

Happy New Year!

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support. Rising food and housing costs are bringing more families to us each week.

2019 St. James Food Basket Service Statistics:

- averaged 205 families, or 726 people, receiving food weekly (up from 2017 & 2018)
- distributed 336 Walmart \$10 gift cards to families with children, 17 years or younger
- distributed feminine hygiene products once a month, costing \$4,700
- received approx. 280,000 pounds of food from Daily Bread Food Bank (up from 2018), including more dairy and fresh produce
- received approx. 98,000 pounds of food from Second Harvest (down 10% from 2018)

In 2020 we will again invite local politicians to visit us and see the need in our community. The high cost of rental housing, barriers to accessing subsidized housing and high unemployment levels leave families struggling. In our service area, 17% of children are living in poverty, according to the 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report published by Social Planning Toronto. The highest rates of poverty are in racialized and newcomer families.

We are experiencing the report's findings first hand; newcomers to Canada are a large group who receive food from us. Whether they are attending English classes, career training or starting a new job, access to food is crucial for their new life here. Your donated funds have helped us provide culturally appropriate food, guided by a questionnaire we administered this year.

We also connect newcomers to services in our community: job searches and networking, resume writing, social groups, services for teens, and so on. Many newcomers take the opportunity to volunteer with us. In this way, they are able to enhance their English and leadership skills and build social connections, while we benefit from their donated time. Since the Food Basket runs entirely by volunteers - this year, 135 volunteers working over 350 hours of effort each week, engaged in unloading delivery trucks, food preparation and distribution, cleaning and administration - we are grateful to have a positive, mutually beneficial relationship with our newcomer population.

A BIG Thank you to our faith-based partners, community agencies and corporations for their cash donations, food drives, volunteers and so much more:

Bloordale United, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Graceview Presbyterian, Kingsway Lambton United Church Women Unit 2, Richview United, St. Georges On-the-Hill Church, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, Church of Christ the King, Bayview United, Catholic Women's League (Nativity of our Lord Catholic Church), Muslim Welfare Centre, Memnon Muslim Association, Air Canada Pionairs, Bell Canada employees, Cobs Bread, Chris' No Frills, Loblaw's, Future Bakery, Little Caesar's Pizza, Northlea Corporation, The Charles Norcliffe Baker and Thelma Scott Baker Foundation and TD Bank Group; Etobicoke Horticultural Society, Etobicoke Humane Society, Rotary Club of Etobicoke, Bloordale Middle School, St. Elizabeth Catholic School, Wedgewood Junior Public School, The Masters condominium, Kingsway on-the-Park condominium, RBC Dominion Securities employees, Tapestry Knitting Group, Mary Macleod's Shortbread, Mindwerx4Kids, Etobicoke Civic Centre employees, plus scores of individuals.

Special thanks to Kiwanis Kingsway Humber Club for their generous cash donation and Toronto Police Services with Loblaws and Sobeys, who hosted the largest food drive.

Together, we can help give our neighbours the opportunity to succeed. Please visit us, Wednesday afternoon to see your neighbours and donations in action.

St. James Food Basket

A Member of Daily Bread Food Bank
400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke
Wednesdays, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

 416-622-4114

 info@stjamesfoodbasket.com

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



Marie Truelove
Chair, St. James Food Basket