



Happy New Year!

The pandemic impacted our activities again this past year. Thanks to your ongoing support and our dedicated volunteers, we were able to maintain our services with little disruption as the number of families grew.



Above: Quickly processing boxes of 180 eggs into over 300 half-dozen eggs for handing out on a Wednesday

As outlined in our July 2022 mid-year report, the trend of increased numbers of food recipients needing help each week has continued. We have averaged more than 10 new families each week since June 2022 with most being Ukrainian refugees and new local families who have never accessed a food bank before, or not recently. The rising cost of food makes families more vulnerable and also increases our spending and Daily Bread's spending. Since the end of November, we have served over 300 families each week.

2022 St. James Food Basket Service Statistics:

- Provided food for 32,275 individuals (30% are younger than 16)
- Distributed 377 Walmart \$25 gift cards to children <18 and 146 to families without children
- Received approx. 225,000 pounds of food from Daily Bread Food Bank, and over 65,000 pounds of food from Second Harvest
- Distributed feminine hygiene products, incontinence products for adults and diapers for young children once a month.

2022 St. James Food Basket Spending:

Again, this year Daily Bread gave us a grant to spend on our needs. We used it to buy new, faster laptops and a tablet for registration and translation; two new sturdy tables; an outdoor bench; automated the main door into the Food Basket hall; and repaired our walk-in fridge. The majority of the funds from Daily Bread were used to purchase a wide variety and more expensive range of household products and toiletries for families, including aluminum foil, bandaids, scotch tape, sunscreen, sandwich bags, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, pens, razors and sanitizing wipes.

Acknowledgements:

We thank the following organizations for cash contributions in 2022:

- Bayview United Church, Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Richview United Church Women, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Etobicoke Horticultural Society, Girly Cove Production Services Inc, 14 Hours Productions Inc, Iron Workers Local 721 (International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers), Kiwanis Kingsway Humber Club, Retired Teachers of Ontario District 22, 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, University Bible Fellowship at Humber College, plus scores of individuals.

We thank the following organizations for non-cash contributions in 2022:

- Bloordale United Church, Church of Christ the King, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Nativity of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church, Richview United Church, St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Muslim Welfare Centre, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, Air Canada Pionairs, Applewood Heights Secondary School, Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre, West Glen Junior School, The Masters Condominiums, La Rose Bakery, Loblaws, Sobeys, Cobs Bread Humbertown, Global Medic, The Period Purse, Community Police of 22 Division.

This coming year we will work on a plan to transition back to a shopping model of people selecting food from each category we have available, rather than our pre-bagging for all in spite of individual preferences. Our immediate challenge is serving much larger numbers than in the past. Thank you for your continuing help with this work.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



Marie Truelove

Chair, St. James Food Basket