



Gleanings Winter 2018



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Edmonton's Food Bank



edmontonsfoodbank.com

Watch for this Festive Brown Bag in your mailbox. We encourage you to fill the bag and note the many upcoming events in support of Edmonton's Food Bank!



Message from the Executive Director

Season's Greetings! As we enter the festive season, we want to reach out to provide you with an update on our recent survey, share a story of hope from Andrew Grose and encourage you to support our upcoming events.

Three years ago, Edmonton's Food Bank surveyed our clients to find out how they were doing. We learned some interesting and concerning information. From this survey, we produced a report called Beyond Food and with the help of some great partner organizations, we introduced some key services to help people; such as, employment readiness, access to safety tickets, English and Math upgrading, personal counselling, budgeting advice and information about affordable housing.

A lot has happened in the last three years. The economy tumbled and more people lost their jobs. In lock-step with this, the number of people requiring hampers from the Food Bank increased by 50.6% from 13,869 individuals in July 2015 to 20,892 in July 2018.

Our 2018 survey results are available on our website or by contacting us. As you review the survey, please keep in mind that every number represents a person; every person has a story; and, every story is about resilience and hard work to survive and care for themselves and their family members. This report provides valuable information to the Food Bank, other community partners, the public and decision-makers.

As you celebrate this festive season, please remember to support Edmonton's Food Bank and our neighbours in need. As always, we appreciate your donations and kind messages of hope.

We wish you peace, happiness and health now and into 2019.

In friendship,

Marjorie Bencz, CM
Executive Director

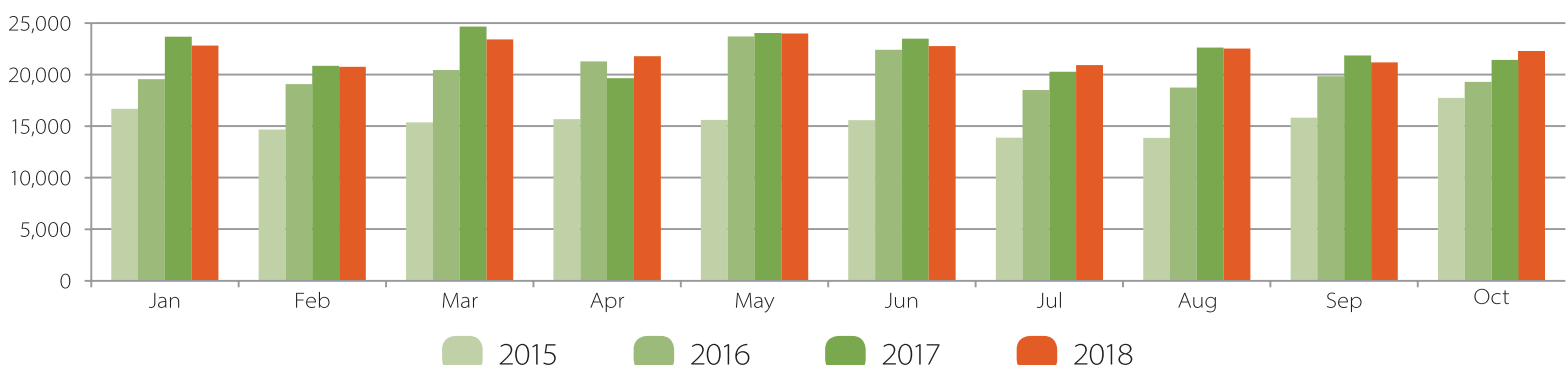


A Glimpse into our 2018 Client Survey: "Beyond Food – Revisited"

To view the complete survey please visit our website or contact us at 780.425.2133

- Six out of ten respondents were female. Half of the respondents were single and one-third married or common law. Half of the respondents have four people in their household and one-quarter have five or more people living with them.
- In 2015, 23% of respondents were 50 years of age or older. Now in 2018, respondents over 50 years of age represented 30.9% of all participants.
- 72% reported that their household income in 2017 was less than \$25,000. This is a significant increase over the 2015 results when 53% were in this category.
- 40% of survey respondents did not have food for one day or more during the past year.
- 43% of respondents had either attended or graduated from trade school, college or university. Another 30% had completed Grade 12.

Edmontonians in need of our hamper programs



A story of how hunger can affect anyone at anytime.

Andrew Grose surprised us by sharing the following story at our Harvest Luncheon.

"I am a comedian. I produce the Edmonton Comedy Festival, and I have a successful radio show on 630 CHED. I'm also a former customer of the food bank. I want to tell you my story. 26 years ago I'd started a new job. I was going through a divorce. I was fighting and struggling to maintain the custody of my two children. I was distracted with life and my employer felt that I wasn't focused so they terminated me. I had no savings, no job, and I had to declare bankruptcy. No car, no house, no income, no savings, no credit. Two kids.

I was able to cover the rent for one more month. I gave myself a month to figure it out. But after a few days, the food was gone. I heard about food banks. I didn't know what they were, I didn't know who went to them, but I was pretty sure it wouldn't be me. It wouldn't be somebody from a middle class family; it wouldn't be somebody with a university degree. It had to be a bunch of people taking advantage of the system; a bunch of people who didn't have the guts to get out and work. That wasn't me. Except it was.

It took me an hour to walk to the food bank, with my two little kids in tow. It was the lowest point in my life. When I arrived, a woman met with me. I tried to explain how it wasn't my fault. She didn't care

about any of that. She just wanted to know who I was looking after. She grabbed 3 big boxes of food; I can still remember those bags of milk. I took them outside and I realized I couldn't carry 3 boxes of food. The kids were too small to help. So I stood outside the food bank not knowing what to do next, feeling like it couldn't get any worse than this.

The woman from inside pulled around in her car then and drove us home. She entertained the kids the whole way. They had no idea what was going on. I think to this day, they don't know. I put all the food inside and came back out to thank her. She said, "You got this." She was right. I got it. But I got it because of you, the donors. I got it because of the support here at the food bank. I got it because of all the volunteers.

People in need of help from the food bank; it's not who you think. It could be your neighbour, could be your brother, sister, could be your uncle, your aunt, it could be the guy you listen to on the radio every day. Every now and then, we need a helping hand. And that's what Edmonton's Food Bank does."

SUPPORT EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Mayfield Dinner Theatre Toonies for Turkeys

November 6 to December 23
mayfieldtheatre.ca | *Monetary donations gratefully accepted

Can Man Dan Camp-Outs

Southgate Safeway Nov 21-25 | Southbrook Sobeys Dec 22-24
Please visit our website for additional dates and locations.
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

AMA Fill Our Fleet

November 21 to December 10
ama.ab.ca/fillourfleet | *Non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Citadel Theatre: A Christmas Carol

November 30 to December 23
citadeltheatre.com | *Monetary donations gratefully accepted

Loblaw National Food Drive at all Edmonton Superstores & No Frills

November 30 to December 24
*Non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

ETS Stuff a Bus at all Edmonton Save On Foods

November 28 to December 1
'Blitz Day' December 1 (9am to 5pm)
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Joy of Giving Holiday Campaign at all Edmonton Safeway / Sobeys / IGA

November 29 to December 16
'Blitz Day' December 1 (11am to 4pm)
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concerts

December 3, 4, 20, 21, 22, & 23
winspearcentre.com | *Monetary donations gratefully accepted

Christmas BOW (Blues on Whyte)

December 2 (Starting at 1:30pm)
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

YEG Candy Cane Lane

December 7 to January 1 (6pm to 10pm)
148 St between 100 Ave to 92 Ave
*Non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Edmonton's Food Bank Magical Christmas Music Gala Presented by Capital Power

Featuring Tom Jackson and his Huron Carole
December 11 (Doors 5:30pm | Dinner 6:30pm | Show 7:30pm)
Edmonton Inn (11834 Kingsway Ave)
*Tickets available now, please call 780.425.2133

CP Holiday Train

December 10 (Show starts at 8:15pm)
7935 Gateway Boulevard, South of the Edmonton CP Station
cpr.ca/holiday-train/schedule-canada
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Rosenau's 18 Wheels of Christmas with K-97, 96.3 Capital FM & 840 CFCW

December 13 to 16
Hawkstone Co-op & Mill Woods Co-op
*Monetary & non-perishable food donations gratefully accepted

Turkeys on the Trail

December 15
2903 113 Ave NW, Rundle Park ACT Centre
turkeysonthetrailveg.com | *Monetary & turkey donations gratefully accepted

CBC Turkey Drive

December 13 to 20
cbc.ca/edmonton | *Monetary & turkey donations gratefully accepted

GIVING TO EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK IS EASY

For a direct impact, monetary donations can be made online at edmontonsfoodbank.com

Donations of non-perishable food can be left at any City of Edmonton Fire Station, major grocery store or dropped off at our warehouse located at **11508-120 Street, Monday to Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm**

If organizing a food drive, please consider delivering the donations directly to our warehouse. If a pick-up is required, plan for a five-business-day window as it is our busiest time of year. **Thank you.**