

January 2025 Year-End Report



Happy New Year!

As we begin another year at the St. James Food Basket, we are filled with gratitude for your incredible support. Rising food scarcity has reduced contributions from Daily Bread, requiring us to purchase even more food to meet the needs of our community. Thanks to your generous contributions, we've been able to serve our community during challenging times—something not every food bank is fortunate enough to say.

We're also deeply thankful for our dedicated volunteers who make our mission possible. As one volunteer shared:

"Every Wednesday I feel happy and welcome as I walk into the 'Hall of Food-Giving'. There must be 20 volunteers, like me, looking after stations of registration, admissions, food, dairy, fruit and vegetables, bread and sweets for large families and small. The art is in making sure no one goes empty handed."

A Year of Transitions:

- Our dedicated Chair of the Steering Committee, Marie Truelove retired from that position but generously continues to support with bookkeeping.
- We have 6 new Steering Committee members.
- There are two new Food Banks in our catchment area and Daily Bread has extended its hours which has resulted in slightly lowering our numbers.

2024 Highlights:

- 42 Wednesdays of Service: Provided food for 43,475 individuals, including 31% children under 16.
- Distributed Walmart \$20 gift cards to all family members on Dec. 18, as we were closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- Offered feminine hygiene products, diapers, and incontinence products monthly.
- Adapted to unpredictable, fluctuating weekly demand, serving between 290 and 375 families.
- Secured a grant to expand storage and rebuild our loading dock.

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Acknowledgments

We are profoundly grateful to the following organizations for their contributions in 2024:

- **Cash Donors:**

Bloordale United Church, CSI Church, Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Humbervale United Church, Martin Grove United Church Women, St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Gary and Maxie Bluestein Foundation, Iron Workers Local 721, Rotary Club of Toronto West, The Charles Norcliffe Baker and Thelma Scott Baker Foundation, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, and numerous individual donors.

- **Non-Cash Donors:**

Loblaws (The East Mall), Cobs Bread Humbertown, Steve's No Frills (Rathburn/Renforth), Church of Christ the King, Graceview Presbyterian Church, Renforth Baptist Church, Richview United Church, St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, Air Canada Pionairs, The Masters Condominiums, The Period Purse, and Community Police of 22 Division.

Looking Ahead

The St. James Food Basket Steering Committee remains committed to addressing food scarcity in our community. We welcome your ideas and encourage you to visit us any Wednesday afternoon to witness the impact of your generosity.

With heartfelt thanks,

Marcia Powers-Dunlop

Chair, Steering Committee