### EDMONTON'S FOODBANK

### **Contact Information**

**Executive Director:** Marjorie Bencz, *CM* 

**Director of Operations:** Mark Doram

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### **Connect With Us:**

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# FOOD BANK OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, JUNE 20 3:00 - 7:00 pm

### MAIN WAREHOUSE 11508-120 Street

CONNECT YOUR PASSION TO OUR MISSION



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

Thank you.

edmontonsfoodbank.com/ Ways to Give/Give Money/Will & Estate

# **Spring Gleanings 2024**

<mark>"Ge</mark>nerosity is like a radar that sees through the fog of inequality, poverty, and injustice."

-Anonymous

### Message from the Executive Director

Each season brings new adventures and the arrival of Spring brings longer, sunnier days with the promise of green grass, beautiful flowers and homegrown vegetables. Ok, it will be a few months before we see any of these things, but they are on the way.

Meanwhile, the work of Edmonton's Food Bank continues through all seasons.

Edmonton's Food Bank was formed as the *Edmonton Gleaners Association* in 1981. To *glean*, meaning *to collect by patient harvest* or "*bit by bit*". As *Gleaners*, we approach farmers, food retailers, grocery stores, and other food industry partners and encourage surplus or edible food to be donated to us (vs. going to waste). About 60% of the food donated is from our gleaning/ salvage efforts. Our other major food sources include special events or food drives. These include food collections at schools, companies, and public events like the Heritage Festival, Taste of Edmonton, or Tackle Hunger. Thank you for supporting these and similar events!

We also purchase food to augment our food programs. In 2023, we purchased over \$3.5M worth of food. For example, we spend over \$9,000 on eggs each week! Thank you for your financial contributions.

In addition to the thousands of people who receive hampers directly from Edmonton's Food Bank, the organization distributes food to over 350 schools, soup kitchens, shelters, food depots, and other community agencies located across Edmonton.

We envision a community where hunger does not exist, where all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious supply of food. Our work towards this vision would not be possible without your friendship and donations. Thank you!

Warmest regards,

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Marjorie Bencz, CM **Executive** Director

## **A Story of Thanks**

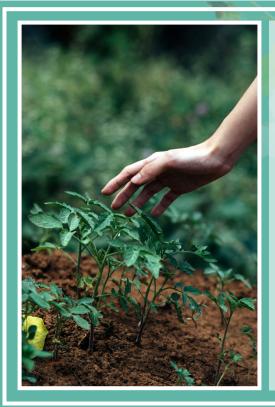


A middle-aged woman picked up her food hamper at one of our 65 neighbourhood food depots. As she finished putting the hamper into her car trunk, the depot volunteer noticed that she was crying and followed up. The lady said that morning she had nothing to eat in her fridge: "*No potatoes. No milk. No bread. No nothing.*"

Her day was made worse when she couldn't find her glasses and resorted to borrowing a friend's pair to drive. She explained to her mother her dilemma and all her mother said was "Don't worry, everything will be okay."

"And now I cry. I have bread. I have milk. I have potatoes. I have tomatoes. Eggs and so many other things. Things are so very bad, but now it feels not so bad. Thank you!" With a goodbye hug to the volunteer, she left to get her mother from her doctor's appointment.

Because of you, we are able to help our neighbours going through rough times. To the many neighbourhood depot volunteers helping the food bank's distribution network, you are appreciated. And to our donors, thank you for helping us help others in putting food and hope on the table.



## PLANT, GROW, SHARE A ROW

How often can you enjoy a favourite hobby and help others in your community at the same time? The Plant, Grow, Share a Row program is a fun way to do both! This program invites local gardeners to grow an extra row of vegetables for donation to Edmonton's Food Bank.

### How it works:

Plant your seeds and nurture your garden. At harvest, simply remove the majority of the garden dirt and take your produce to the Food Bank warehouse at 11508 120 Street.

### What crops are best to donate?

Root vegetables are best, however, any produce that can be easily handled and stored, including broccoli, cabbage, carrots, peas, beans, tomatoes, radishes, parsnips, sweet peppers, and summer squash (including zucchini) are welcome.

Your donation, whether it's a handful of green beans, a bag of beets, or a truckload of zucchini, will be appreciated and put to good use!

# **Community Events**

Help make giving fun and join us at these fun events supporting Edmonton's Food Bank. Please remember your monetary or food donations! Food donations can also be made at any City of Edmonton fire station or at Edmonton grocery stores.



### Give 30

March 10 - June 10 Building on the spirit of Ramadan, donations to Edmonton's Food Bank are encouraged online to share with those less fortunate in our community. edmontonsfoodbank.com/donate-now/



AMA Shredding Guard against identity theft for free. For a donation, AMA members can bring up to 4 bags/boxes to securely shred. ALL EVENTS 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

April 27 at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church (9003 153 AVE) May 11 at Beulah Alliance Church (17504 98A AVE) May 25 at Mill Woods Town Centre (South West Parking lot - 2331 66 ST)



#### Canstruction

May 4 - 12 at West Edmonton Mall Sign up your corporate team to get creative and build a structure out of food to help people in need. Visit canstructionedmonton.com to enter your team by April 12!



Alberta All British Field Meet June 8, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in Victoria Park Come enjoy a day in the park and see beautiful British vehicles. Bring a donation to our volunteers onsite to help people in need (12030 River Valley Road).

### **Taste of Edmonton**

July 18 - 28 (Churchill Square) Try food from a variety of local restaurants and experience all the festivities. Swing by and drop off your food or monetary donation with our volunteers onsite. Visit tasteofedm.ca for more details.

To organize an event, or if you are in need of a pick-up or delivery of resources, please contact our Resource Development Team at 780.425.2133. Please allow a 3-business day window for our trucks to dispatch.

For more details and information on upcoming events, visit: edmontonsfoodbank.com/events/