

Something special is cooking at the soup kitchen

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Something special happens when corporate volunteers don aprons and roll up their sleeves to prepare and serve lunch at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre.

It gives the whole place a boost, says Calna McGoldrick.

"I think it's almost more psychological than the physical help, because we do have a lot of volunteers, but it shows the people here that the people in big businesses care," said Mc- Goldrick, who heads up the soup kitchen's efforts.

Working at the soup kitchen is a "very humbling experience," said Caroline Kelly, branch manager of RBC Dominion Securities in the Sault, who, along with three investment advisers, volunteered Thursday. RBC also donated \$4,500, enough to pay for a week's worth of food.

"I think there's more we can do, so I'm glad we came down today," said Kelly. "It's hard seeing children here, to look at the young families."

Outside groups offering up their time is a relatively new phenomenon at the soup kitchen.

The community centre was created more than a quarter century ago by 13 church groups, which took turns volunteering and running the kitchen.

"Their members are getting older and older, so we have a few days every week where there is nobody helping," said Mc- Goldrick.

She said when one of those spots gets filled by a group in the community, it helps to lift spirits. "You could see how cheerful everybody was and applauding," said McGoldrick. "So many of these people are not part of the mainstream society, so when somebody comes here, they get so excited.

It sort of tells them the big people out there care."

RBC Dominion Securities says for every business that also volunteers and matches the \$4,500 donation, it will chip in another week's worth of food to the soup kitchen.

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