



# Summer Gleanings 2024

## Contact Information

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 @yegfoodbank

 Edmonton's Food Bank

 edmontonsfoodbank.com

*"At the end, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."*

- Denzel Washington

## Message from the Executive Director

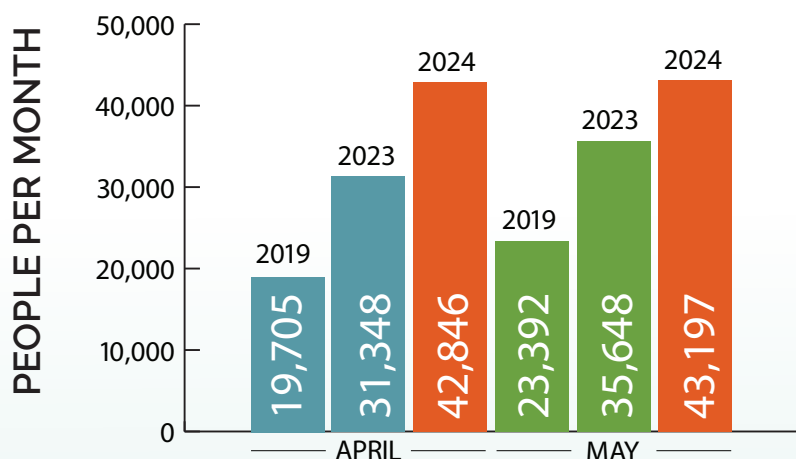
Dear Friends,

With more rain and less wildfires, our spring and summer have been a stark contrast from last year. Likewise, Edmonton's Food Bank is facing a difficult new reality. The unprecedented demand within our community is concerning and leaves us scrambling to provide services and food to community partners and people in need.

To respond to this unparalleled demand, we remain true to our work because of donors like you. We have dedicated volunteers and committed helpers. However, the numbers speak for themselves:

- In just the first five months of 2024, we have already served 55,166 unique clients through our hamper programs - a staggering 30% increase from the same period last year.
- A record 3,000 new client files were opened in May 2024 alone, tripling the number from May 2023. These are families and individuals who have never before had to turn to Edmonton's Food Bank for help.
- In May 2024, we provided emergency hampers to 43,197 people through our hamper programs alone - an all-time high, and a 21% jump from May 2023's numbers.

### MONTHLY HAMPERS COMPARED (SPRING)



The rapid rise in food requests continues to stretch our resources and capacity. This situation is not sustainable.

Edmonton's Food Bank acknowledges that providing food alone cannot solve hunger and food insecurity. A comprehensive approach is necessary to address these complex issues and ensure the well-being and dignity of vulnerable Canadians. This involves promoting access to affordable housing, adequate income support, access to support services, and employment development opportunities. By advocating for these policies and initiatives, the Food Bank emphasizes the importance of addressing the underlying factors contributing to food insecurity, fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

It is our position as an organization that we must continue to recover and use food, serve those living in poverty, provide sustainable alternative programming, advocate for change, and strive for excellence in all we do.

Thank you for your compassion and for standing with us. Our work is more critical than ever before.

In solidarity,

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.

[edmontonsfoodbank.com/  
Ways to Give/Give Money/Will & Estate](https://edmontonsfoodbank.com/Ways-to-Give/Give-Money/Will-&-Estate)



Edmonton's Food Bank does not receive any operating funds from any level of government and it relies on donations of food, funds, and time in order to distribute food to other organizations and help people experiencing food insecurity.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





## A Newcomer's Story

After fleeing unimaginable hardship in their homeland, the young family of three finally felt a glimmer of hope upon arriving in Canada. However, making ends meet as newcomers proved extremely difficult. When they visited the Food Bank, the generous hamper of food was a lifeline, easing their struggle.

In an email, the grateful parents wrote, *"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This food means more than you know for me, my wife, and our 3-year-old. We appreciate this kind gesture more than words can say. One day, when we're settled, we look forward to giving back and helping others, just as you've helped us."*

While their journey is still long, because of your donations of food and money, this simple act of kindness provided joy, relief, nourishment, and hope for better days ahead. Thank you.

## 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 left at any City of Edmonton fire station or at all major grocery stores throughout Edmonton.

All events here: [edmontonsfoodbank.com/events/](https://edmontonsfoodbank.com/events/)

### Sounds of the Valley: Music and Poetry

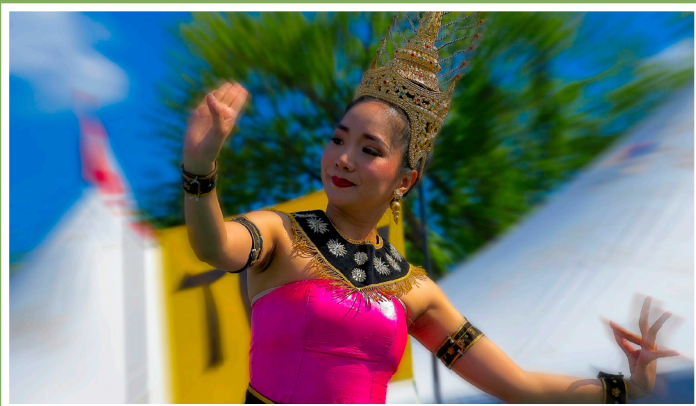
TUESDAYS, July 2 to August 27 at 7:30 pm  
Snow Valley (13204 Rainbow Valley Road)

Bring a non-perishable donation to these free concerts featuring music, art, and poetry.

### Taste of Edmonton

July 18 - 28 at Churchill Square

Try food from a variety of local restaurants and experience all the festivities. Drop off your food or monetary donation with our volunteers onsite and please donate your unused food tickets! Visit [tasteofedm.ca](https://tasteofedm.ca) for more details.



### Heritage Festival

August 3 - 5 at Edmonton Exhibition Lands and Borden Park

Please bring a non-perishable or monetary donation to this festival, which is the world's largest three-day celebration of multiculturalism! Visit [heritagefest.ca](https://heritagefest.ca) for more details.

### AMA Car Care

Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 am  
Millwoods Town Centre (2331 66 Street NW)

AMA members can sign up to get their vehicle winter-ready with a free 30-point inspection. Donations of food and funds are encouraged. Make an appointment online through our website.



### An Evening with Martin Kerr

Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 pm, Edmonton's Food Bank Annex (11434 120 Street NW)

Enjoy the wonderful music of local musician Martin Kerr and help raise funds to feed people in need. Get your tickets at [edmontonsfoodbank.com](https://edmontonsfoodbank.com)

### Edmonton Food Drive

Saturday, September 28 in neighbourhoods around Edmonton

Watch for the food drive bags delivered to your home. Please donate by placing non-perishables in the bag and on your doorstep by 10:00 am.



### Harvest Luncheon

Thursday, October 24 at 11:30 am, Edmonton's Food Bank Annex (11434 120 Street NW)

Join our annual celebration of the harvest! Our special guest speaker is Olympic gold medallist and motivational speaker **Lori-Ann Muenzer**. Details and tickets available on our website.

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/](https://edmontonsfoodbank.com/events/)