

Local hero will be missed

One of the things I enjoy most about writing this column is meeting local heroes — people who are doing extraordinary things, often with little or no recognition, while leading otherwise ordinary lives in our community.

I regret that I never met Frank Davison.

Retired for 11 years from his job as a tool and dye maker, Frank was an outgoing, friendly guy. He liked bridge and bowling and chatting with friends at the Mississauga Seniors Centre on Cawthra Rd.

Frank was bothered by something he saw in his neighborhood. At one of a large chain of food stores in central Mississauga, day-old bread and baked goods were routinely thrown out. It upset him to know that good food was wasted, when he knew there were hungry people who could use it.

He approached the grocery manager and convinced him that he could dispose of the food much more constructively, at no cost or trouble to the store.

So began Frank's quiet contribution to untold numbers of hungry families in Mississauga. For almost two years, six days a week, he



SENIOR SIGHTLINES

Lynda
Chiotti

would show up at the store, load at least 100 loaves of bread, rolls and cakes into his car, taking care to pack them so they wouldn't get crushed, and deliver them to the Salvation Army Family Services Centre on Cawthra Rd.

The Salvation Army centre distributes clothing and food — until Frank's arrival, mostly canned goods — to about 350 needy families a month.

Eventually, Frank bought a van, to make the job easier. He worried, though, that there would be no one to take over when he couldn't carry on.

Last month, just a few weeks short of his 75th birthday, Frank Davison died of a heart attack. He was a beloved husband, a good father, and a compassionate and steadfast hero to dozens of families in his community who never knew his name.