



# Spring Gleanings 2026

"The staff are friendly and helpful. The food in the hampers is fresh and healthy. I really appreciate their help to my family and hundreds of others."

-Edmonton's Food Bank Client (Google Review)

## Contact Information

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Marjorie Bencz, CM

**Director of Operations:**  
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**Connect With Us:**



 edmontonsfoodbank.com

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

On January 16, 1981, the Edmonton Gleaners Association, better known as Edmonton's Food Bank, was incorporated. As we acknowledge 45 years of service, we reflect with both pride and humility on our commitment to supporting our community's most vulnerable members.

In recent years, increased food insecurity and the affordability crisis have driven record demand. Despite these pressures, we continue expanding our capacity by increasing available food and distribution points to better meet the need.

While best known for our food hampers, Edmonton's Food Bank also serves as a central warehouse, collecting and redistributing food to more than 380 partners. Our partners include schools, shelters, soup kitchens, and community programs that support people across our city.

Food hampers provide urgent relief, but they do not solve food insecurity. With your kind support we are doing more:

- Our **Beyond Food Program** is helping participants build stability through resume support, job searches, safety tickets, and workshops. Our goal is to help people thrive and rely less on the Food Bank.
- **Collective Kitchens** strengthen food literacy, confidence, and connection. We are also actively expanding partnerships to develop new kitchens.
- **Community Gardens** are tools to build skills and grow fresh food. The Food Bank also benefits from generous donations of surplus produce.

Hunger and poverty are complex challenges. Together, we are meeting immediate needs while creating pathways toward a more compassionate, food-secure community.

With our heartfelt appreciation,

Marjorie Bencz, CM  
Executive Director



## CLIENT STORY

"My family has been a recipient of your generosity and I wanted you to know that your work extends far beyond the food boxes & essential items you provide. You've given us something more precious: dignity during difficult times, hope when circumstances felt overwhelming, and the reassurance that our community cares. Meals shared around our table, made possible by your support, have been more than sustenance – they are reminders that we are not alone, that we matter, and that better days are possible. Thank you."

**MONTHLY GIVING IS EASIER THAN EVER!**  
**TEXT FEEDYEG TO 20222**



- **100% of funds** go to us  
No admin fees!
- **Easy giving & tax receipts** included
- **One time or monthly** giving available



## CLIENT SURVEY 2025

Every second year, Edmonton's Food Bank conducts a comprehensive snapshot survey of food hamper recipients. The survey helps us better understand who is accessing our services, why support is needed, and

what clients need based on their lived experiences.

The 2025 Client Survey presents a clear picture of food insecurity in our growing city. Drawing on the voices of hundreds of respondents, the findings show that food insecurity affects people of all ages, backgrounds, and household types. Common themes include poverty, underemployment, housing instability, health challenges, and barriers to support.

Food insecurity has both immediate and long-term impacts on thousands of Edmontonians. Sharing these insights is essential to informing community awareness and action.

**To read the full report, please visit:**  
[edmontonsfoodbank.com/about/publications](http://edmontonsfoodbank.com/about/publications)

## PLANT, GROW, SHARE A ROW

The Plant, Grow, Share a Row program is a fun way to enjoy a favorite hobby and help others in your community at the same time. 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.
- Pat yourself on the back for making a wonderful contribution to your community!

### 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.

[edmontonsfoodbank.com/ways-give/give-food/plant-row-grow-row](http://edmontonsfoodbank.com/ways-give/give-food/plant-row-grow-row)



## CANADA GROCERIES & ESSENTIALS BENEFIT

At the end of January, the Government of Canada announced the *Canada Groceries & Essentials Benefit*. This initiative will provide direct financial support to help 1.3 million Albertans manage rising costs such as housing, food, and other essentials. By putting money directly into households, families can purchase food that best meets their needs and, we hope, reduce reliance on hampers and emergency services.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Spring brings new beginnings and plenty of ways to give back! Check out our upcoming events and be part of the community.



### GIVE 30 Now through April 30

Give 30 is about everyone supporting the fight against hunger in our communities.

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted online.

[edmontonsfoodbank.com/events](http://edmontonsfoodbank.com/events)



### ALL BRITISH FIELD MEET

June 13 | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Victoria Park

Bring a donation and come see beautiful British made vehicles.

[edmontonsfoodbank.com/events](http://edmontonsfoodbank.com/events)



### AMA SHREDDING

April 18, May 2 & 31  
Various locations

Shred your risk of identity theft! Donations of food and funds are accepted.

Visit [ama.ab.ca/events](http://ama.ab.ca/events) for location information



### PUROLATOR TACKLE HUNGER GAME DAY!

August 1  
Commonwealth Stadium

Enjoy the game and help tackle hunger with a Food Bank donation.

[goelks.com](http://goelks.com)



### CANSTRUCTION

May 2 to 10  
West Edmonton Mall

See the structures and the amazing creativity of the companies involved!

[canstructionedmonton.com](http://canstructionedmonton.com)



### HERITAGE FESTIVAL

August 1 to 3  
Hawrelak Park  
9330 Groat Road

Join us at Heritage Festival 2026! Food and funds gratefully accepted in the park.

[heritagefest.ca](http://heritagefest.ca)

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.