

and mutual aid

## NIAGARA FREE STORE

a mini guide  
to the

### ESTABLISHED IN 2018,

the Niagara Free Store is a mutual aid project of OPIRG Brock, where we take things that people aren't using and give them back out for free - no questions asked!

### WHAT IS THE NIAGARA FREE STORE?

The Free Store operates on the philosophy that there is more than enough to go around.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Free Store operates on donations. We gather useful items in good condition, and hold pop-up "stores" at local events in the region, where folks can come and take things they need or want.

We fulfill specific donation requests from community members when we can, and maintain an inventory of donations year-round.

TAKE WHAT YOU  
WANT. LEAVE WHAT  
YOU DON'T

Donate to, volunteer with, or  
sponsor the Niagara Free Store!



communication@opirgbrock.com



opirgbrock.com/niagarafreestore



### WHY IS MUTUAL AID IMPORTANT?

Oppressive systems - such as capitalism - create the conditions for poverty to exist. Under capitalism we are not guaranteed the basic necessities to survive. Mutual aid works to create networks of care to meet each of our immediate needs and build solidarity, while challenging the systems of oppression that got us here in the first place.

### HOW IS THE FREE STORE MUTUAL AID?

Free Stores challenge capitalist scarcity myths tell us that there isn't enough to go around. It is a place where items can be donated by anyone and redistributed to everyone, with no conditions or proof of need. The Free Store shows us that there is more than enough for everyone, and scarcity discourse is harmful.

### HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE FREE STORE?

### DROP OFF LOCATIONS

- Fine Grind Cafe, 37 James Street  
St. Catharines
- Marilyn I. Walker, IS Artists'  
Common, St. Catharines
- CUPE 4207 Office GLN-A I23 &  
GLN-A I21, Brock University

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Donations can also be dropped off at a Free Store! All dates will be listed on:

The Free Store is an ever evolving and growing project that is run by volunteers. Our volunteer teams staff Free Stores, organize our storage locker, and contribute to its long-term planning and goals!

### VOLUNTEERS

- Accessories
- Art & Collectibles
- Audio & Electronics
- Bikes
- Books
- Gardening supplies
- Gently-used Clothes
- Hobby & Craft Items
- Housewares & Kitchen
- Musical Instruments
- Pet Supplies
- School Supplies
- Small Appliances & Furniture
- Sporting & Exercise Gear
- Tools
- Toys & Games

### THE FREE STORE ACCEPTS (NEW & GENTLY USED):

solidarity not charity

Mutual aid is the act of community - our collective action in taking care of each other. Mutual aid is an ancient practice, and has deep roots amongst Black communities, im/migrants, sexual & gender diverse folks, and otherwise marginalized groups, as a way of surviving.

Source: Black Communities Have Known about Mutual Aid All Along | The Walrus

