

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TASTY FUNDRAISER!

Living Rock Ministries- Youth Resource Centre Presents

24th
Annual

SOUPFEST

TUES FEB 24, 2026

11:30am-7pm



Soupfest will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre By Carmen's at 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton from 11:30am-7pm

WWW.LIVINGROCK.CA

**YOUR RESTAURANT
CAN SUPPORT
YOUTH IN OUR
COMMUNITY,
BY SERVING UP
YOUR BEST SOUP!**

YOU'RE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE- DONATE SOUP TO PARTICIPATE

Living Rock Ministries
30 Wilson Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1C5
(905) 528-ROCK (7625)
Registered Charity: 88345 8812 RR0001
www.livingrock.ca

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Julie Conway, Operations Director
Tel: 905.528.7625 ext. 250
Email: julie@livingrock.ca
Cell: 905.979.2014

WHAT IS SOUPFEST ABOUT?

Soupfest is about coming together to empower youth by creating a fun, local and delicious experience in the heart of Hamilton. This one-day annual event attracts nearly 4,000 attendees annually at this one day event. Soupfest is an annual community celebration that showcases soup from top local restaurants. Restaurants compete for the titles of: Best Soup, Most Creative Soup, Heart Smart and Best Display.

WHEN:

Load-in Day: Monday February 23rd 2026
11am – 6:00 pm

Event Day: Tuesday February 24th, 2026
11:30 am – 7:00 pm

WHERE:

Hamilton Convention Centre by Carmen's
1 Summers Lane, Hamilton, ON

WHAT IS SOUPFEST ALL ABOUT?

Soupfest is the major annual fundraiser for Living Rock Youth Resource Centre, a non-profit youth resource center in Hamilton. Located downtown, Living Rock has been supporting vulnerable youth since 1985. The funds raised through Soupfest are directed to programs, services and resources offered to youth in need. Living Rock offers a place of belonging, safety, and a bridge to the community while supporting youth to develop a personal vision for their lives.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it cost to enter Soupfest?

There is no fee to register for Soupfest but there are associated costs including your soup, staff labour and any certificates and rental equipment (if needed). We ask for two \$25 gift cards to be used in promotion and raffles to high-light the event.

How much soup do I need?

We recommend 175 L at minimum but past winners and participants may have a higher demand. Please note: restaurants who do not make the required amount of soup and run out during the event, will be disqualified from the competition in order to be fair to restaurants who did prepare adequately.

What supplies will our restaurant need to coordinate?

Stock pots and portable cooker to heat soup, chaffing dish or urn to keep soup at temp, hand washing station, thermometer, fire extinguisher, we recommend decorations & signage for 10ft x 10ft booth, a tent or pipe and drape to hang sign and stand out, floor length table cloths for two 8ft tables, and marketing material if desired.

What does Living Rock provide?

Living Rock will supply bread, butter, bowls, spoons, napkins, cup holders, two 8ft tables (but not table cloths), rental equipment, volunteer support, and a participation certificate. Living Rock also covers the Health Board Form registration fee.

What's in it for my restaurant?

Soupfest is an amazing PR opportunity with reasonable costs and a relatively high return. Leading up to the event each participating restaurant is featured in event promotion, including printed material (posters, postcards) and local media coverage (Hamilton Spectator, radio, CHCH, Cable 14. You can promote your restaurant to thousands of people at Soupfest. You are welcome to distribute marketing material if desired. In addition to realizing this is a great PR and advertising opportunity for your restaurant it also supports youth-at-risk in our community. Proceeds from this event support meals, crisis support as well as life skill and employment training. Past participating restaurants have described this event as a win-win for everyone involved.



How many staff members will need to be there?

At least one staff member must be present at all times to supervise your booth.

When will I need to set up my booth?

Restaurants will have access to the loading dock on Monday February 26th between 11am-6pm. You will need to schedule a load-in time as the dock can only accommodate 4 vehicles at a time. You will have ½ in the loading dock to unload decorations, soup and supplies. Once you have unloaded your vehicle in loading area, you may choose to move your vehicle to the parking lot and continue preparing your booth for Soupfest. With your booth set up in advanced you will need only to heat your soup and prepare for health board inspections. We are on the main floor this year, so this will make load-in and tear down much easier!

Soup Heating & Safety

All soup must be heated to the proper serving temperature at your booth. Electrical equipment may be used for heating. To maintain temperature, you may use chafing dishes, a soup urn, or a pot kept on an electrical heating element.

Living Rock Ministries will cover the cost of the hydro connection at Soupfest. Please let us know what equipment you will be using so we can ensure the correct amperage is set up. **Important:** Due to safety concerns, **butane cookers are prohibited**. Last year, three fires occurred from their use, so they will not be permitted this year.

Where is the soup stored?

Soup refrigeration is provided on site at The Hamilton Convention Centre. Soup must be stored in **food grade** containers and **clearly labelled** with your restaurant name in permanent markers. We ask that your containers have lids so that we can stack soup which is needed to accommodate all restaurants in two walk-ins. Living Rock provides volunteers runners during the event to help keep your soup replenished at your booth.

Do I get a tax receipt?

Yes! Your Soupfest entry is considered a donation to Living Rock; therefore all of your soup ingredients are eligible for tax receipt purposes.

SOUPFEST SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH BY MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND EQUIPPING YOUTH FOR THEIR FUTURE

