



Happy New Year!

The pandemic dominated our activities again this past year. Thanks to your ongoing support and our dedicated volunteers, we were able to maintain our services without undue disruption.



Above: Typical Wednesday setup in preparation for distribution

We continued to prepackage 3 sets of bags (grey for fresh produce, green for fridge/freezer items and white for shelf-stable items) for ease of distribution. No more than 6 food recipients are in the hall at any time, picking up their 3 bags plus eggs, bread and any “choice” items, such as peanut butter and cereal. Large families also get an extra bag.

As anticipated, we have seen an increase in the number of people accessing our food basket. We have also seen a recent influx of new refugees near the end of 2021. They need our support in getting settled, and many

will register for nearby language training. With inflation continuing to rise, including food prices in particular, we expect even more people to need food and rely on our service in the upcoming year.

2021 St. James Food Basket Service Statistics:

- Provided food for 26,800 individuals (32% are younger than 16)
- Distributed 274 Walmart \$20 gift cards to children <18 and 101 to families without children
- Received approx. 186,000 pounds of food from Daily Bread Food Bank, and over 60,000 pounds of food from Second Harvest
- Distributed feminine hygiene products once a month, and in May started a monthly distribution of incontinence products for adults and diapers for young children
- Utilized grants from Daily Bread to have special giveaways;
 - toys/books to children in June
 - \$25 Loblaws gift cards per family for Thanksgiving
 - boxes of 50 masks per family every 3 months
 - hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes and many toiletries and household products to every family throughout the year

2021 St. James Food Basket Spending:

We have spent about the same in 2021 as we did in 2019 on regular expenses. We used funds from our surplus to replace asbestos tiles in our hallways (that have been deteriorating due to our heavy use) and put down a floor that matches the main hall. We plan to use up the remaining grant money from Daily Bread by the deadline of October 2022, purchasing products such as masks, sandwich bags, toothpaste, deodorant and lotion for all families.

Acknowledgements:

We thank the following organizations for cash contributions in 2021:

- Bayview United Church, Bloordale United Church, CSI Church, Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Humber Valley United Church, Canadian Federation of University Women – Etobicoke, Etobicoke Horticultural Society, RBC Dominion Securities, Rotary Club of Toronto West, Sobeys, The Charles Norcliffe Baker and Thelma Scott Baker Foundation, The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Mississauga, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, plus scores of individuals.

We thank the following organizations for non-cash contributions in 2021:

- Church of Christ the King, Richview United Church, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Etobicoke Horticultural Society, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, Loblaws, Sobeys, Future Bakery, Cobs Bread, Community Police of 22 Division.

A BIG thank you to the knitters whose work has been gratefully received and used, to all those who ask what we need, to all our donors, and to those who do what they can to help our neighbours. Together, we will get through this pandemic.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



Marie Truelove
Chair, St. James Food Basket