



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YNCU SUPPORTS LOCAL RESTAURANT IN MISSION TO PROVIDE FREE MEALS TO PEOPLE IN NEED DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

“Dinner is for Everyone” — In its second year receiving the credit union’s support, the initiative takes fine dining beyond the wealthy to everyone



SAULT STE. MARIE, ON | DECEMBER 13, 2021 — With the holiday season in full swing, [YNCU](#) is excited to support [Big Lake Cabin](#) and [Grocer 4 Good](#) in the 2021 “Dinner is for Everyone” initiative through [Shop Your Neighbourhood](#). “Dinner is for Everyone,” now in its third year, is aimed at providing free dinner to those in need during the holiday season.

For Amanda Richards and Jon Young, the Owners of Big Lake Cabin — a high end restaurant located in Sault Ste. Marie — starting “Dinner is for Everyone” in 2019 was a way to take fine dining beyond the wealthy to everyone.

“At that time, we asked the community to nominate people who were going through a difficult time or who had been known to do good for others, and we invited them for a free three course

dinner on the house,” says Amanda Richards. “We also secretly purchased Christmas groceries and presents for kids for some of the families. It felt incredible ... and truly in line with the spirit of the holidays.”

Due to the restrictions that accompanied the pandemic, Big Lake Cabin had to change the initiative in 2020. They decided to give members of the community the opportunity to sponsor a holiday meal for a person in need, or someone they knew who would be alone during the holiday lockdown. For every two meals sponsored by people in the community, Big Lake Cabin would offer a third to someone in need.

YNCU offered Big Lake Cabin use of its free e-commerce platform, [Shop Your Neighbourhood](#), to make it easy for those in the community to make a donation. The go-to directory to find opening hours, access online shopping and buy local, YNCU created the platform to support small businesses with their e-commerce needs through the pandemic. With the help of several volunteers and staff, they prepared and delivered 346 meals, purchased and delivered groceries for 10 local families and purchased presents and gift cards for 26 kids.

In the spirit of giving, we are happy to support such a noble initiative by Big Lake Cabin and Grocer 4 Good again this year,” says John Ziccarelli, Director of Credit and Business Services. “We certainly encourage community members to offer a helping hand to their neighbours and provide someone in need with a delicious holiday meal.”

The call for support ahead of the 2021 “Dinner is for Everyone” is now open. For \$25, members of the community can sponsor a holiday dinner for someone in need. For every two dinners sponsored, Big Lake Cabin and Grocer 4 Good will donate a third. On December 22, 2021, Big Lake Cabin will deliver the turkey dinners, inclusive of fixings and dessert.

“We owe a huge debt of gratitude to YNCU, who went above and beyond to support this initiative,” says Richards. “Supporting, promoting and creating a page for “Dinner is for Everyone” on the “Shop Your Neighbourhood” platform to accept payments and organize delivery addresses is such an enormous help to us, and it’s so heartwarming to have a local financial institution really step up in such huge ways.”

To donate to “Dinner is for Everyone”, please visit <https://ssm.shopyourneighbourhood.com/vendors/big-lake-cabin/>.

ABOUT YNCU

With 17 branches, and a network of surcharge-free ATMs, Ontarians can bank close to home across southwestern and northern Ontario. At \$2 billion+ in assets under administration and 53,000 members strong (and growing!), YNCU is one of the largest credit unions in Ontario. As a community-based organization, not only do YNCU’s partnerships and investments make a difference, its employees live and work in the communities they serve. YNCU’s foundation is

built on connectedness to the communities where it operates. Yearly the organization sets aside a minimum of 1% of the pre-tax profit earned by the credit union in the previous fiscal year to be used for charitable organizations and associations that share its focus on improving our communities. Together with its members, employees and community partners, YNCU is helping to make life better in the places Ontarians live, work, learn and play!

Website: <https://www.yncu.com/>

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YourNCU>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/shopyourneighbourhood/?hl=en>

About Big Lake Cabin

When you live in a beautiful region like Algoma it's hard not to be inspired. Breathtaking landscapes, the heart of the Canadian Shield, lakes, farms, camps, the great outdoors, and the passion of small communities working together. Our team brings all this together with a passion for local cuisine. We have brought together the finest local ingredients and have crafted a menu to reflect the life and emotions of Algoma Region in the heart, the centre of Canada. Findlay's Fungus, City Meat Market, Hogan's Homestead, BNB Home Bakery, St. Joseph Island Coffee Roasters and many more all provide the ingredients for your culinary retreat at the cabin.

About Grocer 4 Good

It began with determination and a drive to create something positive in the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Grocer 4 Good Ability Development Program (G4G) was started in order to address two key gaps: one being the lack of paid employment opportunities for those with disabilities and barriers, and the second being the lack of food access in the downtown area for those on a fixed income. Using the model of a grocer store, G4G is a program that gives job skill training, paid employment or volunteer work to those who face barriers, or who are chronically underemployed.

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