot nutritious and most importantly “FREE” meal. Operating out of the basement of St. Augustine’s Roman Catholic Church, the Kitchen serves anyone who comes through the door regardless of who they are. Over the years the kitchen has served well over 750,000 meals.

Mike Whittaker President and co-owner of Bonte Foods says “The community has been so good to our people and our company. We all feel it’s time to give back in a meaningful way.”

Dieppe based Chris Brothers and Bonte Foods are owned by Trucorp Investments. The owners are Michael Whittaker of Moncton and Bill Hay of Truro NS. Bonte Foods has emerged as the regions premier deli meat processor and is the recipient of several recent awards. They employ over 110 people at their Dieppe based facility.

#### ***About Chris Brothers***

Chris Brothers’ is owned by Dieppe based Bonte Foods. Chris Brother’s quality deli luncheon meats are found all over Greater Moncton and all over Atlantic Canada. All Bonte Foods meats are gluten free. Bonte Foods is Atlantic Canada’s largest deli meat producer, and employs over 110 individuals in its Dieppe Facility. Products include roast chicken, roast turkey, pastrami, smoked meat, roast beef, pepperoni, salami, beef brisket and many more. Chris Brothers have an all-natural no preservative line of deli meats called **Nature’s Deli**. Bonte Foods has emerged as the regions premier deli meat processor and is the recipient of several recent awards including:

- > \* NB Exporter of the Year (from Opportunities New Brunswick)
- > \* GMCC Excellence in Business,
- > \* GMCC People’s Choice Award
- > \* and Expansion Dieppe’s Business Excellence Award.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Nicole Churchill Bonte Foods 1506-867-0768 (cell 380-3184)

Mike Whittaker Bonte Foods – 1506-867-0737 (cell 852-6688)

David Small – Board member Ray of Hope 1 506-878-6493

Nay Saadé, Resource Development Director, United Way of Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick, nay.saade@moncton.unitedway.ca, 858-8600 ext. 3666