

EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2022

Mud, Sweat and Gears Giving More

Tom, one of our wonderful volunteers, comes in weekly usually traveling on his bike. He had saved up to purchase his bike, and it was more than just a mode of transportation, it gave him independence. Unfortunately, in June, Tom had his bike stolen in a brazen act of theft outside the Food Bank warehouse. As Edmonton's Food Bank was searching for a solution, Paul, from Mud, Sweat and Gears, graciously stepped up. He donated a brand-new bike to Tom so that he can continue to commute around the city, including his volunteerism with the Food Bank! This act of kindness warms our hearts and we applaud Paul and the team at Mud, Sweat and Gears for their thoughtfulness – thank you!



Pictured above is volunteer Tom (L) and Paul from Mud, Sweat and Gears (R).



While inflation and increased costs are top of mind for everyone, it disproportionately impacts people on fixed and low incomes. The pandemic affected the Food Bank differently at the start: depots closed, volunteers stayed home, and food drives were cancelled; however, we witnessed immense generosity from Edmontonians that helped keep our programs running. 2021 brought its own unique circumstances, and now 2022 is undeniably a year of struggle for the organization and the people we serve. The monthly average number of clients helped with a food hamper has increased almost 100% when compared to 2020.

- June 2022 saw the largest number of people helped through the hamper programs in our 41-year history: 34,867 people.
- Edmonton's Food Bank's warehouse outbound food surpassed the inbound food donations during this same time period. Essentially, the organization has purchased more than 1.15 million dollars worth of food to make up for the deficit of 228,252 kilograms (503,204 lbs) of food.
- Our 65 community food depots, who have increased the number of hampers they can each distribute, are still running at full capacity most of the time.
- Inflation is affecting the volume of food one dollar is able to purchase with cautionary notes from suppliers that our food orders may go up by 5% this fall.

Despite these challenges, Edmonton's Food Bank continues to serve the community. Thanks to dedicated donors, we continue to salvage (i.e. glean) food from warehouses.

- Volunteers have contributed 45,464 hours picking up, sorting, and redistributing food throughout Edmonton.
- Community food and fundraisers are steadily growing to provide opportunities for donors to give conveniently. Grocery stores and fire stations also collect non-perishable food year-round for us.
- Our job readiness and support collaborative, Beyond Food, has had 491 participants. Edmonton's Food Bank paid for 298 safety tickets plus helped clients access 894 free tickets to help them secure gainful employment.
- Supported 24 Ukrainians with our Beyond Food program and welcomed one successful applicant to the Food Bank staff team.



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.