



ALEX UROSEVIC/SUN MEDIA

Rick Crawford, left, and Doug Lamb of junk removal company 1-800-Rid-Of-It, pick up non-perishable foods to deliver to the North York Harvest food bank yesterday.

'Tis the season for giving

Business collects food for North York Harvest

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Sun Media

Christmas is still four months away, but Mike McKee is filled with the spirit of giving.

The president of 1-800-RID-OF-IT junk removal held a Christmas in August food drive along the streets of North York yesterday.

McKee's employees dressed up in Santa suits and danced to Christmas carols while collecting non-perishable food items for North York Harvest food bank.

"We're driving in these areas every single day anyway and I thought it would be a worthy cause to help out with. Being a part of our com-

in the first six months of this year, compared to the same period in 2008.

"The economy has definitely hit us. We're concerned about the need growing further as we head into the fall and people's employment insurance benefits run out and we may see more people coming to us," said North York Harvest spokesman Daniel Liadsky, adding the food bank receives



ary to March compared to the same time last year.

Preliminary reports for April to June of this year show the demand for food has increased by 19% compared to the same period in 2008.

"The increase is indicating to us that new clients are continuing to come ... If

"Being a part of our community is important to us"

Mike McKee, president of 1-800-RID-OF-IT

the increase in demand holds true for this year, it's going to be scary," said Gail Nyberg, executive director of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank.

If you live in North York and have non-perishable goods to be picked up today or tomorrow for the