



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

11508 - 120 Street | P.O. Box 62061 | Edmonton, AB T5M 4B5  
780.425.2133 | [edmontonsfoodbank.com](https://edmontonsfoodbank.com)





# ABOUT THE PANTRY



Over the past five years, the demand for food assistance in Edmonton has increased dramatically. In 2020, Edmonton's Food Bank provided hampers to an average of 21,385 clients per month. By 2024, that number had risen to 41,697—a staggering reflection of the economic challenges facing households. This growing need has compelled us to continually adapt our programs to meet the immediate needs of the community while also addressing the deeper issues contributing to food insecurity.

While many of our clients seek food hampers on an as-needed limited basis, there is an increase in individuals who rely on our services more frequently. For these clients, we have sensitive and thoughtful conversations. These discussions allow us to better understand their circumstances and help them access additional resources. While food is an urgent and immediate need, we recognize that there are broader challenges our clients face.

To create space for these meaningful conversations, we ensure that we can have special time. During these scheduled sessions, our team takes the time to understand our clients' unique situations, identify options, and connect them with resources such as government programs, tax completion services,

discount food options, collective kitchens, and even our Beyond Food Program. The goal is to ensure no one goes hungry and empower individuals and families with the tools they need to reduce their reliance on food hampers and increase their food security.

Once the conversation is complete, clients can select food for themselves and their families in our Pantry, which operates like a small grocery store. This shopping model allows clients to make choices that best suit their needs.



We are committed to meeting the immediate need for food and addressing the underlying causes of hunger in our community. Our Pantry program is one step toward that goal, ensuring that every client feels supported and empowered on their journey towards food security.



The Pantry served **1,944 clients (987 unique)** in 2024.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

As we reflect on the year gone by, it is with both a deep sense of pride and a sobering awareness of the ongoing challenges that we share this Annual Report with you. Over the past year, our community has faced increasing levels of need, with food insecurity continuing to be a concern for many. Yet, despite these challenges, our commitment to caring for those facing hunger has never been stronger.

In the face of unprecedented demand, our Food Bank has worked tirelessly to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. With rising food costs, job insecurities, and other financial hardships affecting so many families, the need for our services has surged. We have seen an increase in both the number of individuals, families, and social agencies who seek support.

We understand that food insecurity is not just about a lack of food—it's about a lack of security and dignity. Our mission remains focused on providing not just food, but compassion and care to every person who walks through our doors. We are not just filling pantries; we are offering hope, reassurance, and a reminder that in times of difficulty, we are a community that stands together.

Our Beyond Food Program continues to provide support in training, computer access, and information on accessing various social services.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, volunteers, and community partners, we have been able to meet this increased demand for all of our services with resilience and dedication. But we know that we cannot stop here.



Incorporated as  
**Canada's first food bank**  
on January 16, 1981 as the  
**Edmonton Gleaners Association.**



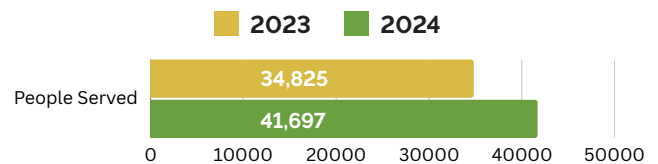
There is still much work to be done, and we remain committed to working hand in hand with our community to alleviate hunger and provide the support that so many continue to need.

Our focus remains on ensuring that everyone who comes to us for assistance is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Every hamper we provide, every school luncheon, is a step toward a more hopeful future for all. Together, we will continue to support those in need and work towards a community where food insecurity is no longer a daily concern.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create lasting change in the lives of those facing hunger.

Sincerely,

Katherine Huising  
Board Chair, Edmonton's Food Bank



Monthly hamper recipients increased, on average, from 34,825 people per month (2023) to **41,697 people per month (2024)**



# THANK YOU



Dear Friends,

2024 was an extremely challenging year at Edmonton's Food Bank as we served increased numbers of partner agencies and Edmontonians in need. We worked very hard to upscale and respond to increased requests for help from the community. This growth created challenges as we continued to provide a diverse range of services and options in the community including our Hamper Distribution Network, the mobile Depot, the Pantry, Beyond Food and more.

We finished our 2024 year in a strong financial position which will help us provide services into another challenging year filled with many unknowns.

Thank you for your kind donations of food, money and time!

The work of Edmonton's Food Bank is only possible because of the dedication of our partner agencies, our committed volunteers, and our loyal donors. I would like to do a special thank you to our incredible staff team who continue to inspire. We are extremely grateful for your continued friendship and support.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Bencz'.

**Marjorie Bencz, CM**  
Executive Director

## IN LOVING MEMORY



**JACK LITTLE**

1940 - 2024

LONG TIME BOARD  
MEMBER & CHAIR



**MIKE FAGAN**

1929 - 2024

FOUNDING  
MEMBER



**TIM HARTNAGEL**

1941 - 2024

LONG TIME BOARD  
MEMBER

It is never easy to say goodbye to cherished friends. In 2024, we said farewell to three of our organization's dear friends: *Jack Little, Mike Fagan, and Tim Hartnagel*. These are some of the people whose leadership and vision helped lay the foundation for the work we carry forward today. Their wisdom continues to guide us, and their legacy lives on in every step we take. We are forever grateful for their friendship, dedication, and their lasting impact on our organization and our community.





## A DECADE OF GENEROSITY: HONOURING THE SHAW FAMILY'S LEGACY GIFT

In 2015, Brad Shaw and his family made a remarkable personal commitment to support Edmonton's Food Bank by pledging \$300,000 annually for 10 years to help us purchase food. This visionary gift, totaling \$3 million, was especially vital in funding child-focused and nutritious food for our programs

serving children and families. Now, as we mark the final year of this extraordinary legacy gift, we reflect with deep gratitude on the Shaw family's decade of unwavering generosity. Their support has nourished thousands of children, strengthened

families, and brought hope to our community in times of need.

On behalf of everyone who benefited, our thanks and appreciation to Brad Shaw and family. Your impact will continue to be felt for years to come through the lives you've positively impacted.



Our fleet travelled **223,630 kilometers in 2024** picking up and distributing food; that's equivalent to travelling the entire **Trans-Canada highway, west to east, 29 times!**

# PEOPLE SERVED

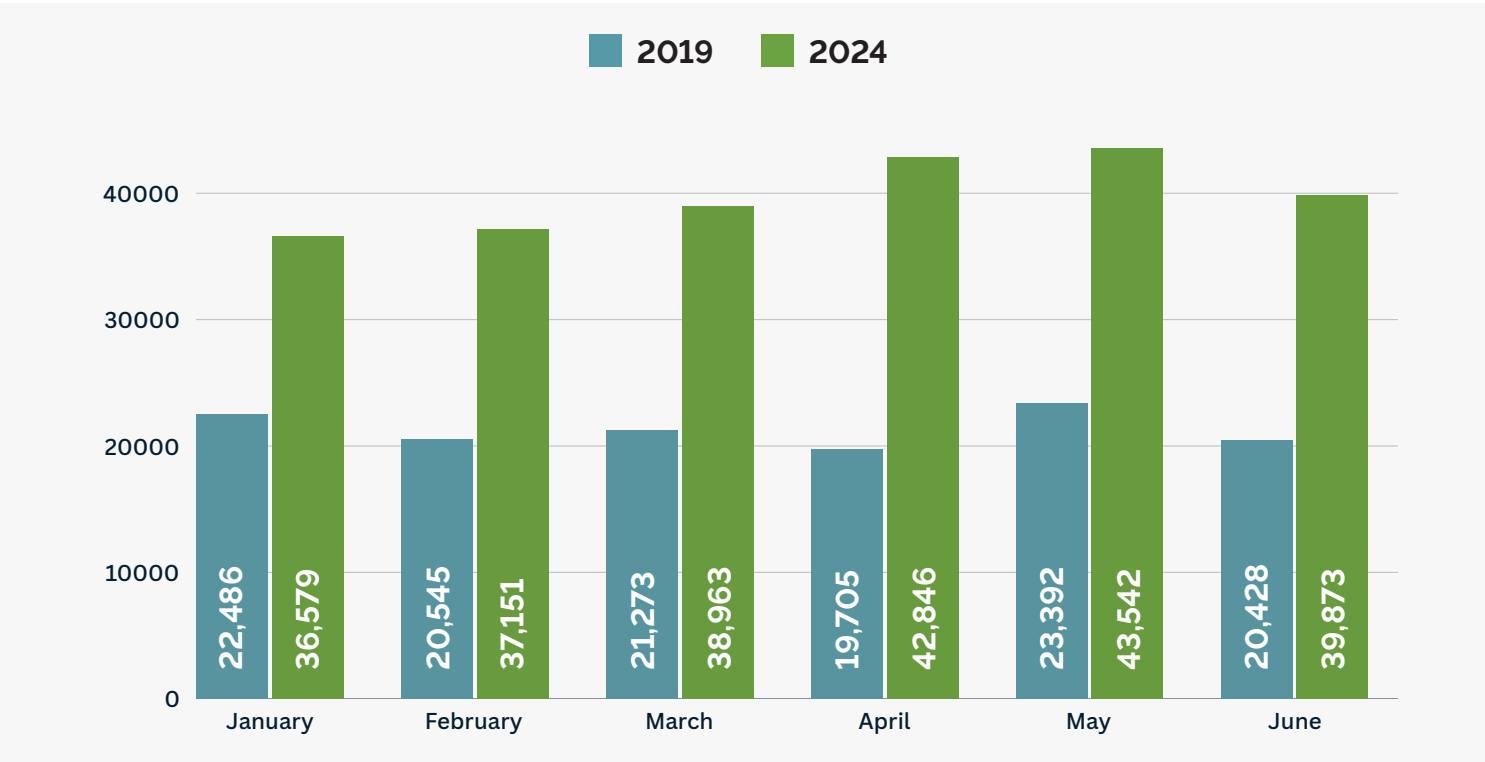
Our hamper programs account for roughly half of all our food support in Edmonton, with the other half delivered through our network of agency partners. Together, these hamper programs provided food to a cumulative total of 500,364 individuals last year which represents 79,632 different people.

Behind each number is a story. A friend. A colleague. A neighbour. A parent. An isolated senior. A growing child. A sibling. Every hamper represents not just a meal, but dignity, compassion, and connection in a moment of need.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our donors and volunteers, we continue to provide food hampers to thousands of people every month offering food, hope, and the reminder that they are not alone. Because of you, we are making change and helping each other.

\*Note: The following graph reflects the number of individuals accessing food through our hamper programs. It does not include the thousands of meals and snacks provided each month by our incredible network of agency partners.

## HAMPER PROGRAMS COMPARED - PEOPLE SERVED



2019



Monthly Hamper Recipients **21,385**

2024



Monthly Hamper Recipients **41,697**

2019



Collected, Sorted and Distributed **4.3M Kg** of Food





*“Words can’t describe my gratitude. Your support has given me hope during a really difficult time. Thank you!”*

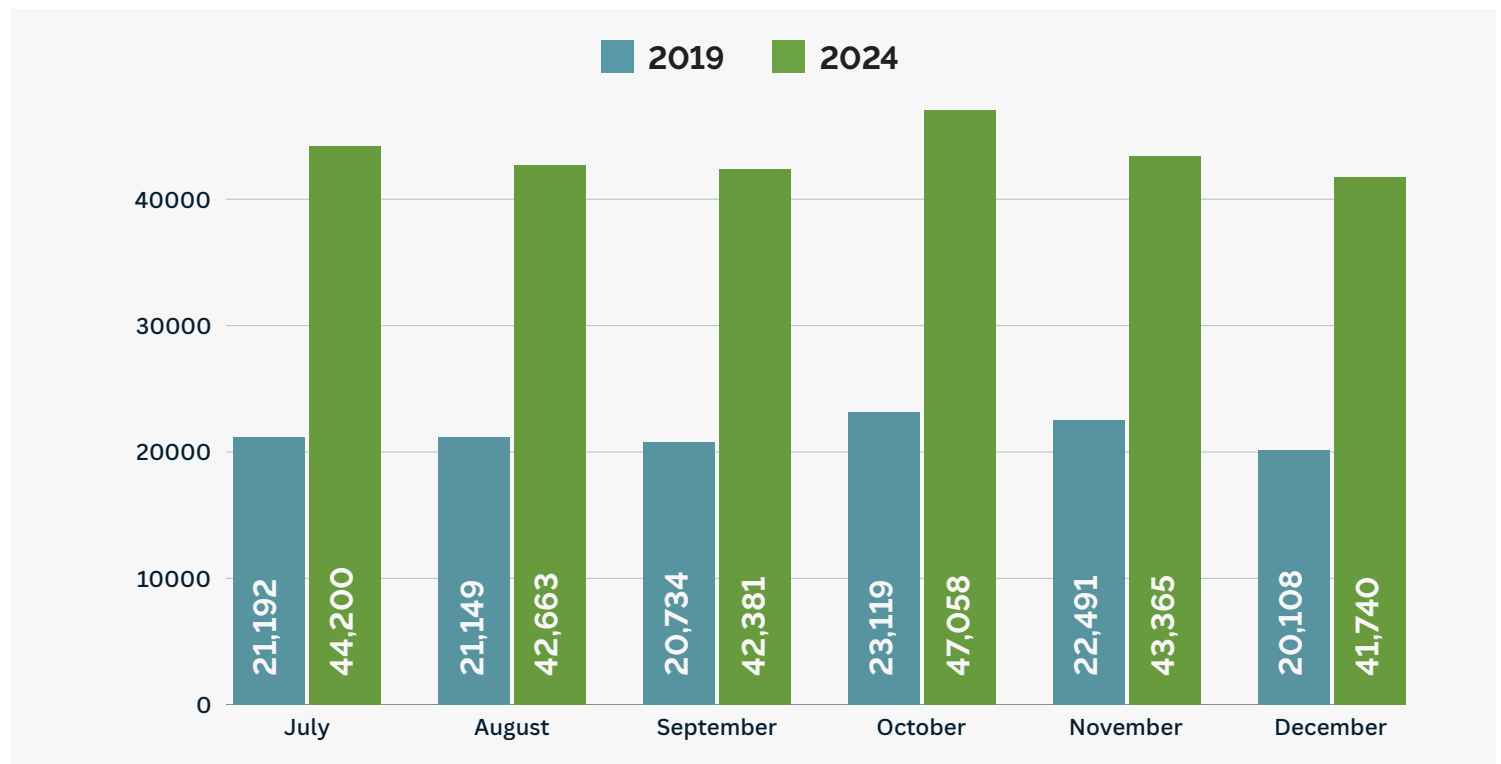
*- Kevin, Edmonton*

In **2024**,  
Edmonton’s Food Bank  
experienced **two all-time highs**  
for people accessing  
our hamper programs.



Both July (**44,200 people**) and  
**October (47,058 people)** were  
record breaking months in  
our 44-year history for people  
seeking food help.

## HAMPER PROGRAMS COMPARED - PEOPLE SERVED



**2024**



Collected, Sorted and  
Distributed **5.6M** Kg of  
Food

**2019**



Number of Visits Per  
Person **3.97** Times

**2024**



Number of Visits Per  
Person **5.7** Times

# COMMUNITY



**Esha Dhaliwal** (pictured) proudly promoting the community food drive she has been organizing with her siblings since 2016! Their dedication over the years has made a meaningful difference rallying friends, neighbours, and classmates to support Edmonton's Food Bank and help those in need.

Community engagement is essential to the work of Edmonton's Food Bank. As an organization that receives no government funding for operations, we rely on the generosity of our community. We are humbled by the kindness and compassion of Edmontonians. Thank you for your support!

On the following pages, we are proud to share just a few of the people, groups, businesses, and foundations that have made our work possible in 2024. We would like to express our deepest appreciation for all our Hunger Heroes who thought of people facing food insecurity in Edmonton and choose to support Edmonton's Food Bank.

ABOUT  
**99%**  
OF OUR EVENTS  
ARE THIRD-PARTY





## SKIP THE DEPOT

Your donations of bottles and cans raised \$19,478 for the Food Bank!



## PUROLATOR

The annual Purolator Tackle Hunger game between the Edmonton Elks and the Saskatchewan Roughriders raised \$11,858 and 926 kg of food.



## KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis Club of Edmonton empowers its members to serve the community, and with service at its heart, they generously donated \$5,000 to support our work!



## HERITAGE FESTIVAL

In its second year at Borden Park and the EXPO Grounds, the Heritage Festival brought together pavilions from around the world sharing food, dance, crafts, and traditions that highlight the richness of their unique cultures.

Despite the festival's closure on the holiday Monday due to severe weather damage, the spirit of giving remained strong. The event collected an incredible 27,197 kilograms of food and \$36,277 in support of Edmonton's Food Bank.



## ECMC - DAWN TO DUSK

The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities' fifth annual Dawn to Dusk campaign in support of Edmonton's Food Bank raised \$51,818!



## GIVE 30

Give 30 was created in 2012 and has grown into a grassroots movement against hunger and poverty. The 13th annual Give 30 campaign raised \$112,880 for the Food Bank!



## MAI MAI VIET STREET KITCHEN

Spicy BBH Challenge: Finish in 30 mins, eat free, and \$10 goes to Edmonton's Food Bank. They raised \$904 in 2024—challenge continues in 2025!



## HINDU COMMUNITY OF EDMONTON

Raised over \$2,620 and 966 kg of food throughout the year thanks to the Hindu Society of Alberta, Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir, and Bhartiya Cultural Society.



## HARVEST LUNCHEON

Our annual Harvest Luncheon raised \$25,837! Our Guest Speaker was Olympic Cycling Gold Medalist Lori-Ann Muenzer.



## 20K DIAPER DRIVE

Edmonton Playgrounds and The Fourth at Southgate Centre held a diaper drive and raised \$6,092 and 21,224 diapers for the little ones!





## EDMONTON FOOD DRIVE

More than 6,000 volunteers, led by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, came together to collect an astounding 125,132 kg of food. This annual food drive, covering approximately 200,000 homes, represents one of the largest and most coordinated community-led efforts in support of Edmonton's Food Bank.

We're also grateful to Purolator for supporting the drive in their delivery area of 6,000 homes, and to our incredible transportation partners: Action Express, Purolator, Grimshaw Trucking, and Matco Moving for providing the trucks and trailers needed to move this mammoth amount of food.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ATB FOR HELPING PROVIDE THE 200,000 EDMONTON FOOD DRIVE BROWN BAGS**



## AMA

Multiple events and member services by AMA help the community! In 2024, AMA partnered with Kingsway Mall to support Edmonton's Food Bank with rooftop bees and a container garden. Events like Helping the Harvest, Fill Our Fleet, and AMA Recycling raised 6,185 kg of food and \$100,741!



## TASTE OF EDMONTON

Taste of Edmonton and Court Jester Dueling Pianos raised \$15,582 for Edmonton's Food Bank through donated food tickets and performance tips.



## GRAHAM CONSTRUCTION

Graham Construction employees engaged in physical activity to raise funds for food banks. For every employee who participated Graham donated \$50 for each participant and raised \$3,250.



## HIKE FOR PLENTY

In the first large community food drive of the year, the Edmonton Girl Guides Hike for Plenty collected over 4,000 kg for people in need.



## WALMART

Walmart Canada's Fight Hunger Spark Change campaign raised \$156,189 and 446 kg of non-perishables. We also received grants of \$1,000 from four different locations which helped purchase fuel for our vehicles and supported food purchases for After the Bell.





## SOBEYS & SAFEWAY

Sobeys had a record-breaking Holiday Campaign in support of local food banks and presented Edmonton's Food Bank with a donation of over \$388,000! This money was raised across 46 stores around Edmonton!



## NORTH CENTRAL CO-OP

In addition to their regular food donations, they also support our work through Good Buy to Hunger campaigns twice yearly and additional donations throughout the year and raised \$32,936.



## METALLICA

We were thrilled to get a call from Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation that Edmonton's Food Bank had been chosen to receive a \$50,000 donation following their two concerts at Commonwealth Stadium in August.



## FLAMAN FOUNDATION

The Flaman Foundation donated \$50,000 to the Food Bank during the holiday season!



## KEYERA

Keyera donated \$20,000 which we use to purchase eggs. We're grateful for their generous support!



## BURNCO

BURNCO Rock Products Ltd visited our warehouse this holiday season with 376 kg of non-perishables and a \$35,000 donation to support our work!

## SIKH COMMUNITY OF EDMONTON

Our thanks to Gurdwara Millwoods, Gurdwara Nanaksar, Gurdwara Singh Sabha, and Siri Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara of Alberta for raising \$13,013.13 in recognition of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder and first Guru of the Sikh faith.





## PCL GOLF TOURNAMENT

PCL Construction's First Annual Charity Golf Tournament raised an astounding \$175,000 for Edmonton's Food Bank! Funds were raised through golf registrations, a 50/50 draw, mulligans, and corporate sponsorships.



## RUN FOR EDMONTON

On September 18, our friends from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elder Association brought members of the Edmonton community together for this year's Run for Edmonton at Gold Bar Park. This two kilometer run, jog and/or walk event raised \$7,000 for the Food Bank!



## CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED

Our work goes beyond an app or call - it's about moving food and resources across Edmonton. With 67% of our food gleaned, community support is key.

Thanks to generous donors like Canadian Natural Resources Limited, we now have the vehicle we need to keep moving forward!



## SHINNY OF CHAMPIONS

This adult hockey league is comprised of players who have never played hockey before! They raised 50 kg of food and over \$10,000 for the Food Bank at their year-end tournament!



## CUMMINS

Edmonton's Food Bank received a \$25,000 USD GlobalGiving grant made in partnership with the Cummins Foundation. We used the funds to provide over 10,800 dozen eggs to families in need!



## THE SEVEN80

The Seven80 donated \$2 per toque and over \$10,000 during the Oilers' playoff run, supporting the Food Bank with help from local merchants!

## SERVUS COMMUNITY FRIDAYS

In December, Servus Community Fridays at Snow Valley Ski Club donated \$5 from each lift ticket sold to the Food Bank! Over four Servus Community Fridays, they sold 1,348 tickets and raised \$6,740! A huge thank you to skiers, snowboarders, and our partners at Servus Credit Union and Snow Valley!







## CBC MAKE THE SEASON KIND

CBC's annual Make The Season Kind campaign raised \$462,348 in 2024! We'd like to thank CBC viewers and listeners for their generosity and highlight some other campaign donors:

- Court of Appeal and Court of King's Bench Judges: \$89,261
- Enbridge: \$25,000
- Epcor: \$25,000
- Telus: \$20,000
- Holyrood School: \$24,616
- Brownlee LLP: \$19,000



## PRODUCE GALORE!

These generous donors support our work with fresh produce donations to fill food hampers and tummies alike!

- Edmonton Potato Growers: 31,472 kg
- Little Potato Company: 46,131 kg
- Pandemic Planting Project: 46,993 kg
- City Farms: 17,162 kg
- Lady Flower Gardens: 9,991 kg
- Kuhlmann's Greenhouse & Market Garden: 25,726 kg
- Fort Edmonton Park: 2,321 kg
- Ukrainian Village: 645 kg



## FOOD BANKS CANADA

Food Banks Canada provided a financial grant for a new outdoor forklift to help us move product between our three buildings. They also helped us purchase halal meat with funding through the 2023 Access Grant. Additionally, we took part in Food Banks Canada's Menstrual Equity Fund Pilot (funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada) to provide free menstrual products to diverse low-income groups in Canada.



## AMAZON

Amazon staff volunteer at the Food Bank throughout the year. Additionally, Amazon donated \$14,433 through different initiatives in 2024.



## PARK PAVING

Park Paving employees donated \$71,180 through company opportunities and employee giving.



## DOMINO'S PIZZA

Local Domino's Pizza franchises raised almost \$39,000 through a \$27.99 pizza special that donated \$5 from each order to area food banks!

## MY RADIO 580 AM RADIO-A-THON

My Radio 580 AM partnered with the newest Edmonton Gurdwara, Gurdwara Dukh Nivaran Sahib, and hosted a radio-a-thon fundraiser, raising an impressive \$50,013.13!

This incredible amount was made possible by the generous listeners and community members who came together to support Edmonton's Food Bank.



Our annual Christmas Gala, presented by Enbridge, was a wonderful evening filled with festive spirit, incredible music from Five on the Side, and a delicious plated meal.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, guests, and auction supporters, we are thrilled to share that the event raised an amazing \$40,221!

Presenting Sponsor

**GOLD**

The Muttart Foundation

**MYRRH**

**FRIEND**

**OFFICIAL BEVERAGE SPONSOR**

## HOLIDAY SMILE COOKIE

The 2nd annual Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie campaign raised an incredible \$95,870 thanks to thousands of cookies enjoyed across the city! A big thank you to the local Tim Hortons owners for their ongoing commitment to our work and to everyone who helped turn smiles into support!



## ETS STUFF A BUS

Volunteers and ETS were out in full force at every Save On Food locations across the city for the 30th Anniversary of Stuff a Bus. Thanks to generous Edmontonians, \$20,666 and 24,843 kilograms of food was raised.



## CANDY CANE LANE

Candy Cane Lane 2024 raised \$11,405 and 9,377 kg for the Food Bank! The Oldham family's hot chocolate stand kept people warm during and raised an additional \$2,231!



## CAN MAN DAN

Thanks to YOUR wonderful donations, Can Man Dan raised 8,805 kg of food and \$17,981 online to help others during the holidays.



## THE WESTIN EDMONTON

Once again this holiday season The Westin Edmonton sold \$15 Christmas Cakes at the front desk to raise money. Their goal was \$10,000 and they raised \$11,000!!!



# A MUSICAL HOLIDAY



Another successful feel-good television production raised more than

\$95,000 while sharing music and stories of hope. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, participated, and tuned in to be part of this meaningful show. Together, we continue to make a difference, one act of kindness at a time.



**BRETT KISSEL**



**HAILEY BENEDICT**



**SHAWNEE KISH**

Presented by



**servus credit union**

Servus is a trade name of Connect First and Servus Credit Union Ltd.



## NORTHWEST TOYOTA & SHERWOOD PARK TOYOTA

These local Toyota dealerships stepped up with a \$100,000 matching donation to help our holiday fundraising. Our wonderful donors raised \$100,000 to activate the match for a total of \$200,000!



## EDMONTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra musicians collected donations at A Very Merry Pops performances and raised \$19,236 for the Food Bank!



## CITADEL THEATRE & CAPITAL POWER

\$94,990 was raised thanks to Capital Power's matching opportunity and the generosity of attendees during the annual run of A Christmas Carol.



## MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

Cheers to 50 Years! Mayfield Dinner Theatre marked its milestone with Holiday Helpings, raising \$13,573 for us in 2024!



## FESTIVE BROWN BAG

After a delay, our Festive Brown Bag made it out to Edmontonians in mid-December. Thanks to the RBC Foundation for their continued support of this campaign.

Our Festive Brown Bag is thanks to



Foundation



## STOLLERY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Stollery Charitable Foundation donated \$118,000 in 2024 to help us purchase ten new pallet jacks and an air curtain for our main warehouse! Additionally, they donated \$30,000 to help pay for a new 1-ton truck.



## BURGER IT FORWARD

Presented by Canada Beef and Alberta Beef Producers, Burger It Forward ran throughout February. For every Burger It Forward burger sold, Canada Beef donated the equivalent of one meal to Food Banks Canada, up to 20,000 meals. Alberta Beef Producers also contributed \$1,000 to Edmonton's Food Bank. Thank you to all Edmonton restaurants who took part!



## CARE FOR HUMANITY FOOD DRIVE BY IGLESIA NI CRISTO CHURCH

In October, Iglesia Ni Cristo Church collected donations of clothing and non-perishables as part of the worldwide Care for Humanity program and raised 5,666 kg of food!



## EDMONTON OIL KINGS

Boxes of pasta doubled as noise makers! Edmonton Oil Kings had mac and cheese boxes available for purchase which were then donated, raising 1,120 kg of pasta!



## CANSTRUCTION

At the 14th annual CANstruction Edmonton event at West Edmonton Mall, five local companies built creative structures from food, donating 6,882 kg to the Food Bank!



## PLAYGROUND CRAWL 2

Edmonton Playgrounds held their second annual Playground Crawl for Edmonton's Food Bank on August 31st and raised \$985 and 312 kg of food!

## AL SHAMAL SILVER WINGS SOCIETY

The Al Shamal Shriners serve communities and make meaningful impact on the lives of those in need. Much of their focus is on helping children through their hospitals and programs, but they also recognize the importance of ensuring families have access to basic necessities like food.







## EDMONTON KOREAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Just in time for World Food Day, the Edmonton Korean Canadian Women's Association generously donated \$5,000 to support the fight against hunger.



## MANITOULIN TRANSPORT

Mitch from Manitoulin Transport, a proud friend of Edmonton's Food Bank, stopped by over holiday season with a \$5,000 donation to support our work.



## SENTINEL STORAGE

Sentinel Storage donated \$7,500 this holiday season! We're grateful to be one of over 200 charities they support across Canada.



## EDMONTON ELKS & SAVE ON FOODS

For each sack the Elks got, Save-on-Foods donated \$100 to the Food Bank. The Elks and Save-on-Foods then matched donations and presented us a cheque for \$8,500!



## NORTHSIDE & WESTSIDE MITSUBISHI

Mitsubishi's Driving To End Hunger campaign raised \$8,880 and 136 kg from Northside and Westside Mitsubishi locations.



## LOBLAWS

Loblaws #FeedMoreFamilies Spring and Winter Food Drives raised \$87,062 and 36,763 kg!



## MAZON CANADA

Our friends at Mazon Canada donated over \$10,000 to help us with food purchases!

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- CIBC Pensioners: \$1,865
- Philly Wonka: \$916 in chocolates sales
- The Flow Project: 192 kg of menstrual products
- Londonderry Mall & No Frills Show n' Shine: \$1,760
- Doll Club of Edmonton: \$500
- Waiward Industrial: \$2,000 & 220 kg
- Dr. Fika Family Dentistry: \$1,280
- Canadian Western Bank: \$3,000
- High Note Bar & Grill: \$1,800 & 134 kg
- 102.3 Now Radio Haunted House: \$2,375 & 1,480 kg
- Capital Engineering: \$3,600 & 1,677 kg
- Wolf Pack Warriors Foundation: \$2,000
- Glass of the Sask sales: \$4,425
- MTE Logistix & Brewers Distributors Ltd: \$4,745
- Oilers Playoff Frenzy
- Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.: \$1,856
- Swagelok Edmonton: \$1,000
- Abell Pest Control: \$500

# BEYOND FOOD

STORIES OF STRENGTH, SUPPORT,  
AND NEW BEGINNINGS



## SHAWN'S STORY

While setting up a hamper, our client services team connected Shaun, in his early 50s, with our Beyond Food Program. After months of unsuccessfully searching for work, he was discouraged and frustrated.

Shaun's resume was reviewed, and he was encouraged to do some volunteering to help bridge the gap in his work history while building confidence and connections. From there, he attended an interview skills workshop and completed additional training. With a renewed sense of hope and new forklift qualifications under his belt, he began applying for jobs. Not long after, Shaun had good news to share: he'd landed a full-time position. He was thrilled, relieved, and full of gratitude.

Because of you, our neighbours like Shaun are supported beyond food—toward stability, opportunity, and new beginnings. Thank you.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BEYOND FOOD PROGRAM FUNDERS





Our Beyond Food Program provides a range of services, including financial literacy, resume writing, safety tickets, and more. In 2024, the program supported 3,672 registered participants, with 40% securing employment.

### BRITTANY'S STORY

Brittany, an Indigenous woman in her late 20s, came to our Beyond Food Program looking for guidance. After taking five years off to raise her child, she was ready to return to work but wasn't sure where to start.

With support from our team, Brittany attended resume and interview workshops, completed her Fall Protection training, and refreshed her skills through free online courses. We also connected her with Indigenous and women-focused organizations, where she could build new experience and grow her confidence through volunteering. All her hard work paid off. Brittany secured a great job and in a touching moment, returned to Beyond Food with a handwritten thank-you card for the team.

Because of you, neighbours like Brittany are supported beyond food toward new beginnings, meaningful work, and brighter futures. Thank you.



### SETH AND DEB'S STORY

Seth and Deb, a young couple and new permanent residents in Canada, had both studied and practiced medicine in their home country. Their English was excellent, but like many newcomers, they didn't know where to begin in a new system. They turned to our Beyond Food Program for guidance, looking for survival jobs related to their previous experience so they could continue working toward full licensure in Canada. Together, they took part in our Canadian Workplace Culture, Resume Writing, and Interview Skills workshops, followed by soft skills training. They also

completed First Aid & Childcare First Aid, Basic Food Safety, and a series of online certifications. Each step was bringing them closer to their goals.

With this support, Seth and Deb both found jobs in the health sector and are steadily working on updating their credentials. They recently stopped by to thank Edmonton's Food Bank for helping them navigate the path toward a new future.

Because of you, newcomers like Seth and Deb contribute their skills in meaningful ways in their new home. Thank you.



*"Beyond Food offers a variety of resources for individuals looking enhance their skills to improve their chances of securing better employment opportunities."*

*- Jasmine*

# BECAUSE OF YOU WE HELPED...



## QUINN'S STORY

Quinn is a 33-year old Food Bank client struggling with mobility issues from a worksite accident. After three months off work, and on a reduced income, he reached out to the Food Bank for help. “Everything was going great until my accident, and now the bills are the same but my income is far less”, he said. We approved Quinn for home delivery for a period of six months to take some stress off him while he looked after his health.

“*Thank you so much for helping me. I know I’ll be back to health soon enough and will give back to the Food Bank!*”

Through this experience, Quinn learned that asking for help is a sign of strength, and that together communities can lift one another in times of need.



**Client Services has responded to as many as 349 calls, 125 emails, and 319 online hamper orders in a single day.**



## JULIA AND PREET'S STORY

*“Thank you for helping us and lifting our spirits in our new country!”*

Julia and Preet are immigrants from Asia in their early 30s. Preet came to study at the University of Alberta and Julia was seeking employment. When classes started, Julia was still looking for work and their savings were running out. Preet heard about the Food Bank through a classmate and contacted us. We provided them with food hampers until Julia found a job and they no longer needed our help. In a kind note left at our reception, Julia and Preet expressed their gratitude for the kindness of our staff and for helping them through a difficult time. They now volunteer with us to “give back” and promise to follow through with monetary donations upon Preet’s graduation.

## AMANDA'S STORY

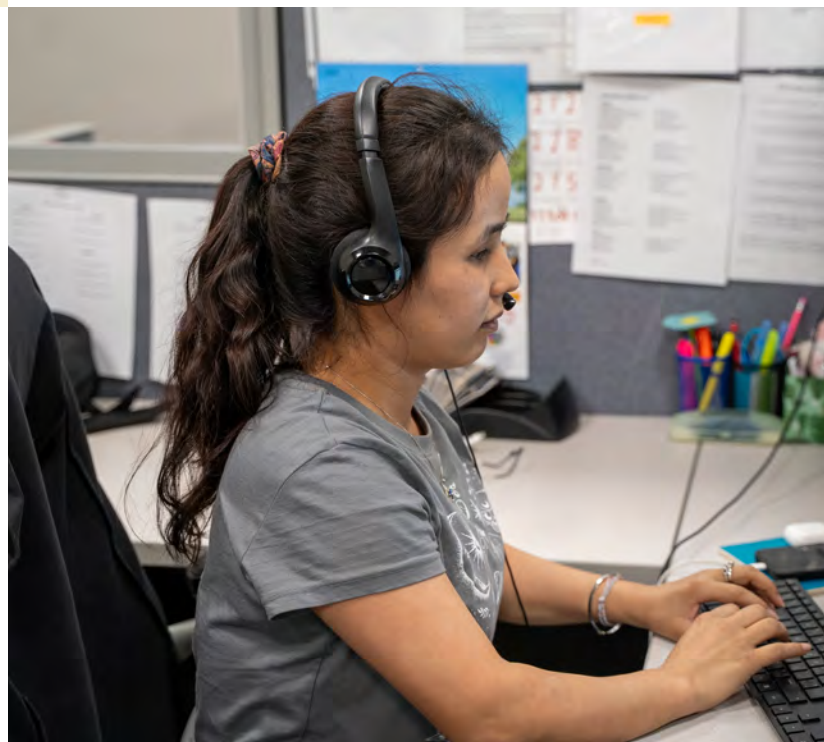
Amanda is a 38-year old single mother of two who moved to Alberta for a new job and more affordable housing. Just four short months into her new job she was laid off. Stressed out and far from her home province of Ontario, she called the Food Bank for help. We assured her we could help her family until she found work again. The tone in her voice turned from fear and apprehension to relief and joy. “This is such a huge weight off my shoulders. Moving here used a lot of my savings and I wasn’t prepared for a layoff at all.

*“Your kindness is a immeasurable. I won’t ever forget this and I will give back when I can. Thank you!”*

## PETE'S STORY

Pete is a 53 year-old client who was recovering from cancer surgery and needed food for he and his teenage son. We connected them with a hamper, along with information on local bread runs, a discount grocery list, and because it was the holiday season, the phone number for Santa’s Anonymous. He was so appreciative of our time and patience, telling us through tears,

*“I was dreading the holiday season but with your help I’m now looking forward to it. Thank you for the gifts you’ve already given me.”*



*“Thank you for helping me understand how the Food Bank system works. I appreciate your kindness and patience. I have previously made donations to the Food Bank, and even set up a weekly drive collecting food items from friends/family/colleagues and dropping off each week. I work with kids and often see hungry kids, so it was important to me to do something about it. As a token of appreciation, and to continue helping kids and their families, I promise to continue making contributions to the Food Bank when I am in better condition to do so. Thank you for your time and your service to helping others!” - Shelley*

# OUR PARTNERS

## EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- Accès Emploi\*\* (aka Parallèle)
- Action for Healthy Communities (ONLY for Newcomers)\*\*
- Alberta Construction Career Centre\*\*
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society (Indigenous)\*\*
- BGS Career Ventures\*\*
- Bissell Employment Centre\*\*
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-Op\*\*
- Bredin Centre for Career Advancement\*\*
- Catholic Social Services\*\*
- Diversified Staffing\*\*
- Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Counsel\*\*
- EmployAbilities\*\*
- Gateway Association
- LEAP (Learn, Empower, Assist and Prepare)\*\*
- Lifemark (Empower Program)\*\*
- Newcomers Centre\*\*
- NPower Canada\*\*
- On-Site Placement (OSP)
- Prospect Human Services Society (March 2024)
- The Learning Centre\*\*
- The Mustard Seed Employment Program
- The Salvation Army\*\*
- Trade Winds to Success Training Society
- Women Building Futures\*\*
- E4C: Women Moving Forward

\*\*Our Beyond Food partners are marked with a double asterisk

## COUNSELLING & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

- Alberta Health Services: Cross Cancer Institute (March 2024); Forensic Assessment & Community Services; Home Care; Mental Health; Community Geriatric Psychiatry Program

- Autism Edmonton (Autism Society of Edmonton Area)
- Canadian Mental Health Association Edmonton: Prosper's Place
- Catholic Social Services: FASD Program
- HIV Edmonton (HIV Network of Edmonton); Outreach Team (October 2024)
- Inner City Health and Wellness at Royal Alexandra Hospital
- Jewish Family Services
- Networks Activity Centre
- Pilgrims Hospice Society
- Queer & Trans Health Collective
- Schizophrenia Society of Alberta Edmonton Branch
- Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
- The Family Centre
- The Salvation Army





## EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND HOUSING SUPPORTS

- Bissell Centre: Home Visitation Program; Housing Services; Community Space (Sept 2024)
- Boyle Street Community Services: Housing First; Interdisciplinary Team; Sakihta Kikinaw (Jan 24); Downtown Housing Navigation Team (December 2024)
- Civida
- E4C: Intensive Case Management; Youth Housing First; Rapid Rehousing
- Encompass (Edmonton John Howard Society)
- George Spady Society: George's House; Shelter and Detox; Balwin Place; Housing First; Clinical Access Team
- Hope Mission: Herb Jamieson Centre
- Mustard Seed: Britannia Crossing; Prairie Manor; Housing First; Central Shelter; Community Assistance Team
- Native Counselling Services: Cunningham Place
- Nisa Homes
- Radius Community Health and Healing: HARRT House; Kindred House; Supervised Consumption Site; Pregnancy Pathways
- Salvation Army - Edmonton Centre of Hope: Stabilization Housing Program
- Urban Manor Housing Society
- Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC)
- YMCA: Homeward Bound
- Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)

## INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS

- amiskwaciy Cultural Society: Aboriginal Head Start
- Ben Calf Robe Society
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society: Community Outreach Transit Team
- Buffalo Keeper Nehiyaw Centre
- Canadian Native Friendship Centre
- Creating Hope Society
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre
- Edmonton Heyoka Healing Society
- Edmonton Native Healing Centre
- Edmonton Urban Native Ministry
- Healing Hearts for Sobriety (December 2024)
- Métis Child and Family Services Society
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta: Indigenous Housing First Program; Cunningham Place; Youth Housing First; Tâpwêhtamowin Wâskahikan; Wâhkômiwêw Program
- Niginan Housing Ventures: Ambrose Place; Sands Hotel; Belvedere; McArthur Permanent Supportive Housing
- Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples
- Samson Cree Nation Urban Resource Office
- The Red Road Healing Society
- Trade Winds to Success Training Society





## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

- ABC Head Start
- Aboriginal Head Start
- Action for Healthy Communities: Afghan Community Outreach Team; Sinkunia Development
- Adaptabilities
- Alberta Health Services: Health for Two; Enhanced Services for Individuals and Families
- Beverly Day Care Society and Family Resource Centre
- Beverly Towne Community Development Society
- Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area
- C5 Earthwalk FRN
- CHEW Project
- Crystal Kids Youth Centre
- Elves Special Needs Society
- Family Futures Resource Network
- Hope Mission: Tegler Youth Centre; Brightwood Ranch
- Inner City Youth Development Association
- Institut Guy-Lacombe de la famille (IGLF)
- Intercultural Child and Family Centre
- Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Centre
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- KARA Family Resource Centre
- Kids Kottage
- Kids on Track
- McMan Youth Family and Community Services Association
- Metis Child and Family Services Society
- Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative
- Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
- Old Strathcona Youth Society
- Parkdale After School Care Society
- Rhema Chapel
- Red Road Healing Society: Family Resource Network
- Safe Families Canada
- Shiloh Youth Ranch
- Side Door Youth Centre: Evangel Assembly
- Sihle Sizwe Vineyard Foundation
- Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton
- Terra Centre
- The Family Centre
- Transitions Rehabilitation Association of St. Albert
- Unlimited Potential Community Services
- YMCA of Northern Alberta: GAP19; Kickstand Program; Youth Diversion Program; Youth Transitions Program; YOUturn Program
- YOUCAN
- Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)
- Youth Rise
- Youth Unlimited





**37%** OF FOOD BANK HAMPER RECIPIENTS  
**ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18**

## **SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- Abbott School
- Aldergrove School
- amiskwaciy Academy
- Anne Fitzgerald School
- Annunciation School
- Austin O'Brien Catholic High School
- Avonmore School
- Balwin School
- Boyle Street Education Centre
- Indigenous Learning Services-Braided Journey's Programs: Oscar Romero; Cardinal Collins Clareview; Louis St. Laurent; Archbishop O'Leary; Ben Calf Robe/ St. Clare; St. Joseph; Our Lady of Peace; Cardinal Collins Westmount; H.E. Beriault; St. Thomas More; St. Francis Xavier; Holy Trinity; Austin O'Brien; St. Cecelia; St. Nicholas; St. Mark's
- Callingwood School
- Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centre: Westmount; Claireview
- Centre High Campus
- Concordia University (December 2024)
- Dunluce School
- E2S Academy (October 2024)
- E4C: Early Head Start; Sorensen Place
- E4C: School Lunch and Summer Snack Program: Abbott School; Aleda Patterson School; Alex Janvier School; Athlone School; Balwin School; Bannerman School; Belmead School; Belvedere School; Brightview School; Calder School; Callingwood School; Clareview Headstart; Delton School; East Glen School; Gold Bar School; Highlands School; Homesteader School; Inglewood School; Ivor Dent School; John A McDougall School; John Barnett; Lee Ridge School; Lorelei School; Mayfield School; McArthur School; Mee-Yah-Noh School; Norwood School; Overlanders School; Prince Charles School; Princeton School; St Alphonsus School; St Bernadette School; St Francis of Assisi School; St Teresa School; Sifton School; Spruce Avenue School; Thorncliffe School; Tipaskan School; Youngstown School
- Eastglen School
- Ecole Publique Gabrielle-Roy
- Edmonton Catholic Schools: Alternative Education; LINC Program (Feb 2024)
- Edmonton Public Schools
- Elves Special Needs Society
- Harry Ainlay High School
- H.E. Beriault Catholic Junior High School
- Highlands School
- Holyrood School (December 2024)
- Jasper Place High School
- J.J Bowlen Junior High School (Sept 24)
- John Barnett School
- John Paul I School
- Lauderdale School
- Lee Ridge School
- Mary Butterworth Junior High School (Reactivated Nov 2024)
- McArthur School
- Mee-Yah-Noh School
- ME Lazerte High School
- Norquest College: Indigenous Student Services
- Oscar Romero Junior High School
- Our Lady of Peace School
- Our Lady of the Prairies School
- Our Lady of Victories Catholic School
- Parkview School
- Prince Charles School
- Richard Secord School
- S. Bruce Smith School
- Sakaw School
- St. Alphonsus School
- St Anne Catholic School
- St. Catherine School
- St. Clement School
- St Francis School
- St. Francis of Assisi
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School
- St Joseph High School: Breakfast Club
- St. Kateri School
- St. Leo School
- St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School (December 2024)
- St Maria Goretti School
- St Nicholas Junior High School
- St Philip Catholic School
- St Pius Elementary School
- St Teresa of Calcutta School
- St Thomas More Junior High School
- St Vladimir School
- Weinlos School
- Westmount School

## ADDICTION & RECOVERY

- Adeara Recovery Centre
- Alberta Health Services: Addiction and Mental Health; Access 24/7
- Boyle Street Community Services: Managed Alcohol Program (MAP)
- George Spady Society: George's House; Permanent Supportive Housing Scattered Site (SSPSH); Supervised Consumption Site
- Henwood Treatment Centre
- Homes 4 Hope Canada
- Jellinek Society
- The McDougall House Association
- Our House Addiction Recovery Centre
- Recovery Acres Society: Housing Program

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Catholic Social Services: LaSalle Shelter; Lurana Shelter
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation - Jessie's House
- Living Hope Christian Fellowship
- Nisa Homes
- Strathcona Shelter Society: A Safe Place
- Today Family Violence Centre
- WIN House: Edmonton's Women Shelter

## ALBERTA FOOD BANK PARTNERS

- Campus Food Bank
- Lamont Food Bank
- Leduc Food Bank
- Parkland Food Bank
- St. Albert Food Bank
- Strathcona Food Bank
- Toefield-Ryley & Area Food Bank
- Veteran's Association Food Bank

## MEAL PROGRAMS

- Alberta Health Services: Collective Kitchens
- Bissell Centre: Moonlight Bay Summer Camp; Community Meals; Child Care; Community Centre; Jockey Dorms; Hope Terrace; Nursing Program
- Bernadette N Swan Social Care Foundation (BNSSCF)
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op: Youth Unit; Street Outreach; Streetworks Team; HELP Team; Health for Two; Inter D Program; Street Outreach; Youth Services; Mental Health Unit; HER Program; Streetworks; Encampment Housing Outreach Team
- Building Hope
- The Candora Society of Edmonton
- Crystal Kids Youth Centre
- Dickensfield Amity House
- Edmonton Father's House
- Edmonton Native Healing Centre
- Fort Road Victory Church
- Hope Mission
- Hosanna Lutheran Church: Helping the Homeless (Sept 2024)
- House of Refuge Mission
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- KARA Family Support Centre
- Living Hope Christian Fellowship
- Mustard Seed Church: Community Impact Centre: Canora; Central Shelter (Aug 24); Mosaic Centre; Neighbour Centre
- Neighbourhood Table Program
- The Red Road Healing Society
- Refuge Mission House
- Rhema Chapel
- St Faith's Anglican Church
- The Salvation Army: Community Resource Centre (ARC); Addiction and Residential Centre (CRC); Keystone Program; Cornerstone Program
- Thrive Outreach
- Westend End Outreach

\* Our food hampers are distributed at various locations throughout the city. These depot locations are marked with a single asterisk \*\*Beyond Food Partnerships



WE HELP PROVIDE **450,000**  
MEALS AND SNACKS EACH MONTH



## NEWCOMER/IMMIGRANTS

- Action for Healthy Communities: Sinkunia Community Development Organization
- C5 Northeast Community Hub: Earthwalk FRN
- Catholic Social Services: Immigration Services
- Edmonton Emergency Response and Newcomer Services (EERNS)
- Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
- Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle (FRAP)
- ICNA Food Bank (July 2024)
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA)
- Multicultural Family Resource Society
- Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB)
- Sihle Sizwe Vineyard Foundation



## SENIORS

- Alberta Health Services: Home Care; Capital Care (March 2024), Choice Program (April 2024) (Community Geriatric Program)
- Bernadette N Swan Social Care Foundation (BNSSCF)
- Greater Edmonton Foundation Housing for Seniors
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre
- North Edmonton Seniors Association
- Operation Friendship Seniors Society (OFSS)
- Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE)
- Senior Citizen Opportunity Neighbourhood Association (SCONA Seniors)
- Seniors Outreach Network Society



## PET/ANIMAL

- Alberta Helping Animals Society
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-Op: Inner City Recreation Pet Food Bank
- Edmonton Humane Society
- Edmonton Valley Zoo
- Farm Animal Rescue
- HART (Humane Animal Rescue Team)
- Infinite Woofs
- John Janzen Centre
- Little Cats Lost
- Parachutes for Pets
- Parkland County Pet Food Bank
- Pet Pantry
- SCARS: Second Chance Animal Rescue
- Wild North Rehabilitation Society
- Zoe's Animal Rescue



## PARTNERED HAMPER PROGRAMS

- Alberta Avenue Community League
- Alberta Immigrant Women & Children Centre
- Anawim Place\*
- Arts on the Ave: Bethel Pantry
- Bethel Community Church\*
- Beulah Alliance Church: West Campus; Chapelle\*\*
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op; Bridge Housing; Sandy's Place; Community Engagement
- Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brother Big Sisters Edmonton & Area: Kinsmen\*; Tweddle\*; Westend\*
- Bread Run: Garneau at The Spirit of Hope Church); Mill Woods
- C5 Northeast Community Hub
- Calvary Community Church
- CANAVUA – Canadian Volunteers United in Action\*
- The Candora Society of Edmonton\*
- Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
- Church of Pentecost (February 2024)
- City of Edmonton
- Community of Christ Church\*
- Community Options: A Society for Children and Families
- Creating Hope Society
- Crystal Kids Youth Centre\*
- Dayspring Presbyterian Church\*
- Edmonton Meals on Wheels
- Edmonton Native Healing Centre\*
- Edmonton Police Services: Crime and Trauma-Informed Support Services; ALERT Team (May 2024)
- Edmonton's Food Bank: Niso\*
- Edmonton's Food Bank Mobile Depot: Chapelle\*; Blue Quill\*; Beulah West\*; Clareview\*
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Emmaus Lutheran Church\*
- Family Futures: Knottwood\*
- First Presbyterian Church\*
- Foundation for Oromian Culture, Education, and Art Services (FOCAS)
- Fort Road Victory Church: Pantry n' More
- Freedom Centre Church (Clareview)\*
- Guru Nanak Foundation for Humanity (Sikhs for Humanity Edmonton)
- habitAction
- Hillview Baptist Church\*
- Holy Spirit Lutheran Church\*
- Hope City Church\*: Kingsway Campus
- Hosanna Lutheran Church\*

- iHuman Youth Society
- Inglewood Christian Reformed Church\*
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA)\*
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- Kali United
- MacEwan University
- Maranatha Christian Reformed Church\*
- Marian Centre
- McClure United Church\*
- Meadowlands Baptist Church (March 2024)
- Mill Woods United Church\*
- Norquest College
- Northwest Central FASD Network
- Pride Centre of Edmonton
- Project Adult Literacy (PALS)
- Radius Community Health and Healing
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Rhema Chapel: The Redeemed Christian Church of God\*
- Robertson Wesley United Church\*
- (The Rock Outreach) Rock Lutheran Inner-City Society
- Shiloh Baptist Church (March 2024)
- Southminster-Steinhauer United Church\*
- Steele Heights Baptist Church\*
- St Herman's of Alaska Orthodox Sabor\*
- St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish\*
- St Joseph High School
- St Luke's Anglican Church\*
- St Mary's Anglican Church\*
- St Matthias Anglican Church\*
- St Michael's and All Angels\*
- St Teresa's Roman Catholic Parish\*
- The McDougall House Association
- The Mustard Seed: Mosaic Centre; Street Church, Wellness Centre (October 2024)\*\*\*
- The Red Road Healing Society
- The Salvation Army: Canon Ridge; Castledowns\*\*
- Trinity Lutheran Church\*
- Uncles & Aunts at Large Society
- Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCOE)\*
- WECAN Co-Operative
- West Edmonton Baptist Church\*
- West Meadows Baptist Church\*
- YMCA: Bill Rees; Castledowns\*; Boyle Street Plaza\*

\* Our food hampers are distributed at various locations throughout the city. These depot locations are marked with a single asterisk



# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS







3,192 individual and  
813 groups of volunteers  
contributed **159,880 hours**  
**of service in 2024.**

“I want to express my deepest appreciation to our wonderful volunteers for their unwavering support through another challenging year. Their incredible support enables us to continue providing much needed services into our community. We depend on our volunteers around the organization - whether they're sorting donations or packing hampers in our warehouse, helping clients pick up hampers at our Niso building, connecting clients with hampers through Client Services, or being Food Bank ambassadors at community events - their dedication to helping others is endearing and immeasurable.”

- Marjorie Bencz, CM, Executive Director  
Edmonton's Food Bank



# OUR TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katherine Huising, Chair  
 Alim Nizar Somji, Vice Chair  
 Michael Capus, Past Chair  
 Jill Thygesen, Treasurer  
 Pam Lafferty, Secretary  
 Clodia Kanna, Director  
 David I. Benjestorf, Director  
 Paul McElhone, Director  
 Ryan Lowe, Director  
 Tracy Wyrstiuk, Director

## Executive Director

Marjorie Bencz, CM

## Director of Operations

Mark Doram

## Office Manager

Nicole Carruthers

## Senior Administration Team

Mindy Tang  
 Yagut Albers  
 Debbie So

## Support Services Coordinator

Jennifer Lee

## Support Services Team

Barb Koetze  
 Lena Konovalova  
 Naim Alkhatib  
 Suedelle Baudais

## Client Services Coordinator

Brittany Coxé

## Call Centre Team

Daria Timokhova  
 Desiree White  
 Jim Bro  
 Jo-Ann Dewald  
 Lara Alkhatib  
 Raihana Saeedi  
 Suzanne Delos Santos

## Warehouse Manager

Vince Sinatynski

## Hamper Program Coordinator

Kayla Green

## Transportation Specialist

Michelle Haro Pena

## Warehouse Team – Drivers, Logistics & Hampers

Anatolli Shevchenko  
 Angelica Gardner\*  
 April Chalifoux  
 Brenda Tarkowski  
 Chelsea White (on leave)  
 Dan Quist  
 Deng Deng  
 Doug Bills  
 Elena Onyshchenko  
 Eugene Appleton  
 Faisal Zameer  
 Fereshteh Ali Zadehranjbar  
 Ivan Shershneiv  
 Jaime Guerrero  
 Javier Ravelo  
 John Aweit  
 Karen Lore  
 Kristen Wood  
 Kyle Stuart  
 Marno Sakora (on leave)  
 Marsan Bobasa Soboka  
 Matthew Lagace  
 Michael Cooknell  
 Michael Miiró  
 Nanati Mussa\*  
 Nicole Chomlak  
 Oksana Yevstropieva  
 Olena Antipova  
 Olena Gorshkova  
 Tai Wager  
 Terry Denis  
 Tracey Treidler  
 Tracey Waller-Heft  
 Tresor Bisambu  
 Tufa Abraham  
 Tyler Mudrey  
 Vanesa Yamilet Dimas Gonzalez  
 Wendy Iwaskow  
 Yolanda Ruelas Jinuez

## Program Enhancement Manager

Carrie-Anne Cyre

## Manager of Strategic Relationships & Partnerships

Tamisan Bencz-Knight

## Event & Community Engagement Coordinator

Debbie Theuss

## Media & Communications Coordinator

Doug Thomson

## Resource Development Team

Asish Bhatta  
 Doug Hunter  
 Greg McCosham  
 Leticia Ribeiro  
 Melissa Schneider  
 Susan Padgett

## Food Hub Coordinator

Judy Yawney

## Volunteer Engagement Manager

Virginia Pegg

## Volunteer Engagement Specialist

Cindy Washbrook

## Agency & Depot Engagement Manager

Hailey Helset

## Beyond Food Manager

Mavis Bergquist

## Beyond Food Coordinator

Wisam Abu Rajab

## Beyond Food Team

Alma Canton  
 Gutu Fogi  
 Hanna Poursadegh

## Custodial & Maintenance Team

Joe Daniel  
 Fawaz Al Najlat\*  
 Selamawit Estifanos Kahsay\*

As of May 2025

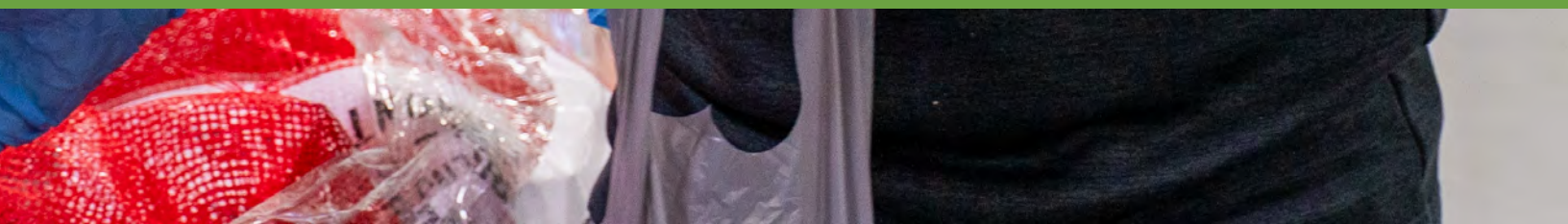
\*Indicates Part-time



Accredited  
IMAGINE CANADA



Charitable Number 129185310 RR0001





# About Edmonton's Food Bank



The Edmonton Gleaners Association, more commonly known as Edmonton's Food Bank, was incorporated in 1981 and was the first food bank in Canada.

Edmonton's Food Bank primarily operates as a central warehouse redistributing food to over 350 partner agencies including, shelters, churches, schools, and food depots throughout the city to support their programs. Thanks to this consolidated effort, we ensure that food donations go directly to those who need it the most while reducing duplication of community efforts.

In conjunction with our partner agency program, we directly provide food hampers to tens of thousands of individuals and families monthly.

## MISSION & VISION

To be stewards in the collection of surplus and donated food for the effective distribution, free of charge, to people in need in our community, while seeking solutions to the causes of hunger. We envision a community where hunger does not exist, where all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious supply of food.

As an affiliated member of Food Banks Canada, we are committed to the mantra: Relieving hunger today. Preventing hunger tomorrow.

## VALUES



# Where We Serve



## MAIN WAREHOUSE

Since 2004, our main warehouse has been the heart of food distribution and includes: sorting, repackaging, hamper-making, and our agency sharing system. This warehouse also hosts our industrial walk-in coolers and freezers.

11508-120 ST

## NISO

To help us better accommodate our clients and ever-growing services, we acquired a new addition in 2023! This building is primarily used to store more non-perishable food and serve as a depot location, along with a pantry for clients.

“NISO” is the root of many Cree terms that relate to the Food Bank’s mission, including:

- Nisohkamakewin meaning “assistance” or “help”
- Nisohkamakew meaning “help someone”
- Nisoiskeyiw meaning “reaches with both arms”

11448-120 ST



## THE ANNEX

Since 2016 The Annex, houses:

- Client Services (Call Centre)
- Resource Development
- Beyond Food Programming
- Warehouse Storage
- The Community Centre

11434-120 ST



# Our Programs & Services



## FOOD HAMPERS

A food hamper is a box of food, consisting of fresh and non-perishable food items. Hampers are assembled based on the size of the household and any dietary requirements\*. Upon request, additional items may be added such as pet food, school snack items, and toiletries.

As a charity, Edmonton's Food Bank cannot provide all the nutritional and food needs for all people at all times. We rely on donated food and encourage people to make purchasing food a priority when they receive their paycheques, salary, or government financial support. Beyond hampers, we refer people to other helping organizations to help with housing, budgeting, and more support.

\* celiac, pork-free, diabetic, etc.

## MOBILE FOOD DEPOTS



Where there are limited hamper distribution opportunities (i.e. no physical building to work from), hampers are delivered and distributed to specific communities using our Mobile Hamper truck.

## FOOD DEPOTS



We want people to get their food in their neighbourhood close to home. To do this, we collaborate with over 80 community food depots. Volunteers at these sites are instrumental for food access around Edmonton.

## EMERGENCY BAGS



These bags of food are for specific service providers for distribution to individuals in crisis. The bags are prepared with non-perishable items, some key staples, along with information to access more food in the future. We work with the Edmonton Police Service and others to give these bags to high-risk individuals and families.

# Our Programs & Services



## AGENCY MEAL & SNACK PROGRAMS

Our work cannot be done in isolation. We work collaboratively with over 350 community partners and agencies to distribute over 450,000 meals and snacks per month. Food access for our partner agencies depends on the program requirements and the focus of their mission, and is provided free of charge.



## S.N.A.C.K. PROGRAM

(SUPPORTING NUTRITION FOR ALL CLASSES AND KIDS)

We provide healthy snacks to children and we are currently working with 100 schools plus numerous child-focused programming throughout Edmonton. In addition to donated snacks from the public, the Food Bank purchases key items to ensure availability and nutrition. These purchased snacks have no added sugar, low sodium, and include items like granola bars, unsweetened apple sauce, shelf stable milk, and more.

## AFTER THE BELL

Thanks to Food Banks Canada and amazing donors, we share healthy food packs through various agencies directly to children.

After the Bell reduces child hunger by providing a lifeline over the summer for many low-income families with children. These child-friendly, nutritious packs contain non-perishable food along with a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables like carrots, apples, oranges, and snap peas depending on the weeks' fresh purchases.

After the Bell is possible thanks to dedicated national donors who support the program across the country.





# Food Sources



## THE RETAIL FOOD PROGRAM

Edmonton's Food Bank started as a food gleaning organization in 1981. This salvaged and rescued food is the basis of our food sources and makes up about two-thirds of the food we give out to people. We collect surplus food from retailers, distributors, and food industry partners across the city. This salvaged food may be considered surplus based on a number of factors including seasonal changes, overstock, or damaged exterior packaging.

We are proud to partner with our local grocery stores, retail food providers, local producers, and distributors who contribute surplus food to help our work. Additionally, our local gardeners, producers and distributors contribute surplus food to help our work.



**About 60% of food is rescued/salvaged**



Each year, Edmonton's Food Bank rescues or recovers millions of kilograms of food from the food industry. This food includes fresh vegetables and fruit, baked goods, dairy, non-perishables, and frozen meats. Rescued food is used in our hamper programs for individuals and families and is available to our agency partners.

Edmonton's Food Bank adheres to the food safety guidelines of Alberta Health Services when collecting and distributing food. Our trucks are refrigerated to keep food at the proper temperature during transport - very important on hot summer days! Once at the Food Bank food is placed into industrial coolers and freezers until it is needed.





## PANDEMIC PLANTING PROJECT

This plot of land in Parkland County is the Pandemic Planting Project. They have been growing potatoes and other root vegetables for the Food Bank since 2020.

## PLANT, GROW, SHARE A ROW

This program encourages people to earmark and donate their homegrown fruit and vegetables to Edmonton's Food Bank. Some businesses such as Greenland Garden Centre and the Royal Mayfair Golf Club took this philosophy a step further by donating free seedlings to be grown and donated to Edmonton's Food Bank. Other amazing donors like the Little Potato Company provided seed potatoes to many gardens.

Unfortunately, due to space limitations we are unable to list all our "green-thumb" donors who collectively raise annually more than 40,000 kilograms of fresh produce for our programs.



## SECOND HELPING

In cooperation with conference centres and large banquet facilities, Second Helping gleans prepared yet not plated food from major kitchens. Donations are frozen, picked up, and made available to agency partners for use in their meal and snack programs. Donors adhere to Alberta Health Services protocols for food safety and packaging needs. The Edmonton Convention Centre and others are part of this program.



Edmonton's Food Bank is an approved teaching facility for Concordia University's Environmental Health Program to show future health inspectors proper food warehouse management.



# Beyond Food



## BEYOND FOOD

Beyond Food is a proactive endeavor, designed to uplift individuals from poverty by providing access to essential services. These services are free and open to all, regardless of their association with Edmonton's Food Bank.

Our ultimate goal is to foster self-reliance and stability among our community members, thereby reducing reliance on food aid. Whether it's assisting with job applications, skill development, or connecting individuals with non-food resources, Beyond Food is our solution to hunger's underlying causes.

Annually, we empower thousands through resume assistance, job search support, and even funding for vital certifications like first aid and forklift operation.

As our Executive Director, Marjorie Bencz, aptly states: "Providing food aid is commendable; however, it will NOT reduce poverty or solve food insecurity. By extending our support beyond food, we are fostering resilience and self-reliance. Our goal is to empower individuals with better opportunities, from stable employment to career progression. These investments in our community's future are made possible through the generosity of volunteers and donors, including the Edmonton Community Foundation."

**Need help finding a job, accessing community resources, or in need of a safety ticket? We can help!**

- ✓ **Employment Coaching**  
Resumes, job search skills, and interview training
- ✓ **Information and referrals**  
Assistance with application processing

- ✓ **Financial empowerment workshops and coaching**  
Tax service referrals

- ✓ **English language lessons**  
Beginner and conversational lessons

- ✓ **One-on-one support and referrals**  
Newcomer settlement, affordable housing, landlord-tenant questions, mental health and addictions, family violence support, etc.

# Ways to Give



## DONATE FOOD



Food is the foundation of our work. Though we glean/salvage food from the food industry, our success depends on donations from the community. Non-perishable food can be donated at any major grocery store or fire hall. Even fresh food can be donated, please contact us to learn how.

## DONATE MONEY



Donate conveniently online, in person, or over the phone. To leave a legacy to your community, feel free to add Edmonton Gleaners Association (129185310 RR0001) in your Will. A donation of stocks, securities, or mutual fund shares are also an efficient way to give charitably and receive a tax credit.

## DONATE TIME



Volunteers double our workforce. More than 100,000 hours are donated annually by amazing people who've connected their passion to our mission. Opportunities are available seven days a week and four evenings a week. Volunteers act as ambassadors at external events or help manage all processes in our warehouse from sorting food donations, to building food hampers, and even delivering them to community food depots.

## Contact Us



### Need Help?

Please call 780.425.4190 Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm to speak with Client Services volunteers and staff to arrange a food hamper as well as connect you with other relevant services in the community.

### Edmonton's Food Bank

PO Box 62061  
11508 - 120 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
T5M 4B5

Charitable Number: 129185310 RR0001

Email: [info@edmontonsfoodbank.com](mailto:info@edmontonsfoodbank.com)  
[edmontonsfoodbank.com](http://edmontonsfoodbank.com)



Call 780.425.2133 and ask for our Volunteer Team to join!