




EDMONTON'S  
FOODBANK



2018 ANNUAL REPORT





In December 2015, Brad Shaw, CEO of Shaw Communications, and his family announced a substantial personal donation to Edmonton's Food Bank. A 10 year commitment to donate \$300,000 annually to purchase healthy child focused food continues to have a positive impact on our youth. We are grateful to the dedication of the Shaw family and the thousands of loyal donors helping us alleviate hunger in Edmonton.



# BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read our 2018 Annual Report which is really our community impact report. In addition to affirming our impact and sharing how we have changed lives, this report provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors, volunteers, supporters, and partner organizations who help us serve people in need.

Since 2016, Edmonton's Food Bank has experienced very significant growth in the number of clients we serve, and unfortunately that trend continued in 2018. Alberta's struggling economy means that our services continue to be in high demand. In addition to the people who need our help, companies and donors also expressed their concerns about what appears to be an ongoing challenge around our sluggish economy and related trends like high unemployment.

In 2015, Edmonton's Food Bank completed an in-depth survey with 400 food hamper recipients to learn more about how they were doing. In 2018, we interviewed 500 clients with similar questions. In lock-step with these surveys, the number of people requiring hampers from the Food Bank increased by 50.6% from 13,869 individuals in July 2015 to 20,892 in July 2018. In addition to finding out more about their current situations, we were able to determine more about their changing needs. We shared the results of our survey and report called Beyond Food Revisited with decision-makers and the broader community. While some survey results can be found in this report, please feel free to review the complete report on our website.

In addition to our diverse range of food programs offered to over 250 organizations, our Beyond Food program provides Edmontonians with a broad range of services including safety tickets, job fairs, counselling, and more. Our partners are essential in making these practical services available to anyone who requests access to them.

Last year, the organization unveiled our values which guide our relationships and operations. These values are Service, Commitment, Responsiveness, Innovation, Integrity and Fairness. By using these values to govern our actions combined with our strong network of friends and stakeholders, we are confident in our ability to provide our community and clients with concrete, meaningful programs, and services.

We appreciate your gifts of food, funds and friendship as we continue on our journey of alleviating hunger in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Marjorie Bencz, CM  
Executive Director

Doug Hughes  
Board Chair

# 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 distributing food to over 250 agencies, 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. Since September 2014, Edmonton's Food Bank has seen a remarkable increase in need within our community. Our hamper program recipients have risen to over 22,000 people per month and our meal and snack programs have increased to nearly 500,000 meals and snacks each month. Over 40% of our clients are children under the age of 18. As the city changes, so do we. In our 38 years of operation, Edmonton's Food Bank has evolved into a very efficient and very passionate group dedicated to eliminating the hunger problem in our city.

## 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.

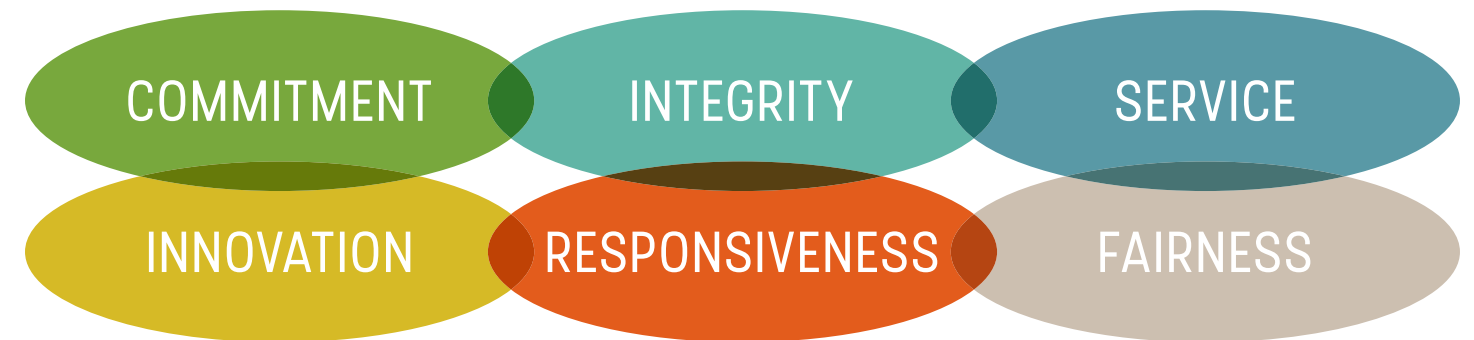
## VISION

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

## MANTRA

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

## VALUES

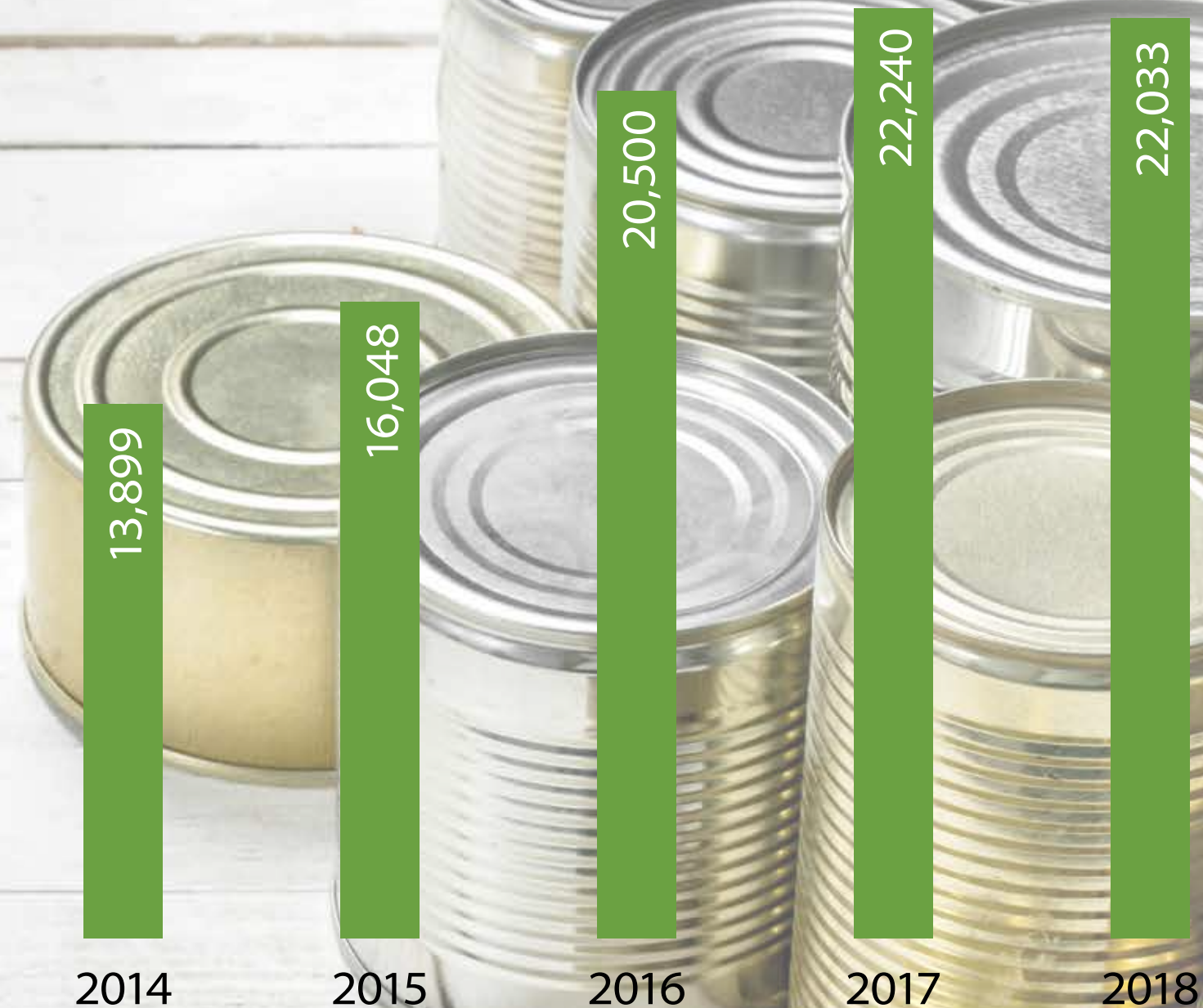


## 5 YEAR COMPARISON: AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF HAMPER RECIPIENTS

Edmonton's Food Bank was founded, and continues to operate, as a short-term solution providing food services for individuals and families in need. Sadly, food insecurity continues to increase in our community; however, Edmonton's Food Bank has been weathering the increase since September 2014 thanks to the help of many dedicated supporters and volunteers.

Our clients come from all walks of life, such as seniors on fixed incomes, working families, individuals on disability, new Canadians, students, the homeless, and children under 18, who represent approximately 40% of our clients. These are our families, our friends, our next-door neighbours.

It is important to understand the statistics. The graph to the right represents the average number of people receiving a food hamper each month. These numbers are representative of our hamper programs only and do not include any data from our meal and snack programs. Also, these numbers do not include people benefiting from our Beyond Food, basic shelf or other programming offered or supported by Edmonton's Food Bank.





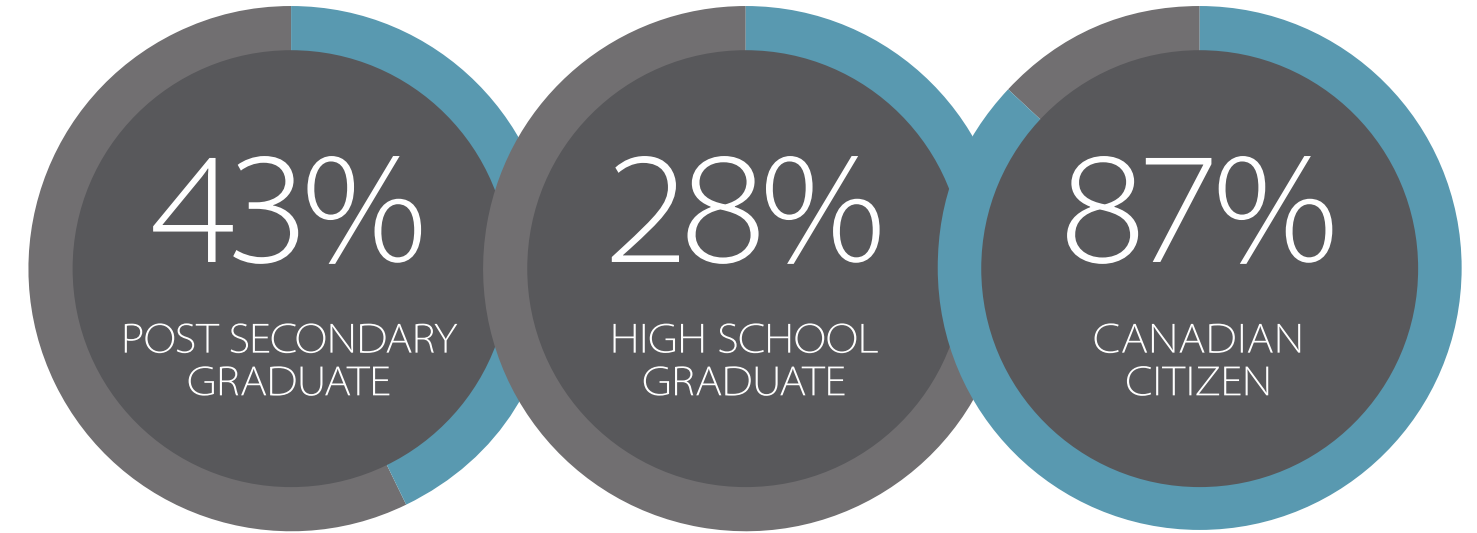
# CLIENT SURVEY

Three years ago, Edmonton's Food Bank spoke to just over 400 clients to find out how they were doing. We learned some interesting and concerning information. Forty-two percent of respondents had attended university, college or trade school; more than half of the people we surveyed had an annual household income of less than \$25,000; 47% ran out of money by the second week of the month and 70% were not connected to any support service other than Edmonton's Food Bank.

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

During June and July of 2018, with the help of social work students from Norquest College and volunteers and staff from Edmonton's Food Bank, we spoke to 500 hamper recipients. Our interviews took place at the Food Bank and at 18 food depots across the city. The questions were similar to the ones asked three years ago. With the help of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, the results were collated and analyzed.

These numbers are just some of the results that resonated with us and presented a picture of who our clients are and the challenges they face.



## MAIN WAREHOUSE

Through the dedication of our valued volunteers and staff, more than 4 million kilograms (8,818,490 lbs) of food was collected, sorted, repackaged, and redistributed in 2018. The approximate value of this food is an astounding \$22,175,000. This includes perishable and non-perishable food that we glean from the food industry, as well as generous donations from the public. The food is distributed through one of our many programs, that are designed to meet the needs of a complex and diverse community.

We are proud to be working with Waste Management to handle organics in a more environmentally conscious way. Since September 2018, our volunteers ensure organic waste is placed in one of five compost bins to divert it from the landfill.

## SHELF STABLE MILK

In September, Edmonton's Food Bank began providing 1 litre and 200 ml shelf stable milk to our clients to ensure nutritious and balanced food hampers. This milk has all the nutritional benefits of regular milk but is processed in a way so that it does not need to be refrigerated! Thanks to our donors, we can afford to include 1 litre of milk in each food hamper and provide our school agency partners with single serving cartons.

## THE RETAIL FOOD PROGRAM AND GLEANING

As part of our mission to serve Edmontonians in need, we partner with retailers and distributors to collect surplus food. This food may be considered surplus due to packaging changes, overstock, damaged exterior packaging, or for a variety of other reasons. These gleaned food donations account for between 60% and 80% of the food we give our clients and include both non-perishable and fresh food donations.

### Hamper Programs

A hamper consists of perishable and non-perishable food products. Each hamper is assembled according to the number of individuals it is intended to feed. Clients may request accommodation for special dietary needs or request additional resources such as pet food and toiletries, when available.

### Agency Partnerships

Edmonton's Food Bank works with over 250 agencies and other non-profit organizations. These agencies receive food from our warehouse to assist their clients. Through these organizations, Edmonton's Food Bank provides food for almost 500,000 meals and snacks each month.

### School Snack Program

We are committed to providing healthy snacks for the 40% of our clients who are under 18. Through our School Snack Program, in 2018 over 32,000 nutritious snacks per week made their way to kids in 59 schools. We target-purchase snacks that are low in added sugar and salt.

**"Thank you to Newman's Own Foundation for giving \$22,500 (USD) to help fund our warehouse operations."**

- ARTHUR WARMAN, WAREHOUSE MANAGER

4 MILLION  
KILOGRAMS OF FOOD

\$22,175,000  
VALUE OF FOOD

61  
FOOD  
DEPOTS

20,000  
SERVINGS  
OF MILK FOR  
SCHOOLS

59  
SCHOOLS  
SUPPORTED

500,000  
MEALS & SNACKS  
EACH MONTH

62,475  
EDMONTONIANS HELPED

121,460  
DOZEN EGGS



## THE ANNEX

Two doors south of our main warehouse is Edmonton's Food Bank Annex. Purchased in 2014, the Annex was initially used as a space for dry food storage, and it now plays a key role in enabling our organization to meet the pressing demands on our services.

As we've expanded our services to better help our community, the Annex now acts as a host for our volunteer orientation sessions, is the home for our Resource Development and Client Services departments, and the base for our Beyond Food Program. On Saturdays, the Annex plays a very important role as it operates two food depots for our clients, each serving up to 60 households. In December, the Annex hosted two depots just before Christmas that each served 250 families and individuals.

The Annex has been a flurry of activity, as non-profits, schools, and other organizations are encouraged to hold meetings, information sessions, and seminars in what is truly a community centre. The space is now being utilized for the benefit of many groups.

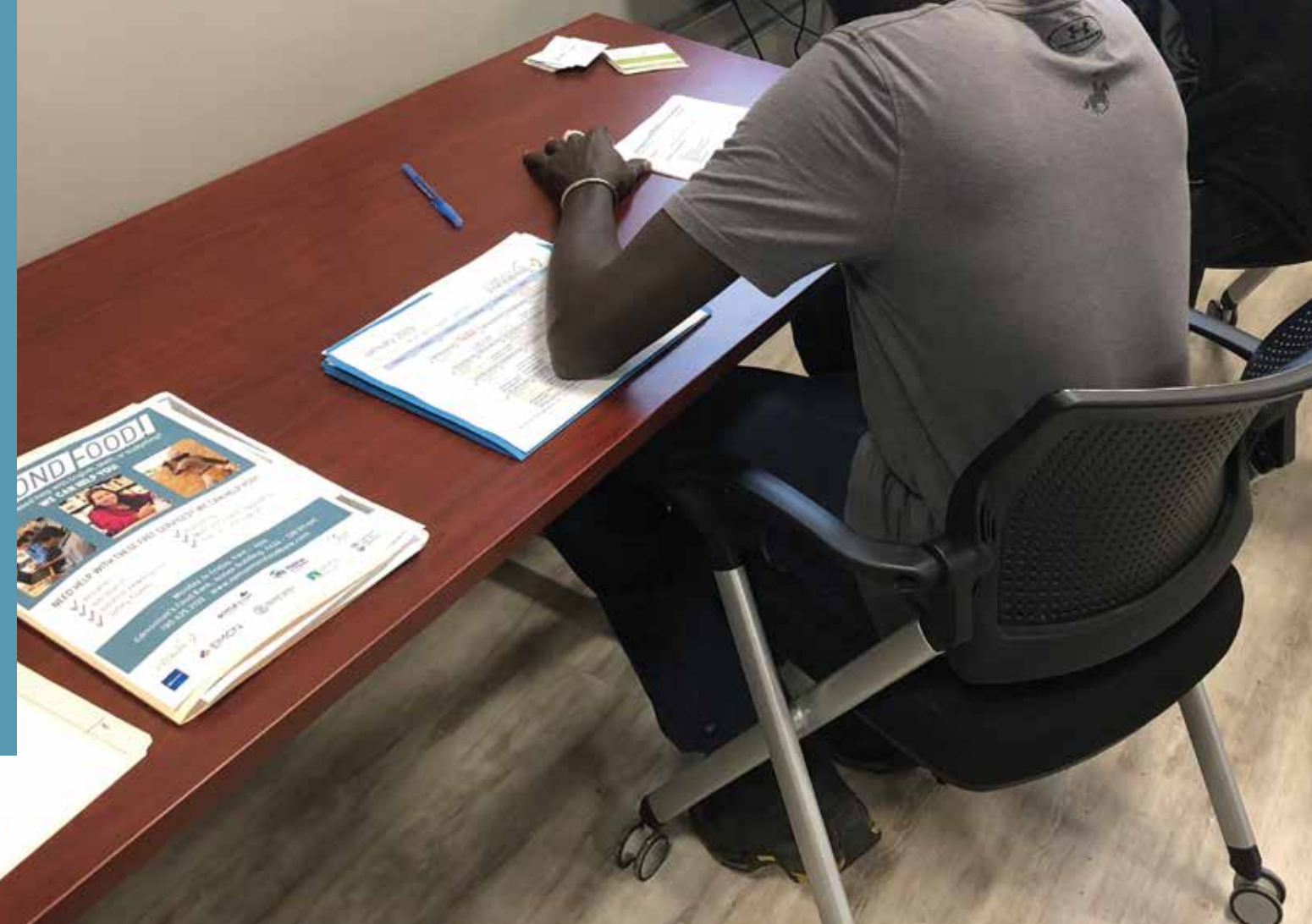
- The WECAN Food Basket Society's offices are located in the Annex.
- Autism Edmonton, Uncles and Aunts at Large, Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta (DECSA), and Sustainable Food Edmonton are among 25 agencies that use the Annex for meeting space.
- The Bissell Centre and Boyle Street Community Services partner with the Food Bank to offer services and support in the Annex.
- Hockey Edmonton, ECALA (Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association), and the Edmonton Social Planning Council have held their AGMs in the Annex.
- Our annual Harvest Luncheon fundraiser, Autism Edmonton's Christmas Fair, the Jim Hole Gardening 101 event, the United Way's fall campaign, and more were held in the Annex.
- 25 different school and youth engagement groups coordinated learning opportunities at the Annex.
- Three job fairs to connect clients to potential employers were hosted at the Annex.
- Large volunteer groups like ATCO, Enbridge, and the students of the We Scare Hunger campaign were hosted in the Annex for a group lunch in celebration of their donations.





# 16

BEYOND FOOD  
CLIENTS HELPED  
ON A DAILY BASIS



## BEYOND FOOD

Edmonton's Food Bank conducted a survey of 500 of our clients in the summer, and we learned that we are the only support service that over 70% of our clients are connected to. Many of our clients do not have a connection to the supports which would help them address their needs 'Beyond Food' - opportunities that would allow them to increase the quality of their lives, move towards independence, and reduce their reliance on the Food Bank over time.

Rather than duplicating services, we decided to mobilize with our neighbours. Beyond Food is a collaboration between Edmonton's Food Bank and our volunteers, partner organizations, and community agencies including:

- BISSELL CENTRE
- BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES
- CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
- CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
- THE CITY OF EDMONTON
- EDMONTON MENNONITE CENTRE FOR NEWCOMERS
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
- THE LEARNING CENTRE
- THE SALVATION ARMY
- BGS ENTERPRISES
- AND OTHERS

Together, we provide opportunities for people experiencing poverty and food insecurity to connect with the resources and supports they need to change their lives.

Beyond Food offers wrap-around supports and services that help our clients become self-sufficient and improve their employment prospects. Safety tickets, first aid, and food handling training; academic upgrading to language, math, and computer literacy skills; and interview, résumé, and job searching resources are available to ready our clients to return to the job market and become independent. Beyond Food also provides financial coaching and education sessions, and assists clients in navigating available resources and opportunities including personal counseling, family violence support, newcomer and settlement services, recreation opportunities, community connections, mental and physical health resources, transportation, and housing.

Located at Edmonton's Food Bank Annex, 11434-120 Street, just two doors down from our main warehouse, Beyond Food is a drop-in service open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and all services are free.

Beyond Food is one demonstration of how community partners, volunteers, and not-for-profit agencies can work together effectively, addressing the root causes of food insecurity to break the cycle of poverty.

“Thanks to the contribution from the Edmonton Community Foundation, we have completed our first full year of partnership programs for our clients.”

- AMANDA WHITE, BEYOND FOOD COORDINATOR



## CLIENT STORIES

In 2018, Edmonton's Food Bank helped 62,475 different people through our hamper programs. Sometimes it's that a paycheque or pension won't make it until the end of the week, or an unexpected expense drains a bank account; sometimes a client has just been let go, or has struggled to find work after graduating, but no matter the circumstance, Edmonton's Food Bank is there to help. It's important to remember that these people in need are our neighbours, elders, classmates, co-workers, and children.

*"I just got back from my pickup location. I received almost 9 kilograms of food, half of it fresh. The fresh stuff went right into the crisper drawer, the bread into the freezer and everything else went into the pantry. I'm going to cook myself some supper, have some yogurt for dessert and just relax in bed. Tomorrow, back to the task of applying and looking for work."*

*"I could tell someone put a lot of effort into it, just for me. There's so many things I can't have, but they gave me the food I need."*

*"As soon as the call went out and I heard it was to help the Edmonton Food Bank, I knew I had to help! I do a lot of charity and volunteer work, but the Edmonton Food Bank has a special place in my heart because at one point when my husband and I were students we needed the Edmonton Food Bank to survive."*

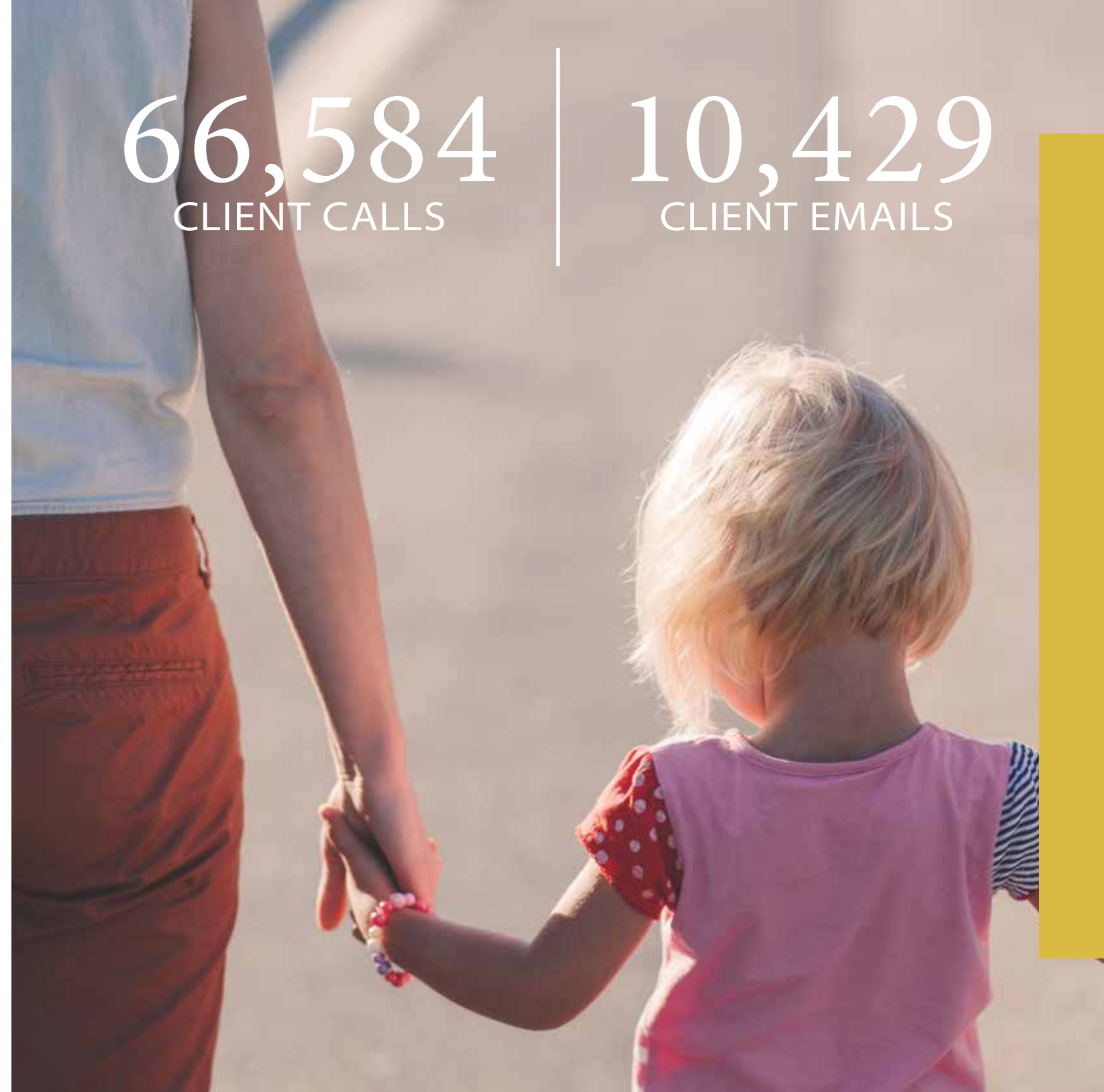
*"I have always worked since I was 14 years old. I have raised two kids and always had a job, sometimes two. I put off coming to the Food Bank until my cupboards were bare, over the past few weeks. All I've had has been coffee, water, and chicken noodle soup. Thankfully I left Edmonton's Food Bank with a hamper full of food."*

*"With the help of my family and the Food Bank, I am able to eat and feed my newborn baby. The Food Bank gave me a lot for my baby."*

*"While growing up our family didn't have much and we did have to rely on Edmonton's Food Bank. As a small child it gave me security knowing that there were people out there in my community that were able to spare the means to help those in need of food."*

66,584  
CLIENT CALLS

10,429  
CLIENT EMAILS



85,240  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make it possible for us to fulfill our mission as they collect food and monetary donations at various community events, build hampers, sort and repack food, drive and swamp on our trucks, and take calls from people needing food. Beyond all that, volunteers are our ambassadors, helping to engage the community in the work of Edmonton's Food Bank. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization.

Thank you to our volunteers who donated an astounding 85,240 hours in 2018. Their work makes Edmonton a better community for all. We are truly grateful for all you do!

## LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MICHAEL BRISSEAU

Mike is a long time volunteer with Edmonton's Food Bank who in 2018 was deployed to South Sudan with the Canadian Armed Forces. Mike's support of our work extends beyond borders with his recent donation and heartfelt message: "I wish this donation to go towards healthy yet tasty food to be enjoyed by children. I look forward to being back in April 2019 so I can volunteer with you again. From South Sudan, Michael."



LCdr(N) Michael Brisseau, pictured above in green, after being presented with a Senate 150 medal by Senator Mitchell.

!! Because of our volunteers,  
there is a Food Bank. !!

- MARJORIE BENCZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community engagement is essential to the work of Edmonton's Food Bank. As an organization that receives no core government funding for food purchases we rely on the generosity of our donors. We are honoured by the kindness and compassion we receive. Thank you.

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



2,200+  
SPECIAL EVENTS





## LOBLAW

Loblaw continued their support of Edmonton's Food Bank in 2018 with their biannual food drives and Save It Forward campaigns. These initiatives raised over \$57,071.59 and 20,454 kilograms of food in 2018. The Edmonton Loblaw stores, including Real Canadian Superstore, Real Canadian Wholesale Clubs, No Frills, and City Market along with the Loblaw warehouse, who also participates in the retail food program donated 173,093 kilograms of food in 2018.

## EPCOR STREET SKI AND PUROLATOR TACKLE HUNGER

Two of our amazing, long time supporters, Epcor and Purolator, named Edmonton's Food Bank as their charity of choice during the 2018 Grey Cup Festival. On Jasper Ave, Epcor created a mountain ski experience for a little urban, alpine fun. Donations to Edmonton's Food Bank were accepted to ride the hill. Thanks to a generous \$20,000 donation from Park Paving and Epcor matching donations up to \$25,000 our total was \$57,362. At the same time, Purolator set up a virtual interactive giving platform at the festival. That booth raised \$7,685 for the Food Bank.

## MORRISON HOMES ANNUAL BBQ

Morrison Homes hosts a BBQ in celebration of the summer. This free event encourages trades, businesses, and friends to make a donation to Edmonton's Food Bank. Despite the smoky atmosphere, the BBQ raised an impressive 1,813 kilograms of food and \$6,120!



## CLIFF'S TOWING

When Cliff's Towing approached us to have one of their tow trucks co-branded as an Edmonton's Food Bank truck we were excited! Cliff's is a great supporter of Edmonton's Food Bank and our exclusive towing partner. Keep your eyes peeled for the bright green truck adorned with our friendly Fill-Up!



## CBC TURKEY DRIVE

CBC's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Turkey Drive once again brought out the generous spirit of giving in Edmontonians. CBC programming showcased local talent and reached out to engage listeners and supporters of the Turkey Drive at their favourite establishments. The Turkey Drive week was packed with events like the Puppy Howliday Party and A Spin for the Holidays at YEG Cycle, as well as live shows on location with Mark Connolly. The Turkey Drive provided a platform for our donors, volunteers, and former clients to share their personal Food Bank stories, raise awareness of the faces of hunger, and collect much needed funds. A big thank you to the CBC staff, volunteers, and listeners who helped us surpass our 2018 campaign goal by raising an amazing \$665,611!

## NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to funding from The Stollery Charitable Foundation and Telus, we will be launching a new, mobile friendly website in 2019 - keep an eye out for the exciting new look!

## EDMONTON FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Edmonton Food Drive has become our single largest food drive of the year. The campaign collected an astounding 115,015 kilograms (253,562 lbs) of food. This was an amazing display of commitment and caring from these volunteers and our community to help fill our shelves as we headed into the fall.



## AFTER THE BELL

During the summer, children don't have access to the meal and snack programs that are offered at school. Food Banks Canada, along with French's, The Global Foodbanking Network, Hershey Canada, Kellogg's Breakfast for Better Days, Loblaw Companies Limited, and Organic Meadow came together to help us with a new snack program called After the Bell. They provided us with thousands of non-perishable items like juice boxes and granola bars, and funds to buy fresh fruit and veggies, so that we were able to distribute 857 snack packs for children each week throughout July and August.





## SOBEYS JOY OF GIVING CAMPAIGN

From November 29 through December 16 Sobeys, Safeway, and IGAs embarked on a national fundraising campaign to help feed our neighbours in need. Thanks to the volunteer cadets, officers, and their families from HMCS Nonsuch and E.W. Cormack who helped during the December 1<sup>st</sup> Blitz Day. An astounding \$82,397.47 and thousands of kilograms of food was raised!

## ESO 10 YEARS OF GIVING

Thanks to the ongoing support of our local musicians and their generous patrons, an amazing gift of \$23,074.20 was raised during the December ESO concerts. Since 2009, \$182,180 has been raised to help feed people in need in Edmonton!

## ALBERTA GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Thanks to the support of the Alberta Government through the Community Facility Enhancement Program, Edmonton's Food Bank was able to complete a number of improvements to our facility to extend its life. Renovations included new bathrooms and a new lunchroom, and restorations to the flooring throughout our facility's main level. Additionally, a new backup power generator will ensure the main Food Bank continues to operate walk-in coolers and freezers when power is disrupted. And with the support of our friends at Park Paving, our parking lot was paved, improving parking and reducing the chance of flooding in the spring.



## EDMONTON FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Since the mid-1980s, our City of Edmonton firefighters have been graciously accepting non-perishable food and monetary donations at their stations. Their impact and efforts cannot be overstated. Since fire stations are conveniently located throughout the city, this makes it easy for donors to drop off donations in the neighborhood they live, while also saving the Food Bank time and resources. The firefighters have also been known to help you unload your car, and they have generously given the gift of time in our warehouse. Big thanks to all our amazing helpers at the Edmonton Fire Rescue Services!



## WALMART

Thanks to grants from local stores, Edmonton's Food Bank has received \$7,000 to help fuel our trucks as they glean from grocery stores throughout Edmonton as part of our Retail Food Program.

For the second year, Walmart partnered with Food Banks Canada for the national Fight Hunger, Spark Change campaign in April. This campaign simply asked customers to round up their bill at the till, and Walmart then matched these funds. Funds raised in Edmonton stayed in Edmonton, resulting in \$109,292.33 coming to Edmonton's Food Bank. This campaign is an amazing example of how every little bit counts, and how when we work together it can be a big help for those in need.

## CO-OP FUEL GOOD DAY

An amazing \$6,925 was raised, 5 cents at a time, on September 18 by people simply fueling up their vehicle. We thank Co-Op fuel for giving back to the community, and providing such a simple way to do it.

## SERVUS CREDIT UNION

The annual Edmonton Heritage Festival Food Drive is promoted throughout the city thanks to the generous support of Servus Credit Union. Servus also provided our volunteers with beautiful aprons and buttons during the drive to identify them onsite to donors and festival goers. Thanks to their help, the Heritage Festival is one of our most successful food and fundraisers. In 2018 we raised 47,560 kilograms of food, over \$50,000 in monetary donations and an amazing \$40,000 from the donation of unused food tickets.



## RBC FOUNDATION

Once again, the RBC Foundation was instrumental in our Festive Brown Bag campaign and promoting the needs of the Food Bank over the holiday season. An astounding 150,000 brown bags were printed and distributed. These bags were filled with non-perishables then donated at grocery stores, fire halls, and hundreds of events including the bins along Candy Cane Lane and in buses at ETS Stuff-a-Bus.

## YEG CANDY CANE LANE

50 years in the community, 25 years collecting for the Food Bank.

For 25 years, residents along Candy Cane Lane have encouraged guests to visit their picturesque lane and donate food to Edmonton's Food Bank while there. As visitors celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Candy Cane Lane they gave 30,001 kilograms of food. Since 1993, an astounding 551,784.5 kilograms of food has been shared which is a whopping 1,216,464 lbs!

The magic that is YEG Candy Cane Lane (YEG CCL) certainly needs little introduction. As an important part of Edmonton's holiday season, the hallowed lane lights up the hearts of all who pass through. The ability to bring together the neighbourhood and the city despite the often bitter cold and the jam-packed bustle of the holiday season, is a true testament to the value of some major imagination, a lot of gumption and most of all, heart.

The genesis of YEG CCL lies in the increased popularity of hand painted wood cutouts during the late 1960s. As more families joined in on decorating their homes, what would one day be known as YEG Candy Cane Lane, grew in popularity and with it saw the donation of massive amounts of non-perishable food items. This collection of food began a decades-long relationship with the Edmonton Food Bank which makes YEG CCL one of longest running food drives in support of the organization.

Though we'd like to believe that Santa's elves work all night to bring us YEG CCL, it's the residents who work tirelessly throughout the year planning every aspect of YEG CCL to ensure it goes off without a hitch. In particular, it is Duane Hunter, Shawn Loeffler, Gino Ripoli, Matt Oldham, Andy Kay, and Dave Straub who selflessly coordinate the countless details. They're a remarkable team because their only concern is the greater good, and none are looking for praise. Instead, they find their satisfaction in the city's enormous enjoyment of YEG CCL.

Perhaps one of the most touching aspects of YEG CCL is the fact that despite religion or beliefs, all residents of the area join in. YEG CCL is less about a denominational holiday, and more about bringing together families, friends, and tour groups from hospitals and retirement homes to enjoy the majestic lights and decorative displays.

**“The coordinators and supporters are not interested in the recognition. They are simply interested in supporting the cause.”**

**- ALAINA PASCOE**





“ I heard about food banks. I didn’t know what they were, I didn’t know who went to them, but I was pretty sure it wouldn’t be me. It wouldn’t be somebody from a middle class family, it wouldn’t be somebody with a university degree. It had to be a bunch of people taking advantage of the system, a bunch of people who didn’t have the guts to get out and work. That wasn’t me ...Except it was. ”

- ANDREW GROSE



## ANDREW GROSE SHARES HIS STORY OF HOW HUNGER CAN AFFECT ANYONE AT ANYTIME

"I am a comedian, I produce the Edmonton Comedy Festival and I am a successful radio host. I'm also a former customer of the food bank. I want to tell you my story.

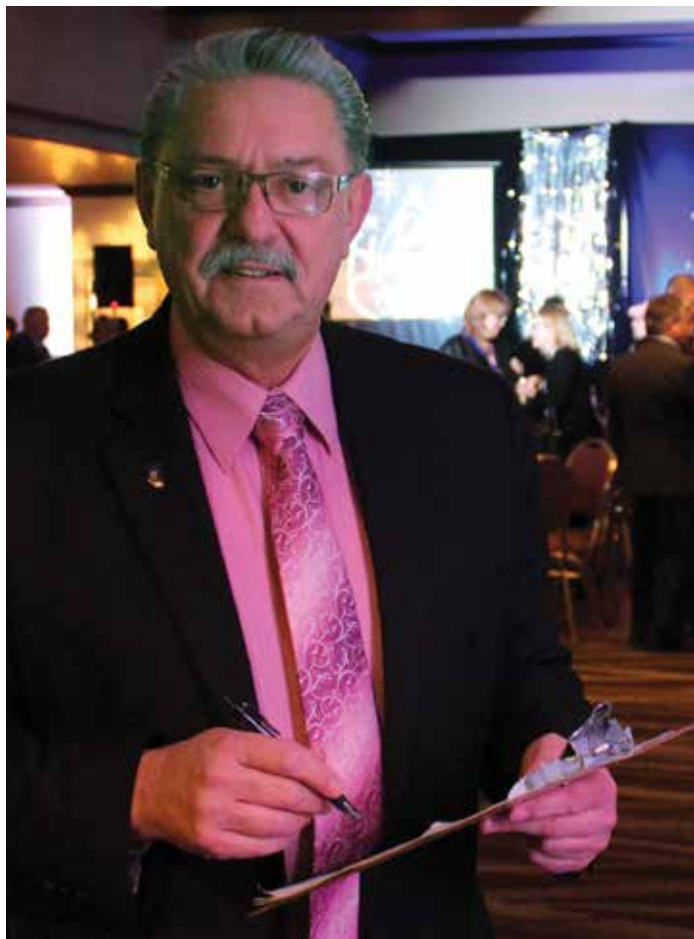
26 years ago I'd started a new job. I was going through a divorce. I was fighting and struggling to maintain the custody of my two children. I was distracted with life and my employer felt that I wasn't focused so they terminated me. I had no savings, no job, I had to declare bankruptcy. No car, no house, no income, no savings, no credit. Two kids.

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

It took me an hour to walk to the food bank, with my two little kids in tow. It was the lowest point in my life. When I arrived a woman met with me. I tried to explain how it wasn't my fault. She didn't care about any of that. She just wanted to know who I was looking after. She grabbed 3 big boxes of food; I can still remember those bags of milk. I took them outside and I realized I couldn't carry 3 boxes of food. The kids were too small to help. So I stood outside the food bank not knowing what to do next; feeling like it couldn't get any worse than this.

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

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



## PASSION AND COMMITMENT: GENE ZWOZDESKY

Gene Zwozdesky, a well-respected and admired former Speaker in Alberta's legislative assembly and a six-term MLA, passed away January 6, 2019 at the age of 70.

Born in Nipawin, Sask., Gene was a teacher, musician, dancer, entrepreneur, and avid volunteer. He was first elected into legislature in 1993 and served as a cabinet minister before becoming Speaker from 2012 to 2015.

Tributes flooded social media, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying Gene's contributions to Alberta and its Ukrainian community will always be remembered.

Since 2015, Gene served as our Co-Chair for our Magical Christmas Music Gala featuring Tom Jackson & the Huron Carole. The Gala is an important fundraising event for Edmonton's Food Bank and we were very fortunate to benefit from Gene's enthusiastic leadership in coordinating and executing this event.

On his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in July, Zwozdesky was still volunteering with 21 organizations including the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Sunday, the day he died, was Orthodox Christmas Eve – an important date for Ukrainian Orthodox Christians. He leaves his wife Christine Zwozdesky, two children and three grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathy to Christine and family.

“From his service to our province, the Ukrainian community and Alberta Music, speaker Gene Zwozdesky accomplished so much, helped so many and has been taken too soon.”

- RACHEL NOTLEY

## JANET HUGHES, FOREVER A FRIEND OF EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK

Janet passed away peacefully in Edmonton on January 20, 2019. She is lovingly remembered by her family and many friends as a generous woman known for her warm smile, gracious determination to do the right thing, and kind devotion to the work of Edmonton's Food Bank and many other charitable organizations.

It was often noted by staff, board members, and volunteers of Edmonton's Food Bank that it would be a sad day when Janet no longer visited the Food Bank.

Born in Kenton, Manitoba, Janet obtained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Manitoba in 1949. A devoted mother, Janet also spent countless hours throughout her life helping others. Janet was instrumental in the creation of Canada's first food bank in Edmonton in 1981, serving as the founding Board Chair and remaining on the Board for twenty-five years. Janet received an honorary Doctorate Degree from St. Stephen's College for her work with organizations such as the Food Bank, Operation Friendship and Robertson-Wesley United Church, the latter as a member of the UCW and long-time community dinner volunteer.

Janet is survived by her children Susan (Peter), John (Val), Doug (Wanda); grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Family meant the world to Janet and she valued her friendships. Her son, Doug, follows in her footsteps and is the Chair of our Board of Directors.

Janet is sadly missed by her Food Bank Friends.



“Every time I think of Janet I smile.”

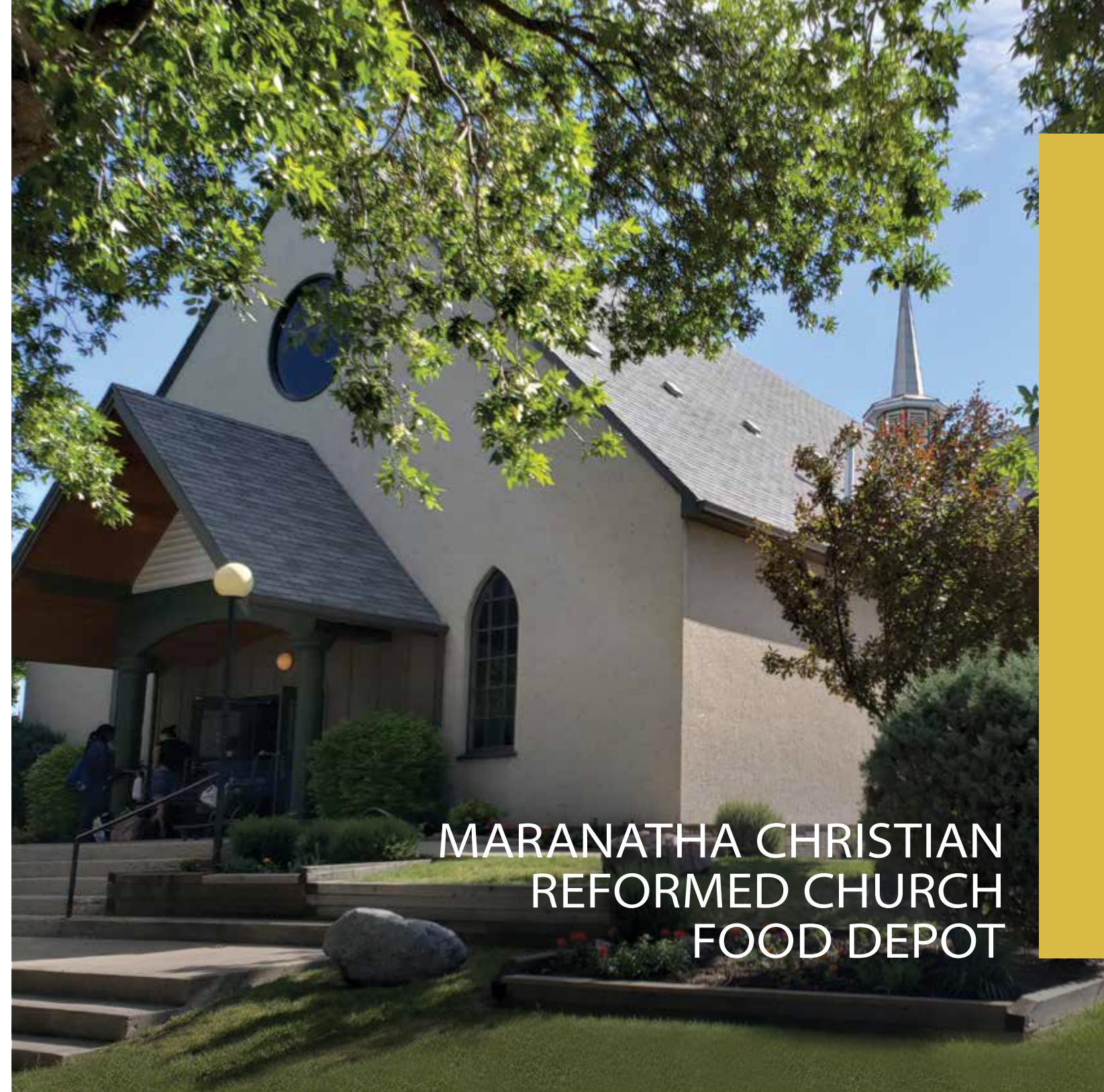
- MEGAN KOPER



# HAMPER PROGRAMS AND FOOD DEPOTS

As Edmonton's Food Bank weathers the increase in need in our community, we have added more food depots to help ensure our clients have access to food throughout Edmonton. We grew to 61 food depots in 2018. Each depot is instrumental in our ability to provide food to the many individuals and families in need in Edmonton. Below is a list of our partners who make this possible each week through their provision of space and volunteers.

- Alberta Health Services: Collective Kitchens
- Anawim Place
- Bannerman Drop-In Centre
- Bethel Christian Reformed Community Church
- Bible Pentecostal Church
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre: HAART House
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op: North Star Apartments
- Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brother Big Sisters Edmonton & Area: Westend
- Calder Seniors Drop-In Society
- Campus Food Bank: University of Alberta
- Canadian Volunteers United in Action (CANAVUA)
- Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
- Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta (CAE)
- City of Edmonton
- Community of Christ
- Community Options: A Society for Children and Families
- Creating Hope Society
- Crystal Kids Youth Centre
- Dayspring Presbyterian Church
- Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society (EERSS)
- Edmonton Native Healing Society
- Edmonton Police Service
- Edmonton's Food Bank Annex
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Emmaus Lutheran Church
- First Church of the Nazarene
- First Presbyterian Church
- Fort Road Victory Church
- Freedom Centre Church (Clareview)
- Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
- Holyrood Mennonite Church
- Hope City Church
- Hosanna Lutheran Church
- iHuman Youth Society
- Inglewood Christian Reformed Church
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA)
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- Lamont Food Bank
- MacEwan University
- Maranatha Christian Reformed Church
- Marian Centre
- McClure United Church
- Mill Woods United Church
- Millbourne Community Life Centre
- NAIT Students Association (NAITSA)
- Norquest College
- North Edmonton Seniors Association
- Northeast Christian Fellowship (Edmonton)
- Project Adult Literacy (PALS)
- Rhema Chapel: The Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Robertson Wesley United Church
- Rock Lutheran Inner-City Society
- Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples
- Southminster - Steinhauer United Church
- St Anthony's Catholic Church
- St Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish
- St Francis of Assisi Hall
- St Herman of Alaska Orthodox Sabor
- St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish
- St John's Anglican Church Refugee Committee
- 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 Theresa's Roman Catholic Parish
- The Candora Society of Edmonton
- The Grit Program
- The McDougall House Association
- The Mustard Seed
- The Red Road Healing Society
- The Salvation Army: Canon Ridge
- The Salvation Army: Castledowns
- The Salvation Army: Downtown
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Uncles & Aunts at Large Society
- Unitarian Church of Edmonton (UCOE)
- United Pentecostal Spanish Church of the Name of Jesus in Edmonton
- WECAN Co-Op
- West Edmonton Baptist Church
- YMCA Bill Rees



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH  
FOOD DEPOT



# PARTNER AGENCIES

Edmonton's Food Bank works collaboratively with over 200 organizations. These agencies receive food from our warehouse to assist their clients. Through these organizations, Edmonton's Food Bank provides food for nearly 500,000 meals and snacks, including programs at 59 schools.

## ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Aboriginal Headstart
- Aboriginal Student Services Centre – U of A
- Aboriginal Youth & Family Well-Being & Education Society (AYFWES)
- Amiskwaciy Academy
- Ben Calf Robe Society
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Canadian Native Friendship Centre
- Creating Hope Society
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre
- Edmonton Native Healing Society
- Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (UNMan)
- Indigenous Learning Services
- Métis Child and Family Services Society
- NAIT Encana Aboriginal Student Centre
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- Niginan Housing Ventures: Ambrose Place
- Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples
- Samson Cree Nation Urban Resource Office
- The Red Road Healing Society
- Trade Winds to Success Training Society

## ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

- Adeara Recovery Centre
- Alberta Health Services: Mental Health
- Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service (EDTCS)
- George Spady Society
- Henwood Treatment Centre
- McCullough Centre
- The McDougall House Association
- Our House Addiction Recovery Centre
- Recovery Acres Society

## COUNSELLING SUPPORT

- Alberta Health Services: Forensic Assessment & Community Services
- Alberta Health Services: Home Care
- Alberta Health Services: Mental Health
- Autism Edmonton
- Canadian Mental Health Association Edmonton
- Catholic Social Services
- HIV Edmonton (HIV Network of Edmonton)
- Inner City Health and Wellness at Royal Alexander Hospital
- Jewish Family Services
- Networks Activity Centre
- Pilgrims Hospice Society
- Schizophrenia Society of Alberta Edmonton Branch
- The Family Centre
- The Salvation Army

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

- ABC Head Start
- Aboriginal Headstart
- Aboriginal Student Services
  - **Healthy Active Community Kids**
- Alberta Health Services: Health for Two
- Austin O'Brien High School
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre: Kindred House
- Boyle Street Education Centre
- Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area
- Brightwood Ranch: Hope MISSION
- Britannia School

- Calder School
- Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centre
- Discover Canada Kids Camp
- E4C: Early Head Start
- E4C: School Lunch & Summer Snack Program
  - Abbott School
  - Balwin School
  - Belmead School
  - Belvedere School
  - Brightview Elementary School
  - Delton School
  - Inglewood School
  - Ivor Dent School
  - John A McDougall School
  - Norwood School
  - Prince Charles School
  - Princeton School
  - St Alphonsus School
  - St Bernadette School
  - St Catherine School
  - St Elizabeth Seton School
  - St Francis of Assisi School
  - St Gerard School
  - St Jerome School
  - Sherwood School
  - Spruce Avenue School
  - Thorncliffe School
- Eastglen School
- Elves Special Needs Society
- Evansdale School
- Family Futures Resource Network
- Father Michael Mireau Catholic School
- Fresh Start Westmount

- Highlands School
- Hope Mission
- Inner City Youth Development Association
- Intercultural Child and Family Centre
- Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Centre: Parent Link
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- John Barnett School
- KARA Family Resource Centre
- Kids on Track
- Lauderdale School
- **Mary Butterworth Junior High School**
- McArthur School
- McCauley Community After School Care Association
- McMan Youth Family and Community Services Association
- Mee-Yah-Noh School
- Metis Child and Family Services Society: Attendance Centre Schools
- **ME Lazerte**
- Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative
- Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
- Old Strathcona Youth Society
- Our Lady of Peace School
- Our Lady of the Prairies School
- Parkview School
- Queen Elizabeth High School
- Sakaw School
- Shiloh Youth Ranch
- **Sidedoor: Evangel Assembly**
- Sifton School
- Sinkunia Community Development Organization: Action for Healthy Communities
- St Benedict Elementary School
- St Elizabeth Elementary Catholic School
- St Francis School
- St Leo School
- St Maria Goretti School

- St Nicholas Junior High School
- St Pius Elementary School
- St Teresa of Calcutta School
- St Thomas More Junior High School
- St. Joseph High School
- **St. Joseph High School: Newcomer Program**
- **Sturgeon Public School**
- Terra Association
- The Family Centre
- The Grit Program
- Unlimited Potential Community Services
- **Weinlos Elementary School**
- West 6 Schools
- Westlawn Junior High School
- Westmount School
- YMCA Youth Transition Program (YTP)
- YOUCAN
- Youth Criminal Defense
- Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)
- Youth Unlimited

## EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- Boyle McCauley Health Centre: HARRT House
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre: Kindred House
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- George Spady Society: Shelter and Detox
- George Spady: Christopher's Place
- Herb Jamieson Centre
- Hope Mission
- Inner City Youth Housing
- Martyshuk Housing: Dwayne's Housing
- Native Counselling Services: Cunningham Place
- Urban Manor Housing Society
- Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC)
- Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)

## EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- Alberta Job Corps
- Bissell Employment Centre
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op
- Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta (DECSA)
- EmployAbilities
- Goodwill Industries of Alberta
- Metro Continuing Education
- On Site Placement (OSP)
- Trade Winds to Success Training Society
- Women Moving Forward

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Catholic Social Services: LaSalle Shelter
- Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women
- Crossroads Outreach
- Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta (DECSA)
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Living Hope Christian Fellowship
- Lurana Shelter Society
- Strathcona Shelter Society: A Safe Place
- Today Family Violence Centre
- WIN House

## MEAL PROGRAMS

- Bissell Centre
  - Moonlight Bay Summer Camp
  - Community Meals
  - Child Care
  - Community Centre
- Bernadette N Swan Social Care Foundation (BNSSCF)
- Boyle Street Community Services Co-op
  - Drop-In
  - Youth Unit



- Street Outreach
- HER Program
- Health for Two
- Inner City Recreation and Wellness
- Streetworks
- Family Program
- Mental Health Unit

- Building Hope
- Bread Run: Garneau
- Bread Run: Mill Woods
- C5- Northeast Community Hub
- The Candora Society of Edmonton
- Crystal Kids Youth Centre
- Dickensfield Amity House
- Edmonton Father's House
- Edmonton Native Healing Society
- Fort Road Victory Church

- **Fuel for Hunger**
- Hope Mission
- House of Refuge
- Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- KARA Family Support Centre
- Living Hope Christian Fellowship
- **Mosaic Centre: Mustard Seed Church**
- Networks Activity Centre Society
- **Niginam Ventures: The Gathering Place**
- The Red Road Healing Society
- Refuge Mission House
- St Faith's Anglican Church
- The Salvation Army Resource Centre
- The Neighbour Centre: Mustard Seed Church
- Thrive

#### NEWCOMERS AND IMMIGRANTS

- Action for Healthy Communities
- Africa Centre
- C5- Northeast Community Hub
- Catholic Social Services: Immigration Services
- Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women
- Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)

- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association (IFSSA)
- Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB)
- United Pentecostal Spanish Church of the Name of Jesus in Edmonton

#### SENIORS

- Alberta Health Services: Home Care
- 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)
- Seniors Outreach Network Society

#### PETS AND ANIMALS

- Inner City Recreation Pet Food Bank: Boyle Street Community Services Co-op
- Edmonton Humane Society
- Edmonton Valley Zoo
- Farm Animal Rescue
- Infinite Woofs
- John Janzen Centre
- Little Cats Lost
- Wild North Rehabilitation Society
- **SCARS: Second Chance Animal Rescue**

\*New agencies bolded



MARK FROM HOPE MISSION VISITS OUR WAREHOUSE AT LEAST ONCE A DAY.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edmonton 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.



Doug Hughes  
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David I. Benjestorf  
VICE CHAIR



Jack Tsoi  
TREASURER



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SECRETARY



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DIRECTOR



Sandra Neis  
DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR EMERITUS

## EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK STAFF

As of December 2018

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Marjorie Bencz, CM

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
Mark Doram

INFO/AGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR  
Walter Dong

OFFICE MANAGER  
Jamie Post

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
Sonia Singh

TEAM LEAD  
Cindy Washbrook

FOOD HUB COORDINATOR  
Judy Yawney

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Suedelle Baudais  
Melanie Brule  
Zelda Quinney  
Mindy Tang

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RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS  
Tamisan Bencz-Knight

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COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
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WAREHOUSE MANAGER  
Arthur Warman

SHIPPER/RECEIVER  
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WAREHOUSE TEAM  
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Bailey Cain  
Norman Coons  
Priscilla DeMelo  
Abel Garcia  
Marjory Hughston  
Wendy Iwaskow  
Moses Loboka  
Michael Maclsaac  
Dan Quist  
Sarah Rebryna  
Jose Velasquez  
Oscar Zarza

BUILDING MAINTENANCE  
Ignacio Gomez Valdes





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