

EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2022

It will be two years since the declaration of the pandemic – March 10, 2020. While 2020 seemed to go by in slow motion, 2021 was a far more challenging year for Edmonton's Food Bank. One key indicator was the increase in the number of times an individual needed us which means this person's life is far more unstable and volatile than it once was. On average a person needed to see us 5.24 times compared to 4 times in 2020.

The organization worked through wave after wave of COVID to ensure we remain open and helping our community. A vaccine mandate was introduced in November 2021, while extra cleaning and mask use continue.

We are humbled by the kindness and help from our donors, volunteers, and community supporters. Because of the commitment of our community, Edmonton's Food Bank is ready and serving our neighbours in need.

Thank you.



EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK...

- continued through rain, snow, and ice, during one of the coldest Decembers ever. We kept our fleet on the road picking up donations and delivering food to distribution points throughout the city.
- implemented three drive throughs for clients to pick up their festive hampers. Brave volunteers and staff helped 429 households while the temperature outside was brutally cold.
- started sourcing turkeys for our festive meals in July. Because of this work, 2,764 turkeys, 1,552 hams, and 379 halal chickens were available for agency partners, individuals, and families this holiday season.
- vehicles traveled 182,438 kilometers in 2021 picking up and delivering food throughout Edmonton. This is equivalent to traveling the entirety of the TransCanada Highway 24 times.
- collected, packed, and stored a record 6 million kilograms of food in one year – the most in our history. This includes 5,503,973 kg in food donations and 548,050 kg of purchased food.
- served an average of 25,801 people per month through hamper programs.
- provided food to more than 300 different partners including Multicultural Health Brokers, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Hope Mission, The Mustard Seed, and many more.
- completed our third client survey – 2021 Beyond Food Revisited – which is available at edmontonsfoodbank.com/about/publications/
- helped people secure employment by purchasing over \$27,000 in safety tickets and providing other services. These tickets included First Aid, Safe Food Handling, and many more.

Client Story:

"I'm really amazed at the great quality of food we got from the Food Bank. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers. The staff/volunteers are so hard working they were working outside in the cold and brought the food out to our car! God bless you. Awesome caring customer service. I have never been to a food bank in my life but COVID 19 has caused job loss, and this food bank has come to rescue me and my family. Thanks again. God bless you all."

Dez M. - Edmonton's Food Bank Client



Because of you, we are able to continue to do what we do best - serving those in need, since 1981. If you have any questions please contact Tamisan Benz-Knight, Manager of Strategic Relationships & Partnerships, at 780.425.2133 ext. 232.