

EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

MAY 2022



The Edmonton Chamber recognizes exceptional leadership with the Northern Lights Award of Distinction. It honours individuals and organizations that have made positive and lasting contributions to our community. Edmonton's Food Bank was honoured on April 30 as the recipient of the 2021 Northern Lights Award of Distinction.

"The work of Edmonton's Food Bank is not about one organization, but the dedication of thousands of generous donors, outstanding businesses, and committed people creating a kinder community. We are able to serve those facing food insecurity because of you. In celebrating this award, we are beyond grateful for your continued commitment to our neighbours in need."

- Marjorie Bencz, CM, Executive Director
Edmonton's Food Bank.



Pictured above is David Benjestorf, Vice Chair, Edmonton's Food Bank and Jeffrey Sundquist, CEO, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.



EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK...

- Experienced a record number of hamper recipients in March. We served 32,082 people a food hamper, 11,851 of which were children.
- Provided a spring celebration with festive additions - 409 hams, 547 halal chickens, and 1,197 turkeys were distributed in food hampers and to our agency partners.
- Worked with community members and opened three new depot locations to reduce the distance and travel time for people to access their food hampers. These new locations include: YMCA: Castledowns, Boyle Street Plaza YMCA, and Hillview Baptist Church.
- Continued use of the Food Bank Annex as an overflow depot when other community food depots are full. Inflation impacts the cost of food, fuel, and all aspects of our lives, negatively affecting the people we serve.
- Served 320 agencies across Edmonton with meals and snacks. Each day, on average, 22 agencies access food from our warehouse! This means organizations such as emergency shelters, snack programs, seniors' programs, and pet programs receive the items they need to continue to keep our communities safe and healthy.
- Partnered with nine new agency programs to access food resources for their clients.
- Equipped two community food depots with freezers. Your donations made it possible for us to provide freezers to the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and the Marantha Christian Reformed Church depots. These freezers will allow us to supply items such as frozen meat in our food hampers.
- Is continuing to support Ukrainian and Afghan refugees arriving in Edmonton. In addition to providing food hampers, we have welcomed refugees to our volunteer team and the Beyond Food program. Our diverse staff team makes this possible by providing services in 19 languages.

"My husband and I have been donating to the Edmonton Food Bank for some time now and today we saw it being used by an Afghan family of 11! It was very well organized and they filled 4 large boxes with every food item you can think of including halal chicken! And the staff were very friendly and helpful. Thank you so much :)"

- Mary (Google Review)



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 Bencz-Knight, Manager of Strategic Relationships & Partnerships, at 780.425.2133 ext. 232.