



SUMMER 2021

AT THE TABLE



A City in Crisis: One Year. Two Times the Client Visits

Earlier this spring, we marked the one-year anniversary of a state of emergency being declared in the province of Ontario due to COVID-19. This milestone gave us all an opportunity for pause and reflection – taking pride in the community response this past year and reflecting on the reasons that required us to increase emergency food supply to meet the need for so many in our city.

The fact that we saw a record 123,000 client visits in March compared to 60,000-70,000 in previous years, not only points to the severe financial crisis facing many households in our city, but also to the need to fundamentally re-examine our social policies. This is why we are continuously meeting with elected government representatives to advocate for stronger poverty reduction measures.

The pandemic has exposed difficult realities, but it has also shown us what is possible. Throughout this past year tens of thousands in Toronto have come together to ensure that everyone can access the food they need. In the pages ahead, you will read impactful stories from our community that showcase leadership, innovation and a commitment to ending hunger. This included facilitating food access in areas of deep need, mobilizing entire neighbourhoods through food drives, unique virtual fundraising experiences and much more.

Every single action has had a tremendous impact on the people we serve.

Thank you for your contributions to Daily Bread Food Bank. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and inspired by your love of our city.

In partnership,


Neil Hetherington
CEO





* Photo credit_Dan Pearce, Torstar.

Feed Scarborough: Envisioning Food Access for All

Feed Scarborough (formerly Scarborough Food Security Initiative) began in 2018 as a holiday hamper program in Southwest Scarborough. In the early days of the pandemic, Suman Roy, Chair, saw that the local food bank had been unable to stay open and decided to step up to fill the need. Suman was able to quickly mobilize volunteers and set up a food delivery program to area residents. In April 2020, Daily Bread Food Bank came on-board to support this program and together delivered food to over 1,000 households.

Today, Feed Scarborough has three food bank programs and is serving 5,000 individuals per month. In addition, a food truck travels across the area three days per week, ensuring that those who may not be able to reach a food bank can access the food they need.

Operating from a guiding value that food is a human right, Feed Scarborough's service model prioritizes choice and access. Clients can book an appointment to shop in person for the items that meet their needs. Based on family size, each client is provided with a points "debit" card that can be used on a variety of fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods. A new pilot program is also underway to allow clients to shop online and pick-up their order. This is the kind of food access innovation that makes Feed Scarborough unique.

"At Feed Scarborough we value unrestricted and dignified access to food. Developing our free in-person and online grocery store model was challenging but made feasible with the support of Daily Bread. Our partnership has been invaluable in shifting the traditional way clients can access food assistance programs." Suman Roy, Feed Scarborough.

With funding support from Daily Bread, Feed Scarborough is currently developing a community meal program in partnership with Scarborough Arts. We are deeply proud of this innovative organization and the work they are doing to address food access gaps in their community.



* Photo credit_Dan Pearce, Torstar.

Communities Supporting Communities: 141,728 lbs of Food Raised This Spring

The one-year anniversary of COVID-19 marked the highest number of client visits – 123,000 in a single month. As food insecurity and the need for emergency food relief continues to grow, support from the community is needed more than ever.

This past April, we hosted our second contactless *Drive-Thru* Food Drive – an innovative way to engage the community to support our neighbours experiencing hunger. The public was invited to drop off food donations at our distribution centre at 191 New Toronto Street in Etobicoke. Those attending simply had to open their trunk and special volunteers, including Mayor John Tory, helped to safely collect donations. “After a difficult year for so many, it is inspiring to see the spirit of Toronto on display here at Daily Bread”, he observed.

The Junction Residents Association (JRA) is just one example of the Toronto spirit in action. Made up of residents in Toronto’s West End, JRA promotes a strong, vibrant and safe community that empowers residents through engagement. When they learned about Daily Bread’s *Drive-Thru* Food Drive, they mobilized their neighbourhood to collect over 3,500 lbs of food. **“We are committed to doing everything we can to support community members who are struggling with food insecurity. This was the perfect opportunity for us to rally our neighbourhood in support of such an important initiative.” JRA member.**

Technology is also playing a key role in mobilizing communities. Nextdoor, an app designed to connect neighbours to one another, promoted Daily Bread’s efforts to their subscriber base, resulting in 25 neighbourhoods across Toronto organizing food drives in their areas. **“At Nextdoor our purpose is to cultivate a kinder world where everyone has a neighbourhood they can rely on. We are honoured to work with Daily Bread to bring communities together to help combat food insecurity in Toronto.” Christopher Doyle, Managing Director, Nextdoor Canada.**

We are grateful to everyone who stepped up to support through food or financial donations, volunteering, and raising their voices to speak up about food insecurity. A special thank you to Mayor John Tory, MPP Christine Hogarth, MP James Maloney and City Councillor Michael Ford for lending a hand during the event. To our community partners at Rogers Centre who ran a satellite drop-off point, and the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters’ Association for their deep commitment to supporting our community.

The spring *Drive-Thru* Food Drive raised a total of 25,000 lbs of food in a single day and contributed to our overall total of 141,728 lbs that are already being distributed through our member agency network.

The event followed all COVID-19 safety protocols.



Donor Spotlight: Premium Uniforms



Premium Uniforms is an industry leader in workplace uniform supply, headquartered in Etobicoke, ON, just a short drive away from Daily Bread Food Bank. After attending an open house at our warehouse over 17 years ago, founder Akber Khimani was inspired to give back to his community and has been supporting the fight to end hunger ever since.

As a local business owner, Khimani has experienced first-hand the impact of COVID-19 on his operation and understands that for those living in poverty the situation is even more dire, so it was important for him to continue to support Daily Bread's efforts throughout the pandemic. "At Premium Uniforms, we want to do everything we can to ensure that no one, especially children, goes hungry during this time of hardship," says Khimani.

Through their support over the years, Premium Uniforms has provided over 500,000 nutritious meals to families and individuals experiencing hunger in Toronto. We are deeply grateful to Khimani and his team for their long-term support and commitment to fighting hunger.

Did you know...

In addition to connecting people to food banks in a low-barrier way, Daily Bread's Information & Referral (I & R) program also connects them to additional benefits that could supplement their income, assist with employment and affordable housing, and other supports that can help to pave a pathway out of poverty.

This past year, as we adapted our in-person service model to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols, a new I & R phone line was launched. This allowed us to continue to provide registrations for clients across the city, which combined with referrals, has amounted to over 9,000 phone interactions to date.

This work is only possible with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers with many years of training and experience in the field, who are committed to providing the best quality service to our clients. And while things continuously evolve due to the pandemic, one thing remains the same: our deep commitment to eliminating barriers to ensure that everyone can realize their right to food.

Learn more at dailybread.ca

By the Numbers:



123,000

FOOD BANK VISITS IN MARCH 2021.
THE HIGHEST NUMBER RECORDED SINCE
THE START OF THE PANDEMIC.



16M

LBS OF FOOD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO
OUR COMMUNITY BY JUNE 30.



154%

INCREASE IN FOOD PURCHASING
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE
COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19.



17

EMERGENCY POP-UP FOOD BANKS
OPENED DURING COVID-19 HAVE
BECOME PERMANENT DAILY BREAD
MEMBER AGENCIES.

In the Community

This past year, more than ever before, we have witnessed the power of community. During a time of crisis, Daily Bread supporters have stepped up to volunteer, raise funds and food, raise awareness, and show our neighbours in need that we are stronger when we stand together. **Here are a few highlights of our community in action:**



Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association

For over two decades, members of the Toronto Professional Firefighters' Association (TPFFA) have played a key role in Daily Bread's food raising and distribution work. Whether as volunteer drivers picking up and dropping off food donations, helping to kick off food and fundraising campaigns or unloading donations at our drive-thru events, Toronto firefighters are always there to lend a hand and uplift our communities. In the last 12 months, over 317,000 lbs of food have been collected from fire stations across the city.



The Chef Upstairs

On Family Day, Chef Julian Pancer, owner at the Chef Upstairs, brought together families from around the world for the largest virtual cooking class. Produced in partnership with EJSE Studio, this unique event had more than 1,600 connections from 11 countries, where guests were guided through a delicious recipe of gnocchi pomodoro. Event registration was free of charge, but donations were encouraged, raising over \$45,000 in support of Daily Bread.



Old Toronto Series

This past holiday season, Morgan Cameron Ross of the *Old Toronto Series*, wanted to engage his community to make a positive impact in the city he loves so much. Through a fundraising campaign in support of Daily Bread, Ross and his community raised \$16,158 – and the effort inspired many of his followers to set up their own fundraisers to help fight hunger Toronto. "The fact that people are going hungry is completely unacceptable, and I had a feeling our subscribers would rise to the occasion," said Ross.



Volunteer Highlight: Arceu Robert Arnuco

Arceu learned about Daily Bread over 26 years ago. When COVID-19 hit Toronto last year, he wanted to commit to giving back to his community in a consistent way. Today, Arceu regularly volunteers at our warehouse two days per week, helping our operations team sort and pack food donations. "Being able to work alongside so many other incredible volunteers from across the city to ensure that people have access to food has been inspiring," shared Arceu.

We are grateful to each of our community partners for their commitment to ending hunger in our city.

Get Involved!

The pandemic has caused economic hardship in our communities, leading many to turn to food banks for the first time. Among new clients, 76% reported that they began accessing the food bank because of job loss and reduced work hours due to COVID-19.

Here is how you can help:

- Advocate for change. In June, the legislature typically adjourns for the summer and MPPs return to their home ridings. This is the perfect opportunity to have your voice heard. Contact your MPP's constituency office to let them know you want to see the government commit to strong poverty reduction targets so that every person in the community can afford basic necessities, like food.

Take action at dailybread.ca/advocate

- Make a financial donation or sign up to be a monthly donor. Your donations will help to ensure that everyone can access the food they need as we work towards long-term change to end poverty.
- Register to be a Community Champion and organize a food drive or fundraiser in support of Daily Bread. Every dollar raised provides one balanced meal for someone experiencing hunger.
- Drop off non-perishable food donations at your nearest firehall or order online from your favourite grocery store with delivery to Daily Bread Food Bank, 191 New Toronto Street, Etobicoke, ON, M8V 2E7.

Learn more at dailybread.ca

Most Needed Items:



CANNED VEGETABLES



CANNED FRUIT



CANNED TOMATOES



CANNED FISH AND MEAT



PEANUT BUTTER



PASTA



RICE



PASTA SAUCE



CANNED SOUP



OATMEAL



BEANS (LENTILS, CHICKPEAS, ETC.)



100% FRUIT JUICES



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Food Bank

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