



INTERFAITH FOOD BANK SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

Annual Report 2022



CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2022

**TOP 10 IMPACT
FOOD BANK**



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Vision Statement
In partnership with the community, Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge is a leader in alleviating hunger and its root causes.

Mission Statement
Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge recognizes the human dignity of those in need and provides food and access to services and resources generated from within our community.

Membership & Accreditation



IN ALLIANCE WITH
COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRES CANADA

ABOUT US

We have been providing emergency food assistance to Lethbridge and area since 1989 and work with the community to secure the resources necessary to provide services to individuals and families in need.

Food security is our main goal. We believe it is necessary to meet immediate needs first, and then to connect our clients with the other community resources that can help address the underlying issues that place them in need of emergency food assistance.

We also play a significant role within the Food Bank Network, and support local agencies and programs by sharing food for food security and poverty related initiatives. We glean, we share, we support and empower.

4 Foundational Pillars

Service & Care

Providing support in an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible while empowering clients and decreasing barriers to service.

Community Engagement & Public Education

Developing opportunities for, and contributing to, conversations on poverty and food security in our community. Supporting recommendations for change and working to find long term solutions.

Operations

Operations are run effectively and safely through detailed, efficient processes and policies while using nutritional guidelines to inform and support the community's needs.

Administration & Governance

Ensuring organizational accountability, governance, and capacity to achieve goals and objectives through planning and strategic decision making.

A Message from our President

I sometimes find myself thinking about food, usually when I'm hungry, but also in my role on the Board of Interfaith Food Bank. I think about how important food is to our community, how it's needed by our community, and how it brings people together. Not to get too metaphorical, but this is exactly what IFB is to the community. We bring people together; we support and serve people with a commitment to dignity, respect, and equity. This is the IFB Way.



Commitment to the IFB Way- from our staff, volunteers, donors, and the community- has allowed us to meet the challenges of rising inflation, food costs, and demand. We are grateful to work with other amazing local organizations who help us to serve our community and deliver our programs. We are also very grateful to our donors, whose contributions, big and small, always help us to deliver our services. We are fortunate to have a dependable and devoted team of volunteers, for whom we are ever grateful for their unwavering support.

We hosted our annual Charity Dinner and Silent Auction in September, which marked a return to in-person format for the first time since 2020. It was a very successful event, and I am looking forward to our next one! We also hosted the grand opening of our Indigenous garden, "Ih'taapiinii'mopa inn'siimaan", or, "Healing Garden". This is a landmark sign of progress for IFB and I extend my thanks to all involved. We continued to host events and run our fundamental services, thanks to the dedicated work of our staff and volunteers. In some time between the whirlwind of programs and services IFB has delivered this year, the Board continued our work in advancing the strategic direction of the organization through governance.

We are proud of the impact we have made in the lives of so many people in Lethbridge, however, we know that our work is far from over. As the effects of the pandemic continue to ripple in the community and the economy poses new challenges, the need for our services has become even more evident. Hunger and food insecurity are systemic issues that require sustainable and long-term solutions, and IFB is committed to providing the necessary services to address these issues. We are committed to meeting these challenges head-on and continuing to serve Lethbridge and the surrounding areas.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors for these past few years. I, like many others, have been grateful to meet amazing and wonderful people who do amazing work to support our community. We send our sincere gratitude to all those who support us and make IFB the wonderful organization that we are. Let us continue this good work- in the IFB Way!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kletke".

Holly Kletke, Board President



Emergency Food Assistance

Meeting immediate needs and connecting community members with supports to address issues preventing food security.



Community Connections

Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen

Providing free cooking classes to empower healthy eating on a limited budget; and building skills, knowledge, and community connections in our commercial kitchen spaces.



Community Kitchen

A Message from our Executive Director

What an incredible year we've had! I am so proud of our team of both paid staff and volunteers for battling through another uncertain year and accomplishing so many incredible projects.

We began the year with several new staff members and successfully implemented our new organizational structure and job descriptions after our Human Resources review in 2021. Solidifying the IFB Way has been our top priority to ensure we are providing consistent, quality support to our community. We have made incredible progress within our Foundational Pillars and are proud to have been named a Top 10 Impact Food Bank by Charity Intelligence for the second year in a row!

Recovering from the Covid-19 Pandemic has proven challenging, especially when coupled with new economic challenges. Incredible increases in the cost of food in addition to general inflation have caused food banks across the country to have been hit by a double edged sword – more people asking for help and increased costs associated with the support we provide. In true Interfaith fashion, however, we've been able to meet that demand, thanks to the generosity of our community and access to grant funding that not only allowed us to continue to provide food to those who need it, but to grow and adapt to provide even more valuable supports.

Emergency Food Assistance programs have surpassed pre-pandemic levels of need, but we've been able to improve supports by adding Muslim Friendly Hampers and Client Advocacy programs. Food Share programs distributed almost twice as much food as in 2021, and we expanded from providing support to more than 40 Rural and Urban Food Share Partners to also include support to the Permanent Supportive Housing Coalition, sourcing groceries for housing units that provide wrap around supports for vulnerable community members.

We are particularly proud of the addition of our new Indigenous Healing Garden and our work with Truth and Reconciliation. Now both of our kitchens are connected with gardens and we have an exceptional outdoor space that offers our facility even more capacity for hosting community programs and events.

We are aware that 2023 will continue to present challenges and expect demand for our services to continue, but are confident we will receive the faithful support that we've been able to count on for so many years. On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers and those we serve, thank you for your ongoing help in our fight against hunger.


Danielle McIntyre, Executive Director



Inspiring food literacy, growing food, knowledge and skills, and providing an outdoor gathering space for events and activities that reconnect us to the land that sustains us.



Food Share

Sharing food within a streamlined system with partner agencies and area food banks; and extending the shelf life of valuable food resources.



Interfaith Food Recovery Program

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RECOVERY

We welcomed the first phases of Pandemic Recovery in 2022 as mask mandates were lifted, public gathering resumed, and we began to recount the lessons learned so we could be prepared for future public health crises. While we were still operating during the Pandemic, we began to move to the “New Normal”.

Adjusting to the “New Normal”:

- Using the Strategic Plan developed in 2021, we implemented a new organizational structure, staff job descriptions and a shift in focus to “The IFB Way”
- We adjusted our fund development strategies, encouraging gifts of funds over gifts of food, including more opportunities for online giving and leveraging technology to recruit resources
- We accessed a lot of Covid-19 Recovery Grant Funding to support new programs that were added during the pandemic such as Food Share, Client Advocacy, Accommodation of Special Dietary Needs; to maintain our core services to the community; and to be prepared for future public health crises
- Truth and Reconciliation and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion were identified as areas for growth and we made efforts to become educated and to actively participate with community building initiatives
- There were continuous disruptions to the food supply chain and access to food became more difficult, and expensive
- Stop-gap financial supports such as CERB were discontinued, inflation emerged and demand for services began to skyrocket, requiring more food, funds, and volunteers
- Local events and fundraising activities returned to in-person formats
- On-site programming also returned to our Community Kitchens and Outreach Programs, but we continued successful online programs due to the ability for us to reach more participants
- Use of the Co-op Community Kitchen and Outreach Classrooms increased
- We continued collaboration among local support agencies, and cooperation with systems navigation, integrated and coordinated access and referrals to partner agencies
- We continued to play a leadership role with food sharing and building capacity to continue new systems post-pandemic

Where Food Banks had been referred to as “Band-Aid” solutions to food insecurity in the past, the effects of the pandemic coupled with inflation and rising food costs elevated the perception from “Band-Aid” to “Tourniquet”.

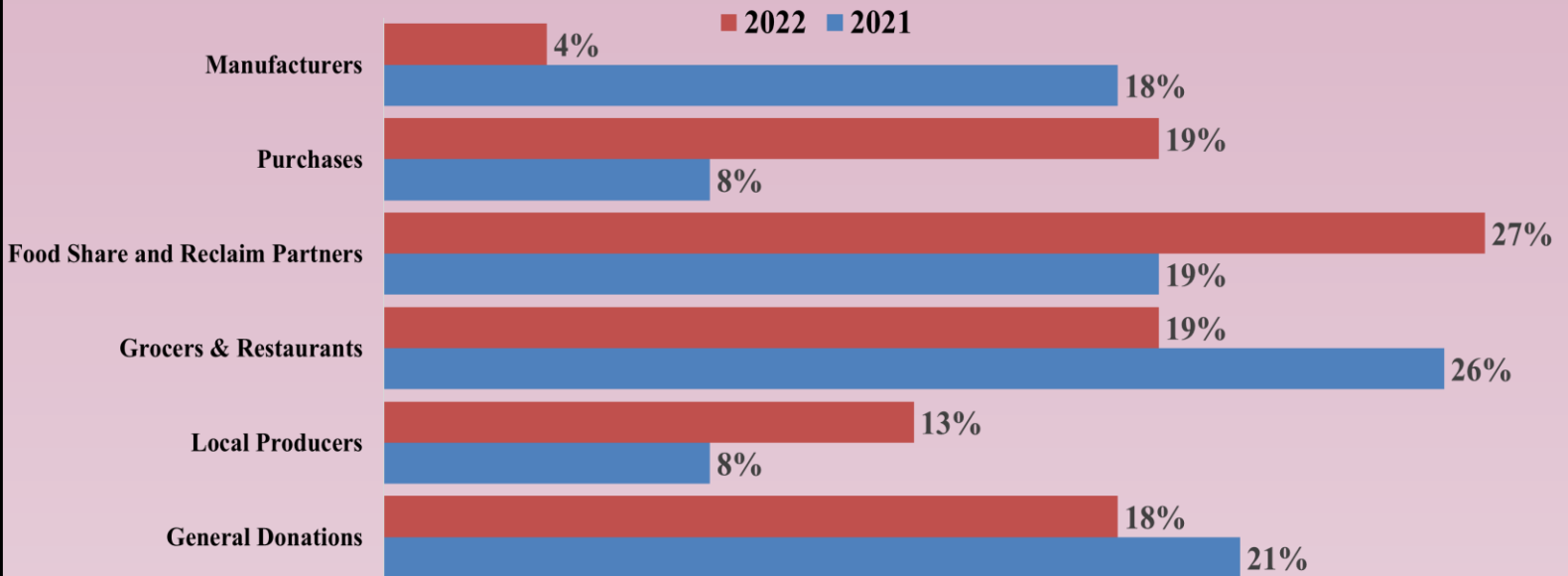
We are on the front lines, just trying to stop the bleeding.



FOOD STOCKS & FOOD SHARING

Our gleaning process provides for our internal programs and allows us to share with other agencies and area food banks.

Food Sources 2021-2022



Food Surplus

End of 2021:

70,655 pounds

Food Intake 2022:

1,023,827 pounds

Food Output 2022:

1,000,445 pounds



Food Share

By sharing our surplus food stock and supporting the National Food Share System in partnership with Food Banks Alberta, 336,326 pounds of food were distributed to Food Share Partners

77,875 pounds shared through Urban Food Share Program

75,057 pounds shared through Rural Food Share Program

159,097 pounds shared through Southern Alberta Food Hub

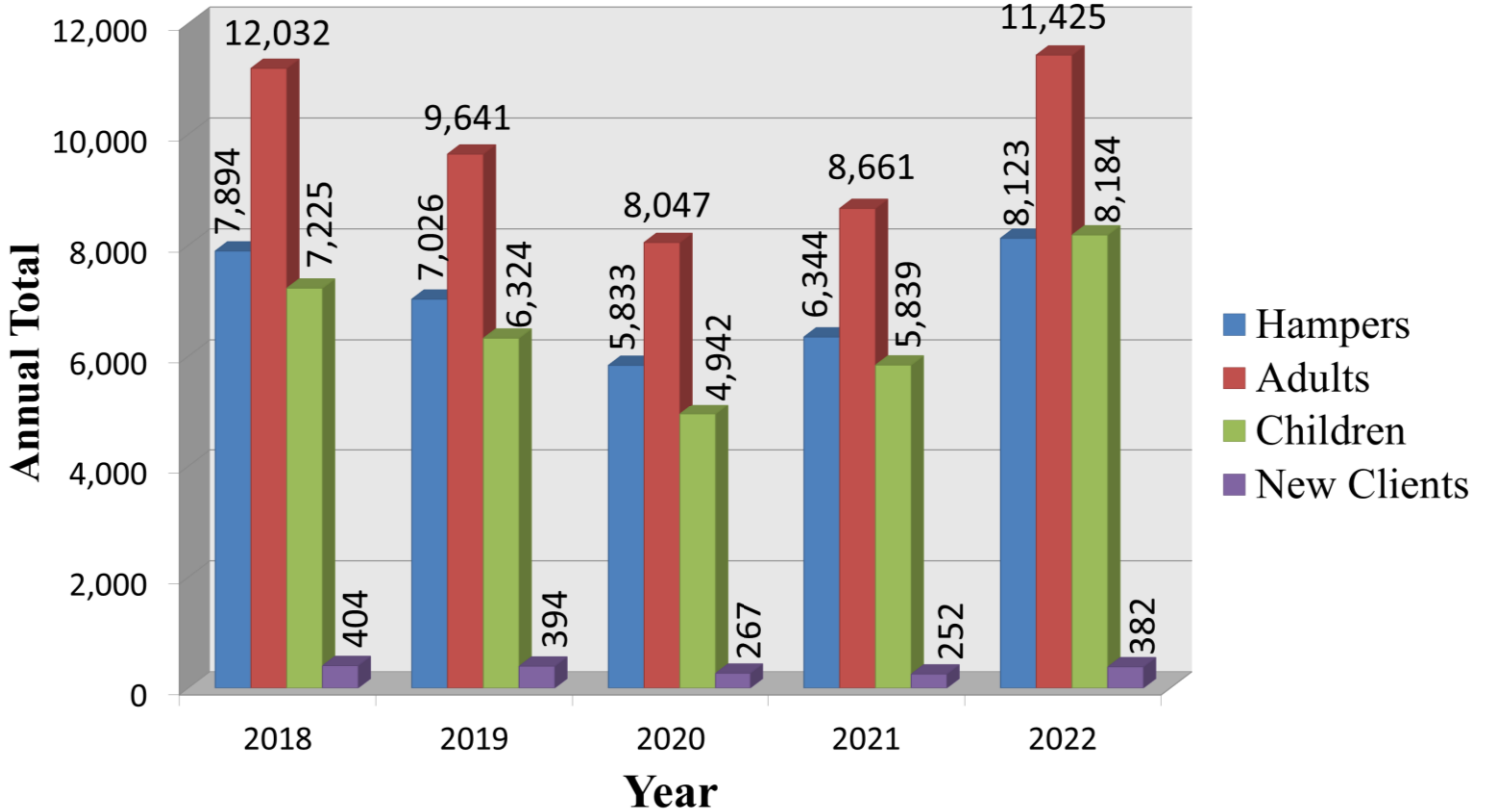
24,297 pounds shared through Permanent Supportive Housing



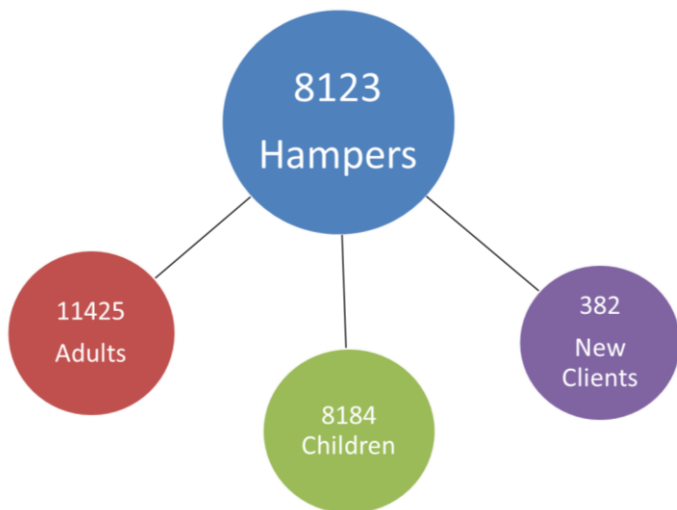
Emergency Food Assistance

We meet immediate needs first, and then work to empower those we serve towards their own food security.

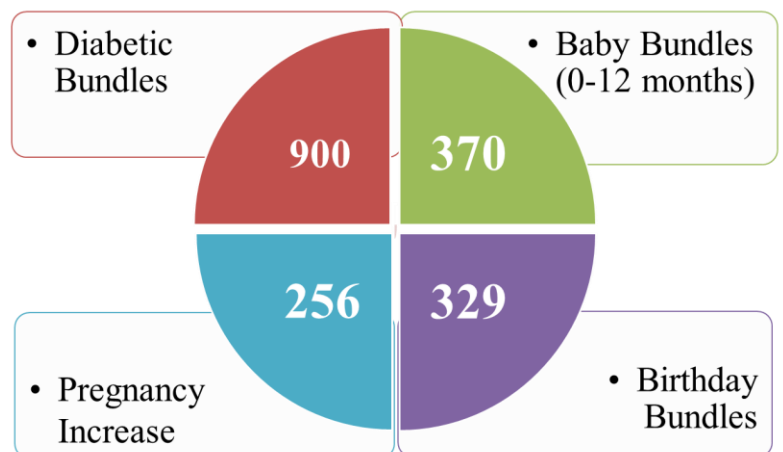
Annual Hamper Total, Adult & Child Clients, and New Clients 2018-2022



2022 Food Hamper Statistics



Additional Food Packages 2022



We provide:

***Monthly Hampers
Daily Supplements
Information & Referrals
Client Advocacy
Outreach Services
Baby Bundles
Pregnancy Increases
Clothing Vouchers
Birthday Bundles
Diabetic Bundles
School Supplies
Christmas Hampers
Special Dietary Needs***

Muslim Friendly (Halal) Hampers were added in October 2022, and 322 were distributed October - December



Sharing Culturally Appropriate Food allows us to offer support with dignity and respect.



1400 Healthy Food Packs distributed to children through the After the Bell program this summer.



Food Banks fill the gaps when School Lunch Programs close for the summer months



Community Connections

Client Advocacy

We connect community members with other resources within our community to address underlying issues that lead to food insecurity.

Top Referral Requests

- Housing
- Income Supports
- Online Applications
- Employment Skills
- Mental Health and Addictions

460
Referrals
 to Local
 Supports

88
 individuals
 accessed
 Computers

27
 individuals
 supported with
 Tax
 Preparation



Community Kitchen

Designed for group cooking classes and community programming, this large commercial kitchen offers opportunities to gather, share and learn and is available for community use.

170
Bookings

1783
Participants

24
User Groups

Some of the regular activities offered in the Co-op Community Kitchen include:



Interfaith Helpful Hobbies



Community Kitchen



Interfaith Food Recovery Program

Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen

Designed to teach people how to cook healthy food on a limited budget, in person classes returned, yet we also maintained several online classes.



Interfaith Learning Garden

Interfaith Learning Garden teaches families how to grow their own food, encouraging healthy and cost-effective means for providing for food security at home.

- ❖ Over 450 pounds of produce used in cooking classes or distributed to food bank families
- ❖ 45 varieties of vegetables, fruits and herbs grown
- ❖ Over 500 participants attended 35 Tours, Events, Sessions, or Workshops
- ❖ 270 Adults, 145 Children and 10 agencies provided with learning opportunities
- ❖ Over 750 Community Members participating in garden activities
- ❖ Over 100 community members spent almost 300 hours planting, tending and harvesting the garden



Ih'taapiinii'mopa inn'siimaan
(Healing Garden)

Ih'taapiinii'mopa inn'siimaan

offers a public space for community use and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as a public display of our community's shared vision in moving forward together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.

Dedicated in the Spirit of Reconciliation to our community this new garden will be used for healing, sharing, and honoring those lost or affected by Residential Schools.

Together we will grow plants for food, medicine, and spiritual use, reconnecting to the land that sustains us all.



Funding provided in part by

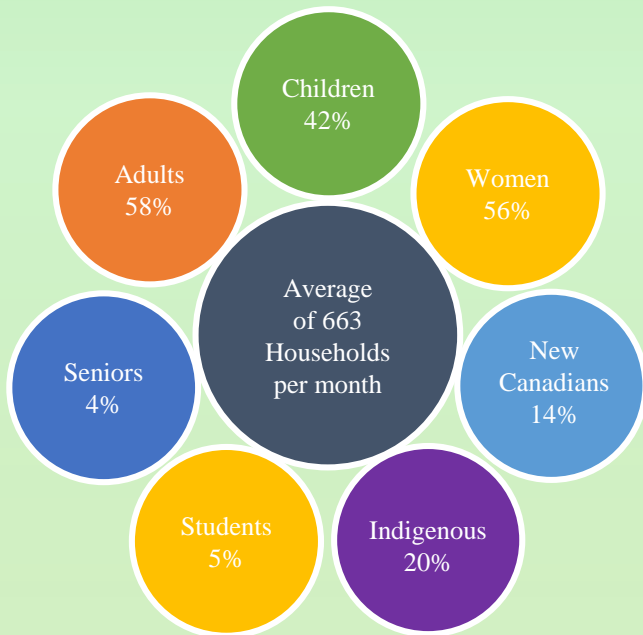


PUBLIC EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

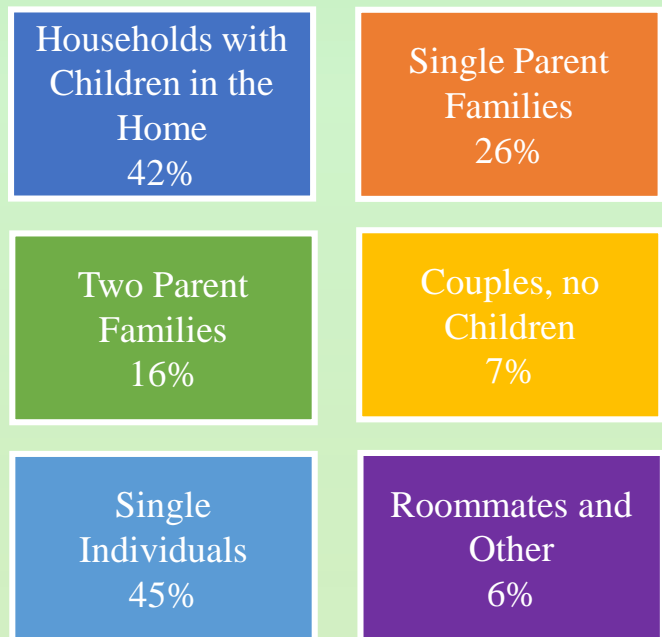
By telling the stories of those we support, we aim to influence policy and create opportunities for positive change.

We support to those in a variety of situations, ranging from single-parenthood, to seniors on fixed incomes, to the under- or unemployed, and to those with other social or economic barriers. During times of crisis, anyone may find themselves in need of our services. We are here for our community, and prioritize vulnerable populations.

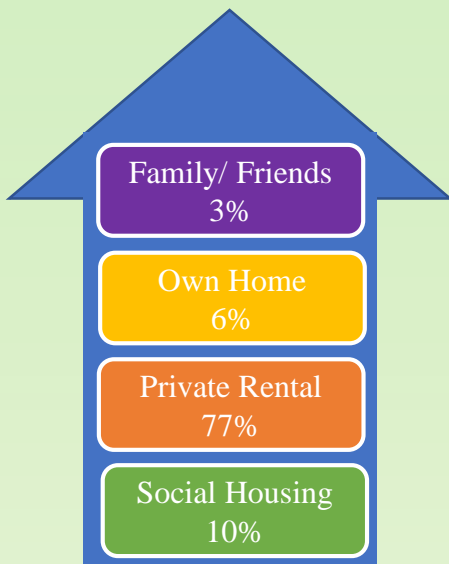
Demographics



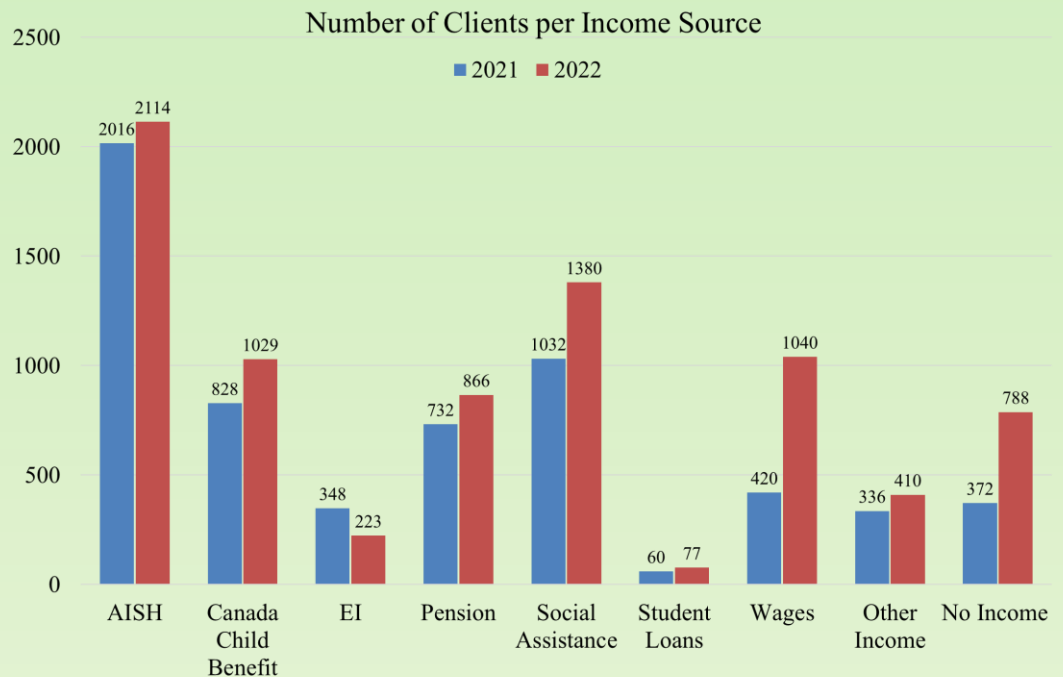
Household Dynamics



Housing Types



Household Income Sources



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are engaged with our community, reliant on our community, and involve community with all of our activities. Collectively we have the best impact.



Working collaboratively with Christmas Hope Agencies, more than **2250 households** were provided with holiday hampers, complete with all fixings for a special meal, and gifts for children. **3207 adults and 6286 children (9493 individuals)** were supported through this partnership. **Over 800 Christmas Hope volunteers contributed almost 6000 hours** of service to ensure every family had the chance to enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Working in partnership with school divisions and My City Care, ***Ready Set Go Back to School Program*** provided **over 1600 local children** with supplies for the First Day at School. Distribution was hosted on the North, South and West sides of Lethbridge, and additional supplies stocked schools.



Together with multiple community support agencies, especially those that support the unhoused, we held our second annual ***City Wide Water Drive*** and our local food banks were able to recruit thousands of bottles of water to support community members during the summer heat wave.

The ***Empowered Filmmakers Masterclass*** was hosted for the first time in Lethbridge, and we were honored to offer our facilities for 25 Future Filmmakers to learn to produce their own short films. A total of **7 films** were produced in 5 days, and 2 participants received sizable grants to further their careers in film and storytelling.





More than 150 volunteers contributed 16,910 hours of service.

We are a community organization inspired by, led by, and operated by community members. We have a very small staff team and rely upon a dedicated crew of volunteers to bring our vision to reality.

Our volunteers have a passion for community and recognize the privilege it is to serve those in need. Our community focus includes not only the clients we serve, but also the volunteers who enable us to offer the services we do. We work hard to create an encouraging and enriching environment that our volunteers will want to keep coming back to, and a team they can be proud to be a part of.

231 hours - Events

278 hours - Learning Garden

470 hours - Food Recovery

886 hours - Board of Directors

1179 hours - Administration

1626 hours - Thrift Store

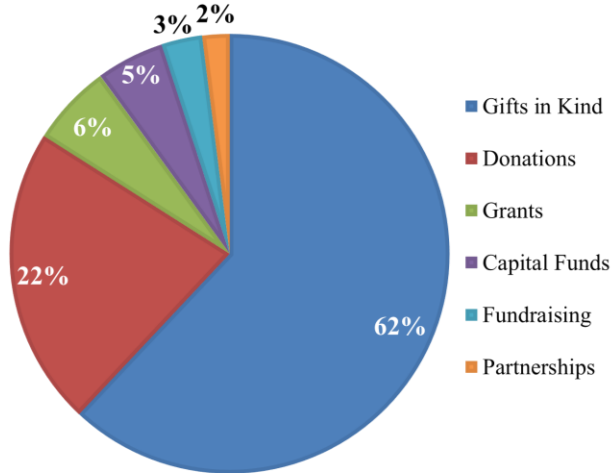
4496 hours - Client Services

6985 hours - Warehouse

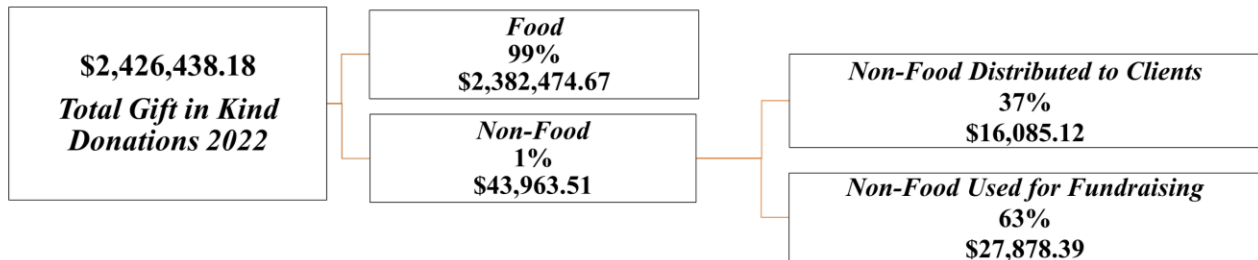
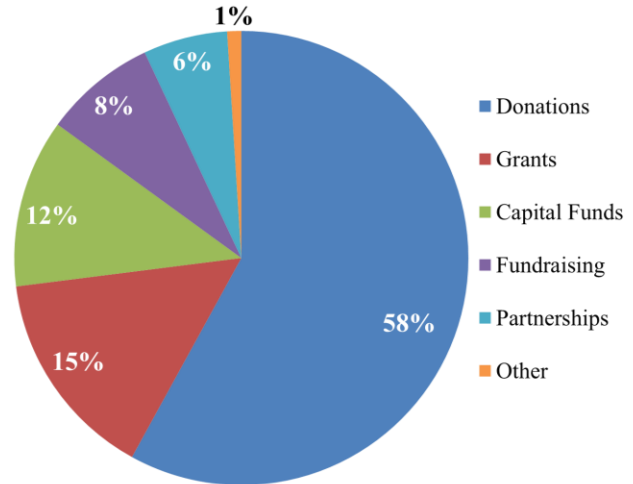
FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

Revenue Sources

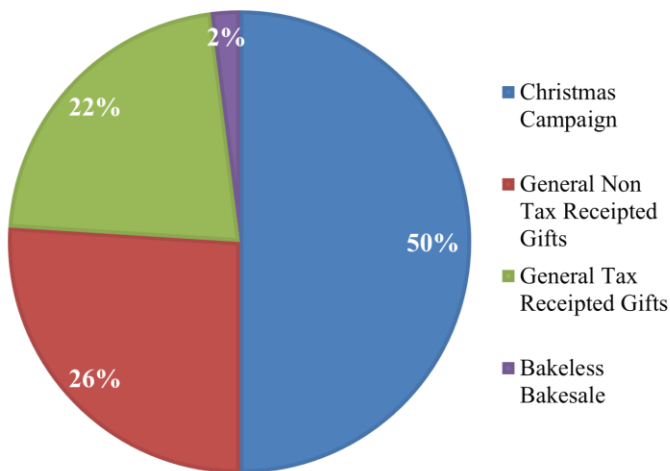
INCOME BREAKDOWN 2022



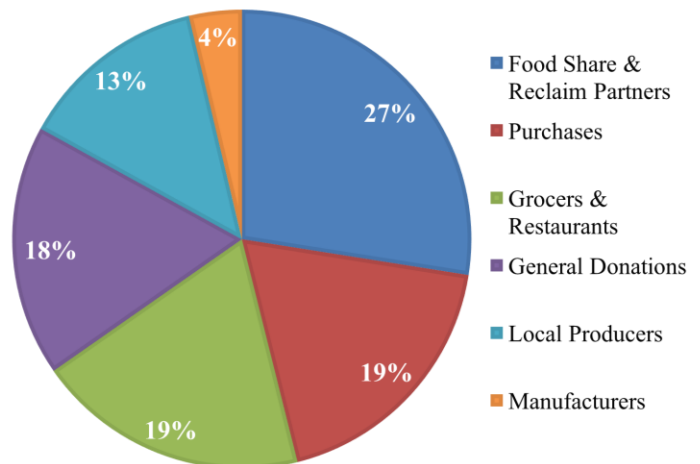
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN 2022



FINANCIAL DONATIONS 2022



FOOD INTAKE 2022



The majority of our support is received In-Kind, primarily in food. The bulk of our finances are received from donations, grants and fundraising initiatives.

GRANTS AND FUNDERS

We do not receive ongoing funding from any source, but instead are eligible for project specific grants. In 2022, we were able to access additional funds due to the focus on Covid-19 Recovery and the elevated importance of Food Security. The majority of our support is received in donations, and fund-raising initiatives hosted by others on our behalf.

Food Banks Canada builds partnerships with supporters and coordinates with Food Banks Alberta to benefit the work of local food banks. In 2022, we received support through:

- Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) to continue to provide Emergency Food Assistance and Food Share programs
- Walmart Fight Hunger Spark Change (Food and Operating Costs)
- Loblaws National Food Drive (Food and Operating Costs)
- After the Bell (Healthy Lunch Packs Children), supported by Subway Canada and several corporate partners
- Afghan Refugee Fund to develop Muslim Friendly (Halal) Hampers
- Capacity Boost Grant to provide support and necessary equipment for Permanent Supportive Housing project



- Food Banks Alberta Covid Relief Grant to support Food Share and Client Advocacy Programs
- Food Banks Alberta Bulk Food Purchases Grant
- Food Banks Alberta Rural Transportation Grant



The United Way supported our Baby Bundle Program with a Community Fund Grant to provide a triad of support that includes nutrition, health and safety to expectant mothers and newborns.



United Way
Lethbridge &
South Western Alberta



City of Lethbridge provided funds through the Community and Social Development Department to assist with food purchases, as well as funding through the Community Capital Project Grant to assist with our Drainage Project and Garden Expansion.

The Government of Canada provided grant support through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for our Drainage Project and Garden Expansion that allowed us to add the Indigenous Healing Garden, as well as funding through The Department of Canadian Heritage to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with the Garden Naming Ceremony hosted during Reconciliation Week. We also received funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program to fund 2 summer students.



The Government of Alberta announced funds to alleviate extra stress on food banks after Food Banks Canada's National Hunger Count revealed that Alberta had the highest level of food insecurity in 2022. Facilitated through FCSSAA, we received emergency funding for direct provision of food to vulnerable Albertans.



Food Bank Guardian

Food Bank Guardians ensure capacity for future services through substantial, multi-year commitments.

Mikado Electric and Hobgoblin Holdings Foundation continued their commitments as Food Bank Guardians and encourage others to join in their pledge to ensure the food bank is here to serve our community for years to come.



The Second Door Thrift Store

With the assistance of volunteers, donated items are turned into funds for food and operational costs. Almost \$27,000 was raised in 2022.



Target Hunger City Wide Food Drive raised funds and over 60,000 pounds of food



Canada Day Party in the Park at Galt Gardens and BBQ in a Bag raised \$9300



We hosted our annual Pancake Breakfast in our newly expanded garden space raising \$3000



The annual Rob Dixon Memorial Car Show raised over \$10,000



Community members raised over \$5,000 by donating their refundable recycling



Friends of Interfaith Charity Dinner & Silent Auction generated over \$67,000

2022 SPONSORS & MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS



2022 Board of Directors



Holly Kletke
President



Sue Griffiths
Past President



Carol McLean
Vice President



Penny Kwasny
Secretary



Jan Roth
Treasurer



Colin Nemeth
Director



Jeremy DeBow
Director



Kim Waterfield
Director



Jan Johnson
Director



Laurie Gibson
Director



**INTERFAITH
FOOD BANK**
SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

www.interfaithfoodbank.ca



Susan Burrows-Johnson
Director



Darren Armah
Director



Echo Nowak
Director

2022 Staff Team



Danielle McIntyre
Executive Director



Neil Heaton
Operations Manager



Michelle Parry
Client Intake Supervisor



Kaitlyn Lang
Fund Development



Bill Selles
Volunteer Coordinator



Troy Tollestrup
Warehouse Manager



Aaron Fedunec
Driver/Operations



David Smith
Food Share Coordinator



Dustin Sandu
Permanent Supportive
Housing Coordinator



Cris Mera
Marketing &
Communications



Myla Krippel
Garden Coordinator



Katerina Meyer
Client Advocacy
Coordinator



Amy Granger
Kitchen Facilitator



Megan Miller
Kitchen Coordinator
(Family Centre)



Kimberley Harvey
Early Childhood Educator
(Family Centre)