



Feed  
Edmonton's

# FOOD BANK



2014

## **Mission**

*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.*

## **Mantra**

*As an affiliated member of Food Banks Canada, we are committed to the mantra of:  
Relieving Hunger Today.  
Preventing Hunger Tomorrow.*



## **Vision**

*The Edmonton Gleaners Association envisions a community where all citizens have access to an adequate and nutritious supply of food.*

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to express the impact you have had on the lives of our clients over the last year. Your gifts of food, time and money are necessary to continue our mission in the community. Each gift, regardless of size, is essential to our work. Thank you for providing that piece of the puzzle.

Throughout the year, tears are shed by staff and volunteers working on the front line. Sometimes they are tears of joy as we laugh and work side by side with our fabulous volunteers. Sometimes the tears are of joy for an unexpectedly large donation. On occasions, the tears are for the donations from a child who sold their toys to raise money for our work. These tears of happiness are also mirrored by the tears of sadness as we serve our neighbours in need. Tears for the family who lost a loved one and are struggling emotionally and financially to make it. Tears for those whose work hours have been cut and can't make ends meet. Tears for a little girl who jumped for glee at the Food Bank when her family received their hamper of food and exclaimed "Now I don't have to be hungry anymore!" Despite the tears of joy and sorrow we are forever reminded of the need to continue to move forward - to continue to provide food to people in need; to continue to work collaboratively with all the agencies, churches and food depots throughout Edmonton; to continue to find new ways of doing business that positively impacts the lives of people. Again, it is the amazing generosity of Edmontonians that keeps us going.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to salute my fellow volunteers and thank our generous donors and dedicated staff for your commitment to making a difference. Please accept our heart-felt thank you for being a part of this remarkable network and service in the community.

Finally, we acknowledged a milestone in 2014. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Don Iveson proclaimed it "Marjorie Bencz Day" as recognition of her 25 years as our Executive Director. And after 25 years, Marjorie hasn't lost her compassion for those we serve. I encourage everyone to find your passion: join our volunteer team; stay connected through Facebook, Twitter or our website; sign up for our newsletter, Gleanings, or come out to our events. Together we can make a difference helping those in need. Again, thank you for your support.

David Benjestorf



*"It is important to remember that Edmonton's Food Bank is not a small group of people fighting hunger. It is a vast web of threads connecting people in our community, be they donors, advocates, volunteers, or clients. Every time you lend your support to the Food Bank, you become an important part of that web." ~ Jack Little, board member of Edmonton's Food Bank*



*“Adept at gathering community support, she has led a relentless campaign to safeguard the right of all Canadians to maintain their sense of dignity regardless of their socio-economic situation.” ~ Marjorie’s 2006 Investiture Excerpt into the Order of Canada*



Dear Friends,

In 2014, the Board of Edmonton’s Food Bank approved a new Strategic Plan with five Strategic Directions to guide the work of the organization to 2020. The goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are ambitious and challenging as we distribute food to our most vulnerable and just as importantly, continue to work with the broader community to reduce hunger.

Sadly, over the last ten years, we have out-grown our current facility and warehouse. The organization faced the question as to whether to relocate to a larger facility, reduce specific programs or to operate out of two locations. In 2014, the organization acquired a second warehouse which is helping us with our storage and severe capacity concerns. We appreciate the Stollery, Butler, Muttart and Anonymous Foundations for taking this leap of faith with us as they were instrumental in acquiring the building.

Over time, we will need to do a capital campaign to deal with some concerns and to pay off the mortgage. In the meantime, the building has received its Safe Food Handling permit and WECAN Food Basket Society has leased some office space from us. It is our goal to work closer with WECAN and other food security organizations to better address food insecurity in Edmonton.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read our annual report. We are very fortunate to be supported by the wide range of committed volunteers, donors and other supporters. Your kind support and ongoing encouragement to reduce hunger in our community is appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie".

Marjorie Bencz, CM  
Executive Director



@AndrewKnack Oct 10  
Oct 10, 2014 is proclaimed “Marjorie Bencz Day” for 25 years  
as @yegfoodbank’s Exec Director. #thanksmarjorie #yeg

Edmonton's Food Bank couldn't achieve our mission without the help of our fantastic volunteers who give us their time, energy, and friendship.



### Jim Stanger

Jim Stanger is a long-time volunteer. At 65, he has already volunteered with the Food Bank for over 14 years. He started volunteering with our drivers going to various places in the city collecting food donations. Now he is part of the Wednesday morning sorting crew. He admits he sometimes misses being out on the trucks but the camaraderie on Wednesday mornings helps make up for it. As a former railway worker, Jim felt it was only logical to come volunteer at Edmonton's Food Bank to give back. "There's obviously a need," says Jim. When asked what keeps him coming back he says, "I just keep coming. It is hard to imagine stopping."

*"I believe life is about serving others. I chose the Food Bank because growing up, my grandmother always told us that true hunger is one of the worst things to experience. I also know that one day, I may need help in some way." ~ Edith B.*



### Eva Loewen

Since retiring from an accounting firm Eva Loewen has spent her time babysitting her great-grandkids, doing yard work and volunteering every Wednesday morning at Edmonton's Food Bank where she sorts donations. "I just felt I wanted to give back and help the needy," says Eva. "It gives me a good feeling." Her desire to give back to the community drives Eva to donate her time and her fellow volunteers are what keep her coming back. "They're good people, hard working. And it's usually the same people Wednesday mornings." At the age of 76, Eva has volunteered with us for 8 years and shows no signs of slowing down. She plans to continue coming to the Food Bank to give back with her friends on the Wednesday morning crew for as long as she can.



People from all walks of life volunteer with us.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work. Without their incredible contribution of over 50,000 hours in 2014 in the warehouse, client services and special events, it would be impossible to meet the needs of those facing food insecurity.

“Solitude, isolation, are painful things and beyond human endurance.” ~ Jules Verne



### **Operation Friendship Seniors Society**

Edmonton's Food Bank is a central warehouse which distributes food to over 210 agencies, churches, and food depots. In this report, we would like to share with you some of the great work of Operation Friendship Seniors Society (OFSS). OFSS is one of the founding members of our organization and regularly picks up food from the Food Bank.

First set up as the Operation Friendship Drop-In Centre in 1969, it began as a place where seniors who were displaced and isolated by urban renewal could come together and meet new friends.

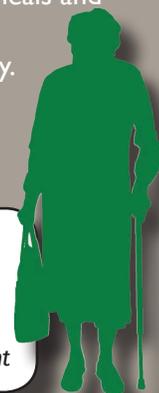
As their mission to offer services to improve the quality of life for seniors grew, so did the scope of the programs they offered. Today, in addition to a drop-in centre, OFSS goes out in the community to help seniors and also operates seven buildings of non-institutional housing options. OFSS community outreach will visit seniors wherever they are in the community to link them with needed resources and services. Recreation programs offer dances, fishing, bingo, arts and crafts and many other activities to help seniors stay connected and healthy. In the Helping Hands program, seniors can help by driving others to appointments or out on errands. All the programs are designed to create a community of support. “This is a family. They look out for each other,” says Carmine Antonucci, OFSS Drop-In Manager.

OFSS comes to Edmonton's Food Bank at least twice a week for food for their meal programs which offer three meals a day at the drop-in centre. Seniors who live in OFSS buildings nearby often come for the meals and stay for the friendship offered, often cooking and cleaning to help give back to the place that is the centre of their community.



“Thank you because it helps so many of us people who are on low income, otherwise we would be hungry.”

~ Margaret, Food Bank Recipient



“Partnering with agencies that support the community is essential in our work.” ~ *Edmonton’s Food Bank*



**OUR HOUSE**  
ADDICTION RECOVERY

### **Our House Addiction Recovery Centre**

This past festive season the gentlemen of Our House Addiction Recovery Centre answered our call for assistance. Each evening they travelled to Candy Cane Lane to collect the food donations brought by the public. Their support each night lightened the load for Food Bank drivers. We count on these volunteers each week in our warehouse as well.

Our House Addiction Recovery Centre offers extensive programming for addicts in recovery. In addition to providing common basic human needs and a safe environment free from drugs and alcohol. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at the house weekly. A day program and an evening program are offered to accommodate individuals working or involved in outside programs. Programs are designed to deal with the physical, spiritual and social self. Volunteers generally facilitate one seminar per week.

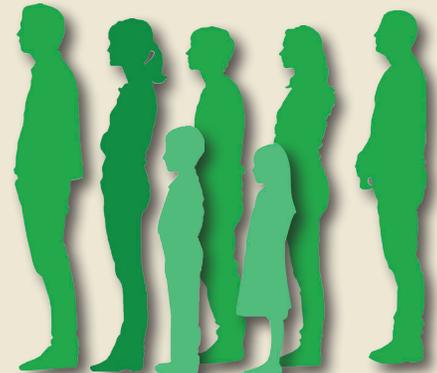
As a partner agency Edmonton’s Food Bank provides food assistance to the gentlemen in the Our House recovery program.

*“It is hard to understand addiction unless you have experienced it.”*

*~ Ken Hensley*



Bread Runs are more than just bread! They are a great way to stretch your food dollars. Bread Runs provide free day-old bread and sometimes other food on a drop in basis. There are three Bread Runs in Edmonton: Garneau United Church, Mill Woods United Church and Freedom Centre. We thank these groups for their continuing help for those facing food insecurity.



**“Adversity causes some to break and others to break records.”**

*~ Unknown*



### **Candy Cane Lane**

Since 1993, visitors to Candy Cane Lane have donated more than 452,100 kilograms of food. This years total was a record breaking 31,816 kilograms of food.

*“It’s a chance to be involved in a long standing tradition.”*

*~ Kate Jenvey  
Candy Cane Lane Resident*



*“It’s a great train and a great cause.”*

*~ Jeremy Barry  
CP Rail*



### **CP Holiday Train**

Every two years, the CP Holiday Train rolls into our city in efforts to raise food and funds for Edmonton’s Food Bank. The mild weather contributed to the 2014 success of this event which raised \$10,184 and 2,367 kilograms of food. Special thanks to CP, Old Strathcona Business Association, United Cycle, and Starbucks Whyte Ave.



*Credit: CPR*

**“Earn thy living through honest means; Always remember thy Creator; Share your blessings with others.” ~ Guru Nanak Dev**

**Punjabi Media Association & Sikh Community of Edmonton**

We are very honoured to be invited into the welcoming embrace of the Sikh Community in Edmonton, whether it is for Parkash Purab or Vaisakhi. Sharing with those in need is a key aspect of Sikhism. Sikhs believe that nobody should go to bed hungry and that each and every person on earth should be fed. In 2014 alone, the Sikh and Punjabi community of Edmonton donated over 5,000 kilograms of food and \$76,997 to Edmonton’s Food Bank.



*“Each and every person on this earth should be fed.”*

*~ Gursharan Buttar*



#CBCTurkeyDrive

**CBC**

Having a partnership with CBC Edmonton is an honour and a privilege. CBC staff volunteer in our warehouse on a regular basis. For the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Drive, CBC and friends set an ambitious goal of \$500,000. All their hard work paid off, the final tally came in at an astonishing \$566,016!

**“You don’t have to change the whole world; you just have to change your world, and the rest will follow.” ~ Tom Jackson**

### **Can Man Dan**

Can Man Dan, Dan Johnstone, is an energetic young philanthropist who started raising food and funds for Edmonton’s Food Bank in 2011. A recipient of Food Bank help as a child, he has become a Food Bank ambassador famous for his yearly camp outs during Edmonton’s freezing winters.

For the second year in a row, Delux Burger Bar invited Dan to be the December Celebrity Chef. Dan designed a delicious burger with \$1 per burger going to Edmonton’s Food Bank.

In 2014 Dan partnered with Southgate Centre Safeway and Southbrook Sobeys for his camp outs and was supported by Southgate Centre and Edo Japan. Dan raised an amazing \$13,109 and 11,440 kilograms of food.



Edo Japan showed great support to Can Man Dan and also raised \$14,900 for the Food Bank by donating 25 cents from every order of spring rolls sold during the festive season.

 #CanManDan



### **Phobruary**

Adrian Watzke and Miles Konrad of SnoGlobe Communications, came up with a clever method of supporting Edmonton’s Food Bank. During the icy month of February the creative duo connected with their clients at different Pho restaurants around town. With every bowl of Pho ordered the SnoGlobe team made a donation to the Food Bank. In 2014 Adrian and Miles helped bring in \$1,385.



“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.” ~ *Henrik Ibsen*



### **Stuff a Bus - Celebrating 20 Years**

It is hard to believe that one of our most well-known events celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014. The ETS Stuff a Bus was born after Sharon Gingara, an ETS employee, saw a group of university students filling a car with food for the Food Bank and thought “why not fill a bus?”

A local Save On Foods store was approached and got on board for the first event in 1995. The event was such a success that more Save On Foods locations and more ETS employees asked to be involved. The enthusiasm hasn’t waned since.

In 1998, Stuff a Bus became a multi-day event for the first time lasting six days before settling in 2011 on the four-day event we now know.

ETS Stuff a Bus is now a hallmark event of Edmonton’s winter season and 2014 was no exception. Despite bitterly cold temperatures volunteers collected \$15,379 and 20,529 kilograms of food!



“Right from the beginning there was a sense of cooperation and community spirit.” ~ *Marjorie Bencz, Edmonton’s Food Bank*

**save on foods**

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” ~ *William Arthur Ward*



### **HIBCO - Well Crafted**

This year marked the beginning of a beautiful new partnership with HIBCO construction. This great local company answered the call to come and renovate the office space in our main building. They turned around and donated the cost of those renovations. We were happy to hire HIBCO to also work on our new warehouse.

*“When companies like HIBCO and CISCO make these kind of donations it allows us to use funds for other programs and services.”*

*~ Mark Doram, Edmonton's Food Bank*



### **CISCO - Changing the way the world works, lives and plays**

CISCO came to the Food Bank to do some volunteering and while they were here they thought they could do more. A simple conversation about hosting video conferencing services for us soon turned into a conversation about upgrading our phone system.

The team at CISCO approached their head office and helped us secure the CISCO grant of \$70,251 for a telephone communications system. We are grateful to be the recipient of CISCO's generosity.



“Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.” ~ *Jean de La Bruyère*

**Albert's Family Restaurants**

has partnered with us for a few events in 2014. They provided great quality food and service and they always forget to bring the bill.



**Tom Jackson's Huron Carole**  
\$22,934 and 345 kg



**F R E E M A N**

A U D I O V I S U A L | C A N A D A

**Freeman AV** has always happily loaned us quality audio visual equipment at no charge. Because of their sharing spirit our presenters can always be heard loud and clear.



In 2014, the Radisson Hotel Edmonton South generously embraced us. They were a sponsor for Tom Jackson's Huron Carole and chose us as the recipient for their *Friends in Need* campaign.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

**“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” ~ John Holmes**

### **Sexy Men of YEG**

The brain child of Owen Petersen of the Prairie Mill Bread Company and Corey Meyer of Acme Meat Market, the “Sexy Men of YEG Food” calendar was inspired by a bakery pin-up calendar Petersen saw in an antique store. “I thought it was odd to have a pin-up calendar for a bakery, so we started joking about it,” says Petersen. The joke soon turned serious when they decided to do their own calendar for Edmonton’s Food Bank. They set to work convincing others to join them.

The 12 business owners partnered with Detour Photography and Patrick Kerby Design who did the design and photography work and printer UPS Terwilliger in creating the fun tongue-in-cheek calendar.

The 2014 calendar raised \$19,500 for Edmonton’s Food Bank, supporting people in need.

*“...any fundraiser for the Food Bank is important.”*

*~ Bri Vos*

*Detour Photography*



2015 calendars, available soon!

the **SEXY MEN** of  
**YEG FOOD**



#SexyMenofYegFood

All proceeds going to  
The Edmonton Food Bank.

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.” ~ Anthony J D’Angelo

**SAFeway**   
Ingredients for life.™

### **Amazing Partnership**

We benefit from many generous corporate partners and one of the longest standing is Safeway. In 1985, when the Food Bank needed a new home, Safeway generously rented a vacant store to the Food Bank for \$10 a month! For three years, the Food Bank flourished at this Jasper Avenue location.

Throughout our partnership, Safeway stores have held numerous food drives for Edmonton’s Food Bank. Safeway managers are regular volunteers and hold community BBQs for us at their stores. Our local stores generously donate bakery goods weekly for our hamper programs. Safeway also sponsors our annual Harvest Luncheon.

Through these events and their on-going help Safeway has helped Edmonton’s Food Bank gather tens of thousands of kilograms of food and thousands of dollars in monetary donations.

Edmonton’s Food Bank was pleased to nominate Safeway for a Philanthropy Day Award, which they received on November 14, 2014.



# Feed Edmonton's **FOOD BANK**

**Hungry?**  
Require food assistance?  
780.425.4190

**Donate**  
Give food, money, time  
780.425.2133

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

Serves more than  
**15,000**  
people per month  
through our hamper  
programs.

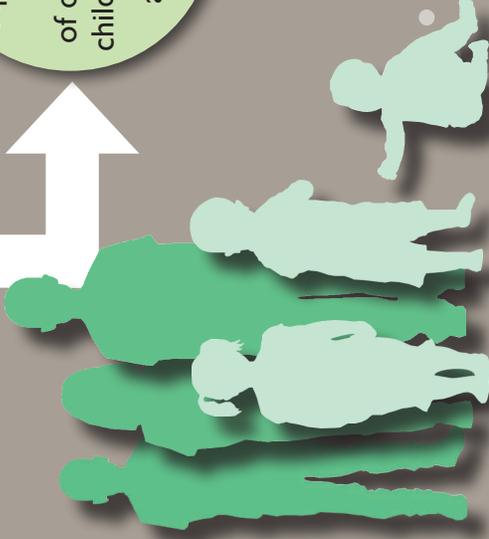
Works collaboratively with more than **210**  
agencies, churches and food depots throughout  
Edmonton. These agencies receive food from  
our warehouse to assist their clients.

Is a United Way agency but does not  
receive any government funding for  
operations and services.

More than **1,100** events are  
coordinated each year to raise food and  
funds to support our mission. These  
events also raise awareness of the solvable  
problem of hunger in our community.

Provides food to **37** high risk schools  
for lunch & snack programs in Edmonton.

Approximately  
**40 %**  
of our clients are  
children under the  
age of **18**.



Over  
**410,000** meals  
and snacks are provided  
monthly through our  
affiliated agencies.

Provides food for special festive meals and events in the community including Homeless Connect.



Collected, sorted, repackaged, and redistributed 3 million kilograms of food in 2014. The approximate value of this food is **\$16,500,000.**



Provides warehouse space for our provincial association, Alberta Food Banks.

Is a recognized teaching facility for Concordia University's Environmental Health Program.

The Executive Director of Edmonton's Food Bank is a member of the Order of Canada and received the Queen's Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals.

Accredited under *Imagine Canada's Standards Program* for showing excellence and compliance in five key areas of operations: Board governance, financial accountability & transparency, fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement.



Food Banks Canada

The following are some highlights of our Special Events in 2014. Due to space limitations, we are unable to list all the great events and supporters who assisted us over the year. Please accept our deepest appreciation to all our Hunger Heroes we are unable to mention.



**Sherwood Park Toyota  
Pedal Power  
\$41,574 and 1,247 kg**



**Mayfield Dinner Theatre  
Toonies for Turkey's  
\$50,400**



**Rosenau Transport  
18 Wheels of Christmas  
\$16,000 and 770 kg**



**Christmas BOW  
\$7,908 and 308 kg**



**Purolator Tackle Hunger  
\$26,222 and 13,299 kg**



**Breakfast Television Tree Sale  
with The Home Depot and Zedi volunteers  
\$9,420 and 101 kg**



**Edmonton Police Association  
Turkey Shoot  
\$5,125 and 348 kg**



**Canstruction Edmonton  
Canadian Progress Club  
Children's Charitable Society  
9,305 kg**



Alberta Beer Festivals  
\$4,665 and 134 kg



Five Hole For Food  
\$9,302 and 4,582 kg



TD Canada Trust Whyte Ave.  
Book Sale  
\$5,500



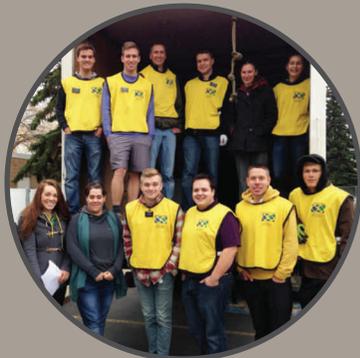
Edmonton Symphony Orchestra  
\$19,080



Heritage Festival  
55,445 kg  
Money/Unused Tickets \$107,793



Brown bags are distributed through the Edmonton Journal and Flyer Force thanks to the \$25,000 contribution from the RBC Foundation.



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
City Wide Door to Door  
56,087 kg



The Citadel Theatre  
\$67,308 and 202 kg

Food and fundraising events are an essential component of support for Edmonton's Food Bank. Over 1,100 special events and food drives are organized each year.

A grayscale photograph of a warehouse filled with stacked pallets of boxes. A green silhouette of a forklift is overlaid in the bottom right corner. The text is contained within circular callouts.

All day there is food coming in, and food going out. More than 3 million kilograms of food was collected and distributed in 2014. In addition to bringing donated and gleaned food to our warehouse and shipping hampers out to our depots, the food needs to be moved to different stations in the process. The warehouse equipment is put to the test on a daily basis. Forklifts, pallet jacks, freezers, coolers and air curtains are all needed to keep things running smoothly.

**Alberta Hunters Who Care** ask hunters to share their harvest of White Tailed Deer, Mule Deer, Elk or Moose with Edmonton's Food Bank. Alberta Health vigorously monitors the program and donors as well as recipient organizations must meet specific requirements.

Our **Second Helping** food recovery program is an opportunity for companies with large banquet facilities such as the Shaw Conference Centre, Northlands, and the Westin Hotel to donate prepared surplus food to organizations that are serving meals to those in need.

WWW.EDMONTONFOODBANK.COM  
780-425-2133

# "Let thy food be thy medicine."

~ Hippocrates



Every hamper starts out with basic, staple, non-perishable food items such as pasta, soup, beans, canned fruit and vegetables.



Items added next can vary depending on what has been gleaned from the food industry and is available at that particular time. Often we have fresh produce, yogurt, cereals and baked goods.



Most produce is received in bulk quantities. Food Bank volunteers repackage these items into individual or family sized portions for the hampers.



Included in every hamper are fresh eggs. The Food Bank purchases these eggs and volunteers repackage them into donated egg cartons. The egg bill for 2014 was a staggering \$166,233.



Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to email [volunteer@edmontonsfoodbank.com](mailto:volunteer@edmontonsfoodbank.com) or call 780.425.2133

We offer volunteer opportunities to groups, teams, working people, students and families during the normal work week as well as three evenings a week and Saturdays.

**“Never look down on anybody unless you are helping them up.” ~ Unknown**

**One Client’s Story**

When Naveera came to Canada with her husband and nine-year-old son, all prospects looked good. Her husband found work right away and Naveera made a few friends.

The calm waters of her new life brewed into a terrible storm. Naveera’s husband became increasingly physically abusive and she decided it was safest for her and her son to leave him.

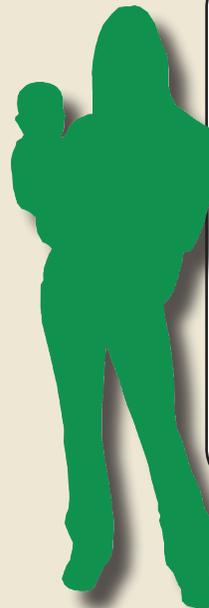
Naveera found part-time work but for health reasons could not work full time. She found herself struggling to take care of and feed her son. One of her new friends brought her to Edmonton’s Food Bank.

At the Food Bank, Naveera was able to get the emergency food assistance she needed to feed herself and her son. The staff was also able to direct her to the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers where she could get additional support as a new Canadian.

*“He became increasingly physically abusive and I finally had to leave him.”*  
~ Naveera, Food Bank Client

About 43% of our clients are single parent families.

*“More than one-third of those helped by food banks are children. Nearly half of households helped are families with children, and close to half of these are two-parent families.” ~ HungerCount 2014*



“Thank you so much for all of your help. I don’t mean to use your services all the time, but as a single parent trying to make ends meet, I’ve found it difficult to fill in some necessities.

I am proud to say I am now back in school and intend on applying for Social Work studies so that I may be able to give back to Edmonton and my community.”

~ Food Bank Recipient

In order to reduce barriers to food programs and services, we work with community food depots so clients can pick up their hampers in their own neighbourhood. There are currently 40 food depots, with their respective volunteers to ensure distribution throughout Edmonton. We are always looking at ways to expand the depot network as the city grows and changes.



The majority of all food hampers are built at the Food Bank warehouse. Food is shipped in bulk or in the pre-made hampers to a community depot. Clients are directed to pick up their food from a depot in their neighbourhood.



Edmonton's Food Bank is able to provide food services throughout the city because of the over 210 agencies, churches, and food depots who work with us to distribute food to those in need.



To access services at Edmonton's Food Bank, a client may self-refer and call us or speak with their social worker to have their information sent directly to the Food Bank. Much of the central intake occurs at Edmonton's Food Bank in our phone room; however, some of our partners complete client intake and fax/email the information to the Food Bank.

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt

While statistics can never convey the human side of hunger, they often shed light on other economic challenges and issues. People are always surprised to learn how many of our clients are working individuals or people with disabilities and insufficient benefits.



### Meals & Snack Programs

We are fortunate to work with many agencies and other non-profit organizations to provide meals and snacks in the community. These services may include breakfast programs, snacks and/or meals, depending on our partners' capabilities and the needs of their clients. Each month, we work with our partners to distribute more than 410,000 meals and snacks. This contribution to reducing hunger in our community is amazing and is appreciated, thank you!

### Hamper Programs

While for the first eight months of 2014, requests for food hampers were relatively consistent with 2013, the number of people receiving food hampers increased substantially from September to December 2014. These increases from 2013 represent up to two thousand more people per month turning to the Food Bank.

### Recent Increase in Food Bank Hampers



With many agencies and seasonal charities offering Christmas hampers/meals, December is usually below 11,000 people for the Food Bank Hamper Program; however, this pattern is not repeated in 2014.

“Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn’t.”

~ Jeff Bridges

### **School Snack Program**

Edmonton’s Food Bank provides 37 high-risk schools with nutritious snack items for approximately 41,525 snacks per week. Edmonton’s Food Bank is committed to providing healthy snack items for children. We target purchase snacks that are found on Alberta Health Services’ single serving list in accordance with the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth (ANGCY).

*“Nearly one million Canadian children live in families with below poverty-level incomes. Several decades of research has shown that childhood poverty, particularly in the early years (i.e. prenatal to age 5), has a profound effect on the physical, mental, and economic outcomes of those who experience it once they reach adulthood.” ~ HungerCount 2014*



Thank you to the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation who contributed \$5,000 in 2014 to our School Snack Program. The contribution was happily put towards our \$200,000 food purchase bill for children focused food.



### **Fill-Up**

Fill-Up often gets invited to schools to help bring awareness of food insecurity to children. While he gives gentle hugs and high fives, Food Bank staff educate school children on the operations of the Food Bank and our willingness to help people in need of our services.

Visit the KidZone on our website for Fill-Up colouring pages, activity sheets and birthday invitations.

“Generosity doesn’t change things. It changes people and they change things.” ~ Unknown

### New Community Strategy

Sometimes, a happenstance meeting opens doors to different ways of doing things. During the Hunger Awareness Week Breakfast, a special need was brought to light and a new partnership grew from it. Edmonton’s Food Bank and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) met to see how we could proactively work together. As you can appreciate, EPS members respond to calls outside Food Bank hours of operation. Therefore, an Emergency Mini Food Pack was created that has about 48 hours worth of non-perishable food with contact information for the recipient to access other food resources in the community (and the Food Bank of course). In the summer, all EPS Divisions were equipped with the Emergency Mini Food Packs for people in need.



Credit: Edmonton Police Service

*“Edmonton’s Food Bank has been a most welcome addition to the list of agencies partnering with the Edmonton Police Service. After watching a presentation on the good the food bank does in our city and across Canada, I was given a tour of a facility and realized very quickly how much their efforts mirror those of police or any agency trying to make Edmonton a better, safer place to live. Hunger can be at the root of spousal violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and mental health complaints, to name only a few of the types of calls police respond to on a regular basis; Edmonton’s Food Bank has supported the EPS in situations where food can be the difference between a safe home environment and a hostile one.”*

*~ Sgt. Ryan Lawley*

# “Relieving Hunger Today. Preventing Hunger Tomorrow.”

~ Food Banks Canada

## **Food Banks Canada & the National Food Sharing System**

Food Banks Canada is the national charitable organization representing and supporting the food bank community across Canada. Food donated by national food industry partners through the National Food Sharing System is distributed to local food banks.

Food Banks Canada also organizes the national Retail Food Program, partnering with retailers to allow food banks to collect surplus food. This food could be considered surplus because of packaging changes, overstock, damaged exterior packaging, seasonal, or branding changes, or for many other reasons. The Retail Food Program helps Edmonton’s Food Bank distribute more food and helps provide a greater variety for clients. Members of the national Retail Food program in 2014 were Walmart, Loblaws and Target. Provincially, Alberta Food Banks has a similar program with London Drugs.



Hunger Awareness Week Breakfast 2014



Hunger Awareness Week is about raising awareness of the solvable problem of hunger in Canada. Food banks across the country hold events to tell the story of the work they do, and the stories of hungry Canadians assisted by food banks.

Food Banks Canada, along with its provincial members and food banks across the country, are asking all Canadians to mark *Hunger Awareness Week* - to make a positive impact on the issue of hunger across the country.

## Partnering Agencies

### Aboriginal Organizations

Aboriginal Youth & Family Well-Being & Education Society (AYFWES)  
Amiskwaciy Academy  
Ben Calf Robe Society  
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society  
Canadian Native Friendship Centre  
Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre  
Edmonton Native Healing Centre Society  
Métis Child and Family Services Society  
NAIT Aboriginal Student Centre  
Native Counselling Services of Alberta  
Red Road Healing Society  
Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples  
Sampson Cree Nation Urban Resource Centre  
Sun & Moon Aboriginal Artisans Society  
Trade Winds To Success Training Society  
Urban Native Ministries (UNMan)

### Addiction and Recovery

Alberta Health Services  
Edmonton Dream Centre\*  
Edmonton Drug Treatment Restoration  
George Spady Centre  
Our House Addictions Recovery  
Recovery Acres\*

### Bereavement/Counselling Support

Alberta Health Services: Mental Health Living Positive  
Catholic Social Services: FASD  
Forensic Assessment & Community Services  
HIV Network of Edmonton Society  
Jewish Family Services  
Pilgrims Hospice Society  
Salvation Army  
The Family Centre  
The Support Network  
YWCA

### Children and Youth Services

Abbotsfield Youth Project  
ABC Head Start  
Aboriginal Student Services  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Boys & Girls Club  
Bosco Homes  
Calder School\*

### E4C

East Glen High School  
Edmonton and District Family Support  
Elves Child Development Centre  
Family Centre  
Health for Two  
Hillcrest School  
Homesteader Community Centre  
KARA Family Resource Centre  
Kate Chegwin Junior High School  
Kids on Track  
Kid Sport Alberta  
Kindred House  
LaSalle, A Safe Place for Women & their Children  
Lawton Junior High School  
McCauley Community Afterschool Care Association  
McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association  
Mill Woods Family Resource Centre Society  
Mother Teresa School  
Northeast Teen Centre  
Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre  
Old Strathcona Youth Society  
Partners for Kids and Youth (PFKY)  
Sakaw School  
Shiloh Youth Ranch  
Spruce Avenue School  
St. Anne School  
St. Benedict School  
St. Maria Goretti  
St. Nicholas School  
St. Teresa School  
Terra Association  
Tipaskan Elementary School  
Westlawn Junior High School  
Youth Criminal Defense\*  
Youth Empowerment & Support Services  
YOUCAN

### Emergency Shelters

Boyle McCauley Health Centre (BMHC)  
Elizabeth House  
George Spady Centre  
Herb Jamieson Centre  
Hope Mission  
Inner City Youth Housing

Today Family Violence Centre  
Urban Manor Housing Society  
WIN House  
Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC)  
Youth Empowerment & Support Services  
YMCA Transitional Housing

### Employment Assistance

Bissell Employment Centre  
DECSA (Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta)  
EmployAbilities  
Metro Continuing Education  
On Site Placement Services Association  
Tradewinds to Success Training Society

### Family Violence

A Safe Place  
Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women  
Crossroads Outreach  
DECSA (Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta)  
Edmonton John Howard Society  
Hope Mission  
Living Hope Christian Fellowship  
Lurana Shelter  
WIN House  
Women Moving Forward

### Newcomer/Immigrant Services

Action for Healthy Communities  
Catholic Social Services: Immigration Services  
Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women  
Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)  
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)  
Islamic Family & Social Services  
Multicultural Health Brokers  
United Pentecostal Church Spanish

## Partnering Agencies

### Meal Programs

Amity House  
Bissell Centre  
Bernadette N. Swan Social Care Foundation (BNSSCF)  
Boyle Street Community Services Co-op  
Candora Society of Edmonton  
Crystal Kids Youth Centre  
Edmonton Fathers House  
Emmaus Lutheran Church  
Hope Mission  
Inner City Pastoral Ministry  
Jasper Place Health and Wellness (JPHAW)  
Living Hope Christian Fellowship  
Networks Activity Centre Society  
Red Road Healing Society  
Robertson Wesley United Church  
St. Faith's Anglican Church  
St. Gabriel Catholic School  
Salvation Army  
Unity Centre of Northeast Edmonton

### Seniors

Greater Edmonton Foundation Housing for Seniors  
Native Seniors Centre  
Operation Friendship Seniors Society  
Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE)  
Seniors Outreach Network Society

### Food Depots and Hamper Programs

All Saints Lutheran  
Anawim Place  
Bannerman Drop-In Centre  
Bethel Christian Reformed Community Church  
Bible Pentecostal Church  
Boyle Street Community Services Co-op  
Boyle Street's North Star Apartments  
Bread Run Garneau  
Bread Run Millwoods  
Calder Seniors Drop-In Society  
Callingwood School  
Canavua  
Candora Society  
Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta  
City of Edmonton Community Services  
Collective Kitchens

Community of Christ Church  
Community Options  
Creating Hope Society  
Crystal Kids Youth Centre  
Dayspring Presbyterian Church  
Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society  
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton  
Emmaus Lutheran Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Fort Road Victory Church  
Freedom Centre Church (Clareview)  
Fusion Canada  
Grant MacEwan University  
HAART House  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
Holy Trinity Canadian Orthodox Church  
Holyrood Mennonite Centre  
Hosanna Lutheran Church  
iHuman Youth Society  
Inglewood Christian Reformed Church  
Inner City Pastoral Ministry  
Jasper Place Baptist Church  
Jasper Place Health and Wellness  
Maranatha Christian Reformed Church  
Marian Centre  
McClure United Church  
McDougall House Association  
Millwoods Pentecostal Assembly  
Millwoods United Church  
Mustard Seed Street Church  
NAIT Students Association (NAITSA)  
PAR Foundation  
Pleasantview Church  
Pride Centre of Edmonton  
Project Adult Literacy Society (PALS)  
Prostitution Awareness & Action Foundation Edmonton (PAAFE)  
Red Road Healing Society  
Riverbend Lutheran Church  
Robertson Wesley United Church  
Rock Lutheran Inner-City Society  
Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples  
St. Andrews Food Program  
St. Angela's Food Pantry  
St. Anthony's Parish  
St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
St. Herman's Orthodox Church  
St. John the Evangelist Parish

St. John's Anglican Church Refugee Committee  
St. Joseph's High School  
St. Luke's Anglican Church  
St. Mary's Anglican Church  
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Parish  
Salvation Army Castledowns  
Southminster-Steinhauer United Church  
The Grit Program  
The Neighbour Centre  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Uncles and Aunts at Large Society  
Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCOE)  
United Pentecostal Church Spanish Edmonton  
Urban Manor Housing Society  
WECAN Food Basket Society  
West Edmonton Baptist Church  
Westlawn Junior High  
YMCA Bill Rees

*\*We would like to welcome these new Closed Hamper Agencies, Bulk Surplus Snack Agencies, and Depots who joined us in 2014!*



Staff from Hope Mission picking up food.

**Edmonton's Food Bank's Board of Directors is a governance board. They are responsible for setting policies and providing oversight and leadership to Edmonton's Food Bank.**

**David I. Benjestorf, Chair**  
Legal Counsel and General Manager  
The Alldritt Group, Alberta

**Jan Musani, Vice-Chair**  
Property Manager  
Jaffer Properties Inc.

**Kelvin Smith, Treasurer**  
Accountant  
Kelvin Smith Professional Corporation

**Megan Koper, Secretary**  
Corporate Counsel  
Almita Piling

**Pedro Carriel, Director**  
Director of Finance & Operations  
Art Gallery of Alberta

**Dr. Frances Harley, Director**  
Semi-retired Paediatric Nephrologist

**Fred Hosker, Director**  
Certified General Accountant  
Gateway Mechanical Services Inc.

**Doug Hughes, Director**  
Partner  
Bishop & McKenzie LLP

**Donald Langford, Director**  
Executive Director  
Metis Child and Family Services Society

**Jack Little, Director**  
Executive Director  
Edmonton Heritage Festival Association

**Cheryl Nattrass, Director**  
Retired Coordinator  
Board Development Program, Alberta Culture

**Sandra Neis, Director**  
Manager, Strategic Workforce Planning  
Government of Alberta, Corporate Human  
Resource Department

**Jamie Post, Director**  
Communications and Membership Coordinator  
Alberta Disability Workers Association

**Bob Story, Director**  
Retired Businessman



**Please visit [www.edmontonsfoodbank.com](http://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com) for full biographies.**

Executive Director - Marjorie Bencz, CM

Director of Operations - Mark Doram

Service Centre Lead - David Berger  
Info/Agency Services Coordinator - Walter Dong  
Volunteer Coordinator - Sonia Singh  
Food Hub Coordinator - Judy Yawney

Administration Team  
Suedelle Baudais  
Melanie Brule  
Zelda Quinney  
Lorne Serink  
Mindy Tang

Manager of Strategic Relationships & Partnerships -  
Tamisan Bencz-Knight  
Resource Development Team  
Doug Hunter  
Twyla McGann  
Susan Padget

Client Services Coordinator - Kimberly Hume  
Client Services Team  
Joanne Buchynski  
Tracey Gilchrist  
Richard Levenick

Hamperline Coordinator - Vince Sinatynski  
Hamperline Team  
Joaquin Kenyon  
Ron Locke  
Karen Mitchell

Warehouse Manager - Napoleon Canete  
Shipper/Receiver - Randy Niederhaus  
Warehouse Team  
Dan Quist  
Norman Coons  
Kurt Devolder  
Ronjay Ferrer  
Samuel Gebremedhin  
Moses Loboka  
Jose Velasquez



*"Without poverty, food banks would not need to exist. Whether because of a sudden illness, the loss of a job, family breakup, or other unexpected circumstance, every year hundreds of thousands of Canadians face a major loss of income and are unable to get the help they need to offset it."*

*~ HungerCount 2014*



## Let's Connect!

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Food Banks  
Canada



United Way