

Contact Information

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Connect With Us:

 @yegfoodbank

 Edmonton's Food Bank

 edmontonsfoodbank.com

"I never thought I would need to use the Food Bank - especially at this stage in life."

75 Year-Old Client

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your past and continued support of Edmonton's Food Bank.

This newsletter includes a blend of various information including some 2021 highlights which were made possible because of your support, and information about the programs and services offered by Edmonton's Food Bank.

We have begun sharing information in our community through a campaign called, "and much, much more". Frequently, people have limited views of our work like *the Food Bank only gives out canned/package food*, or *we only serve homeless people*, or *the Food Bank gets lots of government funds*. This issue of Gleanings will provide you with additional details and insights into our work.

As we move to a time with less restrictions, if you would like a behind-the-scenes tour of our warehouse, please contact Susan Padgett at 780.425.2133 ext. 236 to make arrangements.

Once again, thank you for your continued gifts of food, time, and funds for Edmonton's Food Bank.

Keep well. Keep safe.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Bencz, CM
Executive Director



Connect Your Passion To Our Mission

Please consider making a gift in your will to create a kinder community.

Thank you.

Find out more:
edmontonsfoodbank.com

Ways to Give/Give Money/Will & Estate



About Edmonton's Food Bank - 2021 Highlights

- With the exception of 2020, Edmonton's Food Bank does not receive any core funding from any level of government. Our doors remain open and serving the community because of volunteers and donors like you.
- Since inception, volunteers have been, and continue to be, the livelihood of the Food Bank. Our volunteers donated an astounding 102,850 hours!
- Client Services has responded to as many as 700 calls in one day. On average, they receive 562 calls and 68 emails per day from people requesting food. As a result, the Food Bank provides food to over 25,800 people per month through our hamper programs; almost 40% are children.
- The Beyond Food program offers services in budgeting, resume writing, obtaining safety tickets, and more. Beyond Food assisted 503 clients and helped pay for 867 safety tickets for individuals, creating more employment opportunities for them. This program is supported by specific partner agencies and funders.
- Our fleet travelled 182,438 kilometres in 2021 picking up and distributing food; that's equivalent to travelling the entire TransCanada highway, west to east, 24 times!

Former Donor Grateful to Receive Donations

My name is Marsha. My husband and I recently needed to start using the Food Bank services. Like most Edmontonians, I have donated food to the Food Bank numerous times during my life. Never in a million years did I think I would ever be a Food Bank recipient, but here we are.

As I'm sure you know, it is such a humbling experience to receive the generous gifts from the Food Bank, but I didn't realize how badly we were doing. To actually have some fresh vegetables - spinach, lettuce, peppers, green onion, and even mushrooms!! What an absolute luxury.

Our fridge and cupboards have been almost bare for so long and we have been living off of plain pasta and ground beef, basically.

Anyway, I just wanted to let you know that I am so thankful and beyond grateful. I can't believe it's gotten this bad, but I will be eternally grateful.

Thank you so much to you and the Food Bank team and all the generous Edmontonians. Keep rocking on!

Kindest regards forever,

Marsha



Beyond Food Client Back at Work

Dana was referred to Edmonton's Food Bank by the Bissell Centre and received a hamper of food and much, much more. Dana chose to stay at home to raise her children and when the time came to find a job, she needed help to re-enter the workforce. She became a client of the Beyond Food program and found the assistance she was looking for. Beyond Food staff helped Dana with updating her resume, learning job search techniques, and practicing for interviews.



When Dana saw a posting she was interested in, she once again relied on Beyond Food to help her obtain the necessary safety tickets. Beyond Food staff went one step further and offered to be her reference. They were contacted by a potential employer and replied to questions about Dana's skills and attitude. Dana contacted Beyond Food recently and said, "I wanted to let you know I got the job I applied for. Thank you for being my reference." Dana is another example of how the Food Bank is here for the immediate needs of our clients, and a resource for solutions.

Hoe a Row for the Food Bank

If you have room in your garden, please consider planting a row, growing a row, and sharing a row with Edmonton's Food Bank! Here's how it works:

1. Plant your seeds and nurture your garden.
2. At harvest, remove most of the dirt from your vegetables.
3. Please bring your produce to the Food Bank warehouse located at 11508-120 Street.

Root vegetables and food with a longer shelf life work best such as potatoes, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, peas, beans, beets, radishes, parsnips, sweet peppers, and summer squash.



Join Our Volunteer Team!



We are actively looking for volunteers and have many different positions to choose from. We have a flexible shift schedule; now seven days a week. Visit our website to find out more. Thank you!

Make a Difference - Volunteer Today

Because of you...

Food Recovery

and much, much more!



In 2021, Edmonton's Food Bank collected, sorted, and repackaged more than 6 million kilograms of food valued at about \$35,000,000. Food sources include food purchased by Edmonton's Food Bank, donations made at special events/food drives, and gleaned (rescued) food from the food industry. Between 60% to 80% of the food we distribute was recovered from grocery stores, warehouses, farmers, and other food suppliers.

As we write this newsletter to you, we acknowledge two very conflicting and emotional transitions:

- While the impact of COVID is lessening, we are witnessing the horror of war and history repeating itself, and
- Spring in Alberta brings renewed life and enjoyment.

If you need help navigating these difficult times, please reach out to a help line: 211 or the Canadian Mental Health Association at 780.482.4357.



Because of you...

Helping Others Serve

and much, much more!



We are a central warehouse that provides food to our 300+ partner agencies including 88 schools in Edmonton. When social service agencies have a secure source of food for their clients, they can focus on their area of expertise such as housing supports, domestic violence help, or addiction and recovery.

