

# EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024



2023 was another challenging year for Edmonton's Food Bank. We continue to experience increased demand for our services. Our agency partners and our school partners grew. Our monthly hamper recipients also increased, on average, from 30,787 people per month (2022) to 34,825 people per month (2023).

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Our incredible volunteers continue to amaze with their generosity. In 2023, we had 13 individual volunteers donate 500+ hours, with four donating 1,000+ hours. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELPING OTHERS!



## IN 2023 EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK...

- Served 417,908 people with food hampers. This representing 75,476 unique individuals compared to 67,046 different people in 2022.
- Served record number of people through our hamper programs: August 37,462 people and November 36,643 people.
- Provided, on average, 400,000 meals and snacks monthly to partner organizations. This represents 350 different partners including soup kitchens, shelters, schools, and other community organizations.
- Collected and shared 5,583,294 kilograms of food (12,308,930 pounds).
- Purchased \$3.5M worth of food (a 16.6% increase from \$3M in 2022).
- Continue to purchase \$9,000 worth of eggs weekly.
- Volunteer hours increased from 118,400 (2022) to 141,233 (2023) hours.
- Opened our third warehouse in June, NISO, a Cree word meaning "two". It resides between our main warehouse and our Annex building.
- Implemented special NISO depots for clients to pick up their festive hampers during the holiday season serving 16,974 people.

## Isai's Story:

Isai came to Canada fleeing the war in the Ukraine. Learning our Canadian system and understanding English was taking a toll on Isai.

He came to the Food Bank on advice from his friend. Isai arrived on a Thursday afternoon when the Social Worker from our partner agency, Catholic Social Services, was onsite to help connect Isai with resources and opportunities. Translations were done thanks to one of our Ukrainian staff.

Before leaving, Isai thanked our team and left with a smile. We were able to help Isai with his immediate food needs and know he will be getting more support moving forward thanks to the information shared.

Because of your generous support, we can help Isai along his journey in Canada. Thank you.



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.

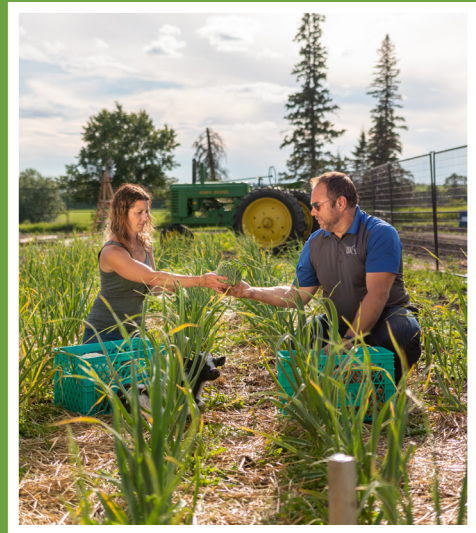
# EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

MAY 2024



## 2024 NUMBERS TO DATE...

- 38,906 people served in March (a record number of hamper recipients).
- Our donors & volunteers are committed to our mission & are very generous. Our challenge is the growing need for our services.
- \$1,098,837 worth of food purchased (as of April 30) including eggs, shelf stable milk, flour, oil, canned soups, and more.
- Served 8,210 people a festive hamper in March – including 678 hams, 1,479 turkeys, and 463 halal chickens.



Get ready to Plant a Row,  
Grow a Row, Share a Row!



## EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK'S RESILIENCE CONTINUES:

2019	2023
Owned 2 buildings: Annex and Main Warehouse	<b>Own 3 buildings: Annex, NISO, and Main Warehouse</b>
15 vehicles owned and operated	<b>19 vehicles owned and operated</b>
4.3 million kilograms of food donated	<b>5.5 million kilograms of food donated</b>
\$1.1M of purchased food	<b>\$3.5M of purchased food</b>
99,000 volunteer hours	<b>140,000+ volunteer hours</b>
21,385 people served on average through hamper programs monthly	<b>34,815 people served on average through hamper programs monthly</b>
68 area depots and 280 partner agencies	<b>80 area depots and 350 partner agencies</b>

## STRENGTH IN SERVICE: EFB SUPPORT ENDURES

The sentiment echoed by Kirstin Beardsley, CEO of Food Banks Canada, resonates deeply across the nation, as she emphasizes the alarming state of food insecurity: “The word that I hear often with food banks across Canada is ‘unsustainable.’ When you see the rates of growth that we’ve seen and the strain, the amount of donations that we need to see coming through the door, either stagnate or do not keep up the pace, this is not a sustainable situation.” (April 26, 2024 – Global News)

Despite these challenges, Edmonton’s Food Bank remains steadfast and unwavering in its service to our community, thanks to the dedicated support of compassionate contributors.

“Our donors and volunteers have remained dedicated to our mission with their gifts of food, funds, and time,” affirmed Marjorie Bencz, CM, Executive Director. “Food insecurity is a symptom of poverty. We advocate for change to help people secure employment, affordable housing and childcare, and supports for mental health and addictions. Together we are creating a kinder community.”

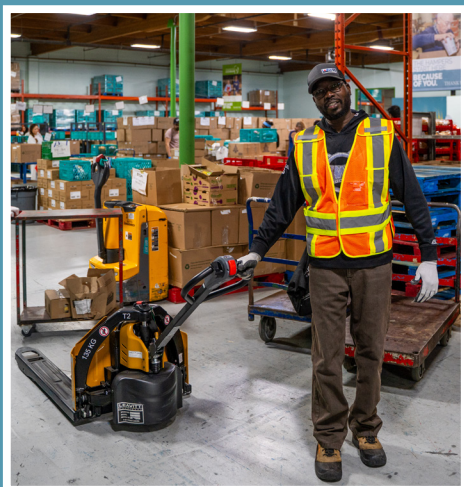


Because of you, we are able to continue to do what we do best - serving those in need, since 1981. If you have any questions please contact Tamisan Bencz-Knight, Manager of Strategic Relationships & Partnerships, at 780.425.2133 ext. 232.



# EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

JULY 2024



## STOLLERY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GIFT

Food handling involves logistics and we are excited to announce a generous gift from the Stollery Charitable Foundation, which has provided us with ten walk-behind electric pallet jacks. These jacks save time and energy by efficiently moving food through our systems, making it easier to accept donations and deliver food hampers to community depots.

Additionally, the grant funded an air curtain for our south loading dock, enhancing its usability and increasing our capacity to serve the community more efficiently.



## SERVICES TO MEET GROWING NEED

At Edmonton's Food Bank, we believe that behind every statistic is a person with unique challenges and hopes. As we continue to navigate the growing demand for our services, our commitment remains unwavering: to provide not just food, but also compassion, understanding, and support.

Our spring snapshot of 2024, has seen an unprecedented increase in new clients seeking food help with May breaking records - we provided food hampers to **43,323** people.

For the last 6 months, we have been providing food hampers to an average of **1,700** individuals who have never accessed our services before.

To address the needs of our most vulnerable clients, we opened our Pantry Program to increase our capacity and have served 60 households, engaging directly with them to understand their situations better. Through these conversations, we are identifying additional supports, connected them with our Beyond Food program and other help.

Our dedicated warehouse volunteers have already contributed an incredible **73,642** hours! They are working tirelessly by our side sorting food donations, building food hampers, and so much more.

The depot in our NISO building has become a critical resource for many. After its first year, we provided food to **25,343** households providing **82,194** people a food hamper.

## BECAUSE OF YOU...

John was anxious about visiting the Food Bank, but his worries quickly vanished when he walked through the doors. He was warmly welcomed by the staff at the NISO depot and was treated with incredible respect.

When John received his hamper, he was amazed by the quality and variety of items. "The volunteers did a better job than I ever could grocery shopping!" he marveled.

Leaving with bags full of nutritious food, John's gratitude was captured in his words: "Please tell everyone thanks from the bottom of my heart. This is absolutely awesome!"

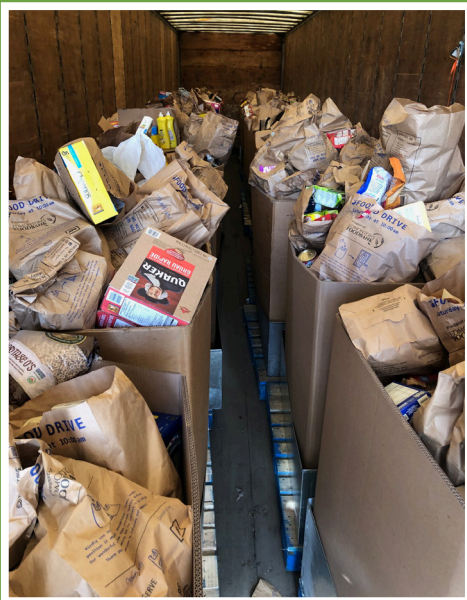


Because of you, we are able to continue to do what we do best - serving those in need, since 1981. If you have any questions please contact us: [info@edmontonsfoodbank.com](mailto:info@edmontonsfoodbank.com) or at 780.425.2133.



# EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2024



## EDMONTON FOOD DRIVE: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The Edmonton Food Drive, coordinated by the LDS Church, came at the perfect time, shining as a beacon of hope. With the support of our generous community and the dedication of countless volunteers from all around the city, who helped deliver the ATB Brown Bags and returned to pick up donations, we collected an astounding 125,132 kilograms of food and raised over \$73,000 in online contributions. This is a much-needed boost, allowing us to replenish our shelves — a sight we haven't seen in quite a while.

As we move into fall, this drive is essential in helping us continue to serve more than 40,000 people each month. We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, volunteered, advocated, and stood with us in this effort. Your contributions truly make a difference.



## RIISING TO MEET THE GROWING NEED

*"It took around 25 years before food bank visits surpassed 1 million in a month. We should all have responded to that sombre milestone. Incredibly, food banks recently registered another sombre milestone. They saw an additional 1 million visits per month - within the past five years." - HungerCount 2024*

Food Banks Canada **HungerCount 2024** Findings:

- Food bank use soared to over 2 million visits in March 2024, shattering Canada's 2023 historic peak – and representing a 90% increase compared to March 2019.
- The one-two punch of housing and food inflation is hitting those with low incomes hardest.
- One-third of food bank clients are children – representing nearly 700,000 monthly visits in 2024.
- 18% are employed, compared to 12% in 2019.
- Nearly 70% of food bank clients live in market rent housing.
- 40% of food bank clients rely on inadequate, outdated provincial social supports that provide incomes far below the official poverty line.
- Governments are failing to support newcomers (people who have lived in Canada for 10 years or less) as they now represent 32% of food bank clients, up from 27% in 2023.

## EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK: LOCAL NUMBERS

Jasper evacuee support for 90 people with the Jasper Employment Centre for international workers (July 31, 2024).

### Thanksgiving Distribution

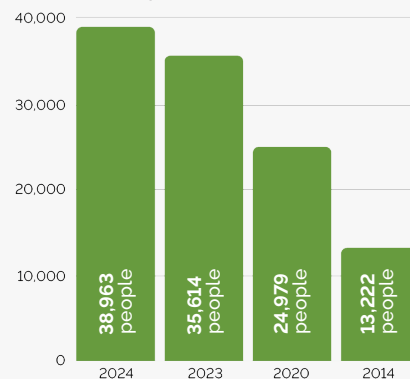
1,632 TURKEYS

1,253 HAMS

541 HALAL CHICKENS

Served 10,748 people with festive trimmings too! Also helped 33 agencies hosting Thanksgiving meals, feeding 7,874 people.

### March Hamper Program Recipients



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 us: [info@edmontonsfoodbank.com](mailto:info@edmontonsfoodbank.com) or at 780.425.2133.