

35 Years



INTERFAITH FOOD BANK

SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

Annual Report 2024



CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2024

**TOP 10 IMPACT:
CANADIAN
FOOD BANK**



2024

TOP 100 CHARITY

Charity Intelligence's Highest Rated Charities



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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

Connect with us online:



Visit us at www.interfaithfoodbank.ca



1103 - 3 Ave. North
Lethbridge AB T1H 0H7
Phone: 403-320-8779
Fax: 403-328-0521

Email: info@interfaithfoodbank.ca

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

Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge (IFB) celebrated 35 years of operation in 2024. IFB began as a temporary emergency measure and has since become a leader in alleviating hunger and its root causes in Southern Alberta. IFB has been recognized for this effort, by Charity Intelligence, and named a Top 10 impact Food Bank in Canada. Membership in the society is just \$5.00, and your input and participation in the Society is most welcome!



The Board of Directors have been meeting to discuss operations; volunteering at community events; and assisting IFB staff in navigating organizational challenges and opportunities. There has been increased need in 2024, and more boxes of food distributed every month. There have been and will be challenges with increased food prices, and perhaps unexpected food supply issues. These challenges are met with a “can do” attitude that makes good things happen. The resiliency, strength, and continued ability to increase capacity at IFB is recognized and admired.

Improvements to the IFB facility this year have improved the working space for staff, access for donors and volunteers, and food storage capacity. These include updating the HVAC system, improving Donations/Administration and Volunteer spaces, and looking toward improving the parking lot and staff offices and washrooms, and replacing warehouse bay doors in 2025.

Donations from individuals, businesses, and grants continue to fund operations, and the generosity from our community is impressive. Fundraising efforts at the annual dinner and auction, through special events held in the community, and from people that donate time, food, and money make it all possible. Working together with common goals continues to be one of the greatest strengths of IFB.

I am happy to associate with this organization, and know that building community, offering support to people, and providing food relief in challenging times makes Lethbridge a better place to work, play and live. Thank you for your continued support, involvement and encouragement of Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge.



President, Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge



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.



A Message from our Executive Director

The Food Security Crisis has continued, with no light at the end of the tunnel as of yet, but the tenacity and resilience of our crew has never shone brighter! Challenges were expected, and after 5 years of post-pandemic uncertainty, we're getting pretty good at finding a way to battle on, one hamper at a time.



Celebrating our 35th Anniversary cements the essential nature of our services, and has us planning for the future. With the election season looming, we're hoping some long-term solutions will finally be put on the table, and in the meantime, we'll keep doing what we do! Honoured by Charity Intelligence for the 4th year in a row as a Top 10 Impact Food Bank and 2nd year as a Top 100 Charity tells us at least we're on the right path!

We are proud of the progress we made while also responding to unprecedented need. Our Client Advocacy, Kitchen and Garden Programs are empowering those we serve to address the underlying issues that place them in need of the food bank. Our Food Share and Food Recovery Programs are streamlining the distribution of surplus food to people before animals and landfills. Our partners work with us to meet immediate needs and to ensure we have the capacity to provide for our community safely, efficiently and with the most impact.

Investing in the IFB Way was a key focus for us this year as we work towards Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence and improving our presence within the community. The faces of those we serve are changing – more working people, home owners and seniors have turned to us for help, and of course those with disabilities and language barriers continue to struggle even more than before. Reducing barriers has become a top priority, in addition to finding new and creative ways to recruit the resources necessary for our work to support the community.

I am exceptionally proud of our staff and volunteer teams for weathering this storm, and grateful to our Board of Directors for steering us through rough waters. Our donors, sponsors and funders carry on along side us, and while I'm still looking for that rainbow, I'm glad to be in such great company!

Danielle McIntyre, Executive Director



Inspiring food literacy, growing food, knowledge and skills, and providing an outdoor gathering space, reconnecting us to the land that sustains us all.



Food Share

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

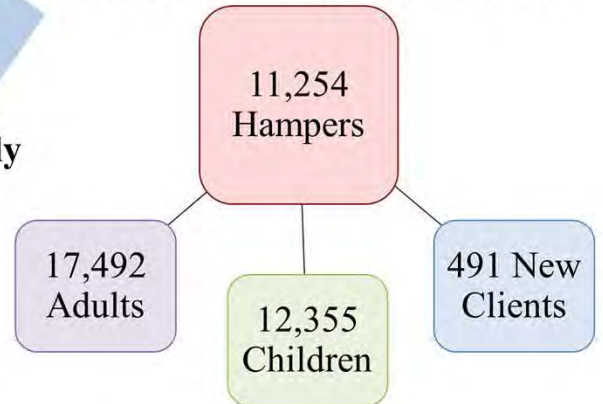


Interfaith Food Recovery Program

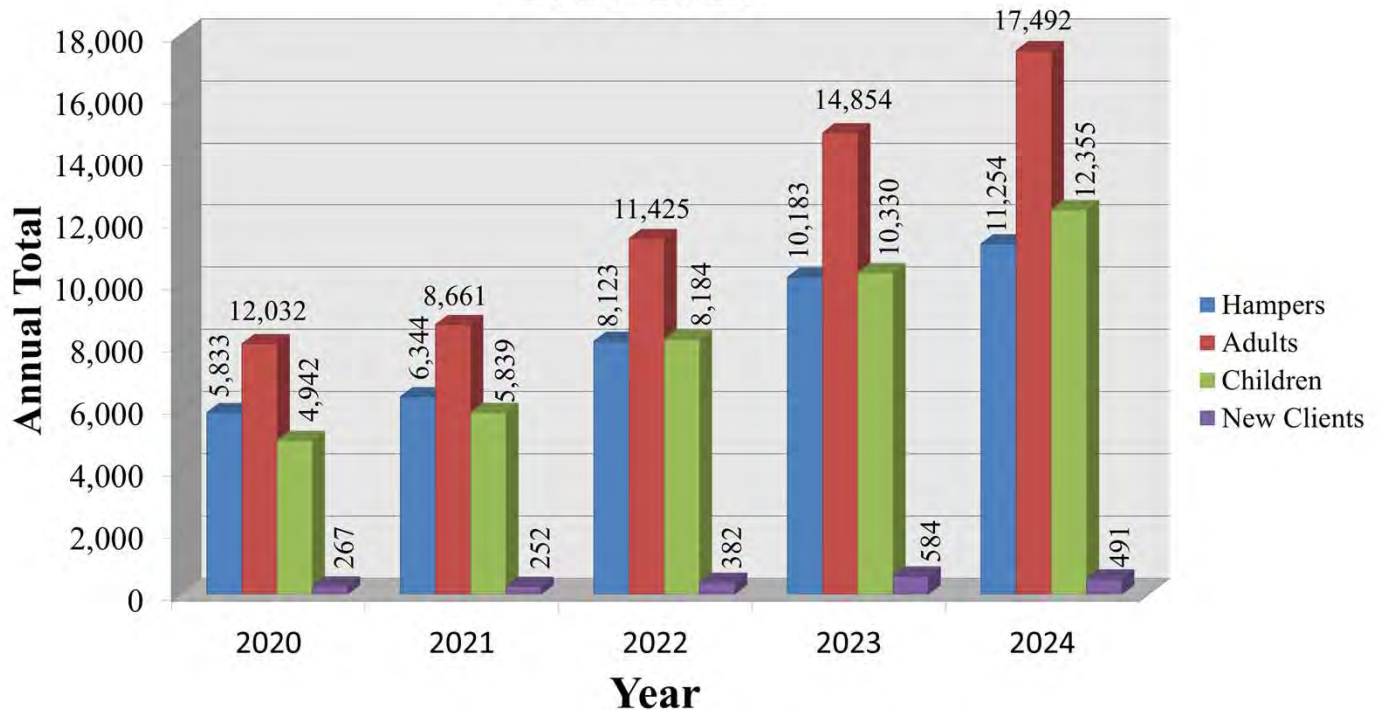
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE



Food Hampers 2024



IFB Annual Totals for Hampers, Adult & Child Clients, and New Clients 2020-2024



Additional Food Packages 2024

1,337	584	1,695	856	635	2,199
Diabetic Bundles	Birthday Bundles	Halal Hampers	Baby Bundles	Pregnancy Increase	After The Bell Packs

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

CLIENT ADVOCACY

Our Resource Room provides a safe and inviting space where clients can access resources and create connections to address the underlying causes of their food insecurity.

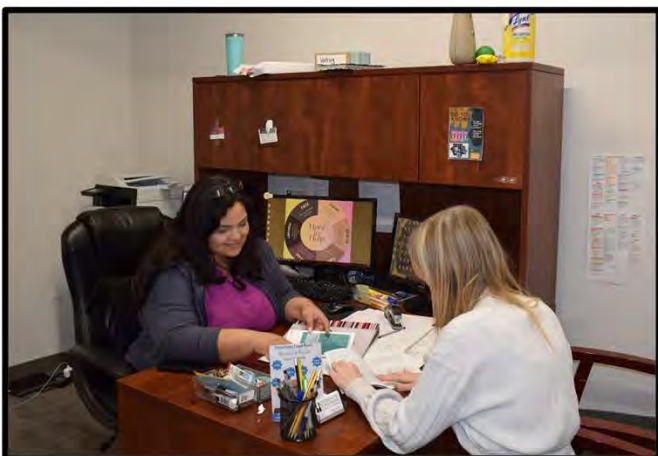
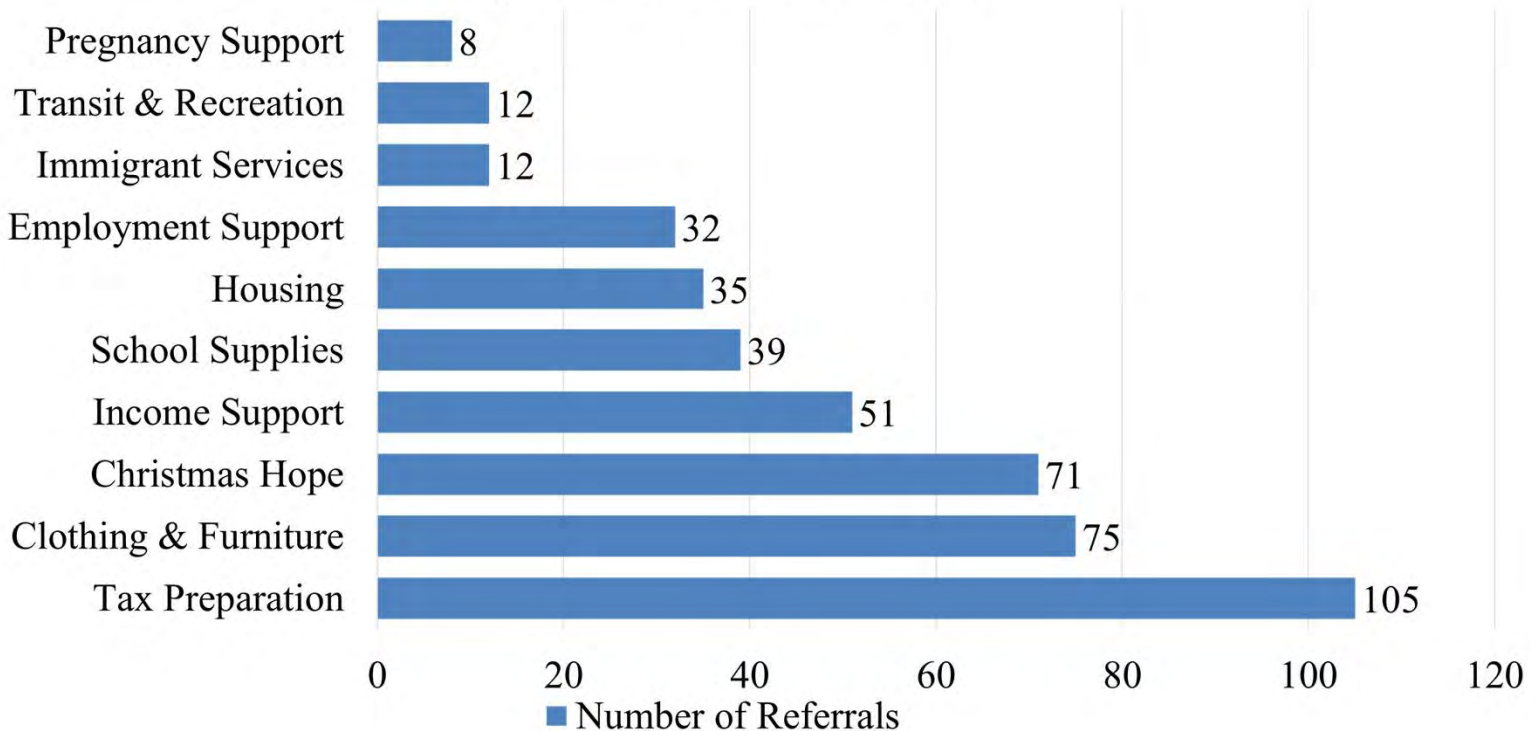
980 Visits to the
Interfaith
Resource Room

367 Referrals
made to over 20
Local Supports

613 People
Directed to IFB
Programs

Last year the Interfaith Resource Room saw 767 visits. This year we saw a 27% increase with 213 more visits than last year. With more community awareness we hope this number continues to grow.

Top 10 Referrals 2024



Our mission is to recognize the human dignity of those in need and to provide food and access to services and resources generated from within our community.

KITCHENS



Community Kitchen

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



Food Recovery
76 Programs



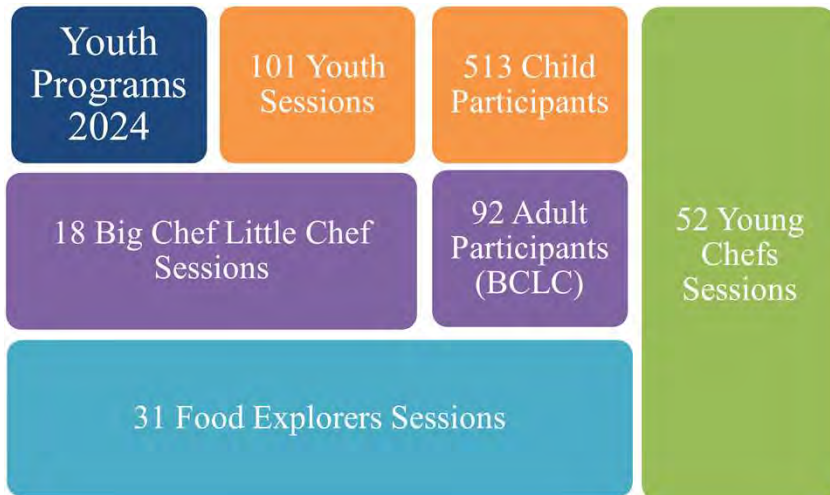
Co-op Community Kitchen Usage 2024



Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen



In Partnership with:



Designed to teach people how to cook healthy food on a limited budget, free cooking classes empower participants with knowledge, skills, and community connections.

Adult Cooking Classes 2024



GARDENS

We aim to empower community members towards food security through gardening and access to traditional food sources.



The Indigenous Healing Garden grows plants traditionally used by the Blackfoot people for food, medicine and spiritual use, reconnecting to the land that sustains us all.



Interfaith Learning Garden teaches people how to grow their own food. Different than a community garden, this produce is primarily for use in cooking classes and for distribution to food bank clients.

Garden Statistics 2024

1,292
community
members
experienced
garden
activities

51 varieties
of vegetables,
fruits, and
herbs

33 Events and
Workshops
hosted
with 422
participants

309 adults and
113 children
participated in
garden
programs

Over 440 lbs
of produce
grown

17 Species of
Indigenous
plants

157 volunteer
hours



FOOD STOCKS & FOOD SHARING

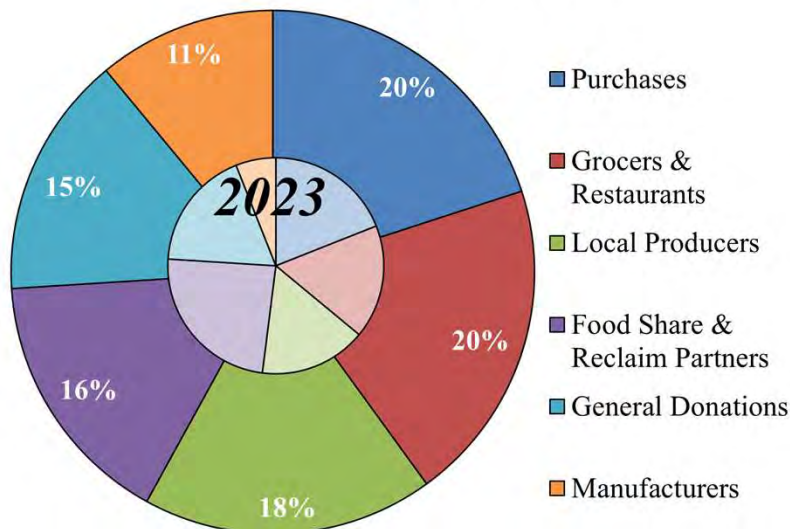
Our gleaning process provides for our internal programs and allows us to share with other agencies and area food banks.

**Food Surplus
End of 2023:
102,825 pounds**

**Food Intake 2024:
1,575,490 pounds**

**Food Output 2024:
1,542,610 pounds**

Food Intake 2024



*Almost 130,000 pounds
of food are processed
every month.*

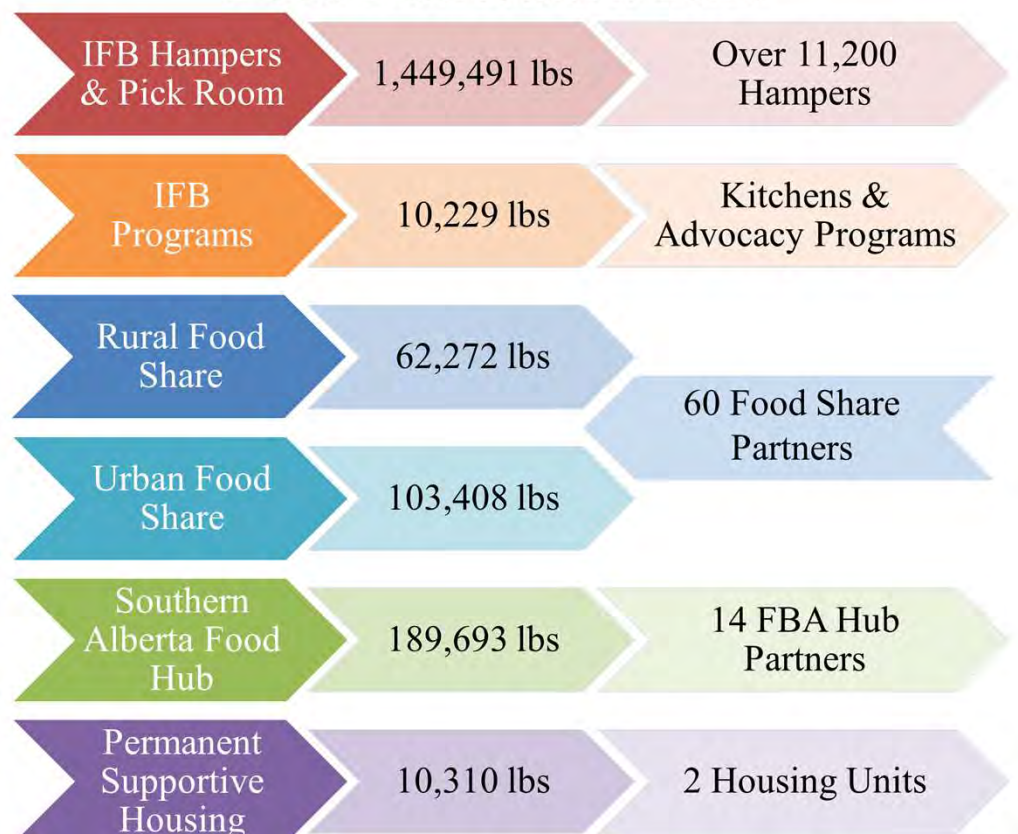


Food Distribution 2024



Food Share

By sharing our surplus food stock and supporting the National Food Share System in partnership with Food Banks Alberta, over 355,000 pounds of food were distributed to Food Share Partners.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



Our volunteer room was converted into an office space to accommodate our expanding staff team. We renovated the administration foyer to create a new volunteer space and improve the donor intake counter. A new coat of paint and some updated appliances were well in order and appreciated by staff, volunteers, and donors alike.



We replaced one of our outdated rooftop HVAC units when it could no longer be repaired. While it may not have been the most exciting improvement, it was essential to keep our operations running!



Funding from Community Food Centers Canada's New Growth Fund enabled us to install a garden trellis for the raspberries in our Indigenous Healing Garden. Now our plants have the support they need to last for years to come.

Thanks to support from Arconic Foundation we installed an additional row of cabinets in the Co-op Community Kitchen providing additional storage and workspace for our Roots for Independence Projects.



We installed a commercial freezer in our Co-op Community Kitchen thanks to funding from the Food Banks Canada Capacity Boost Grant to support the increased volumes of food we are rescuing through our Food Recovery Programs.

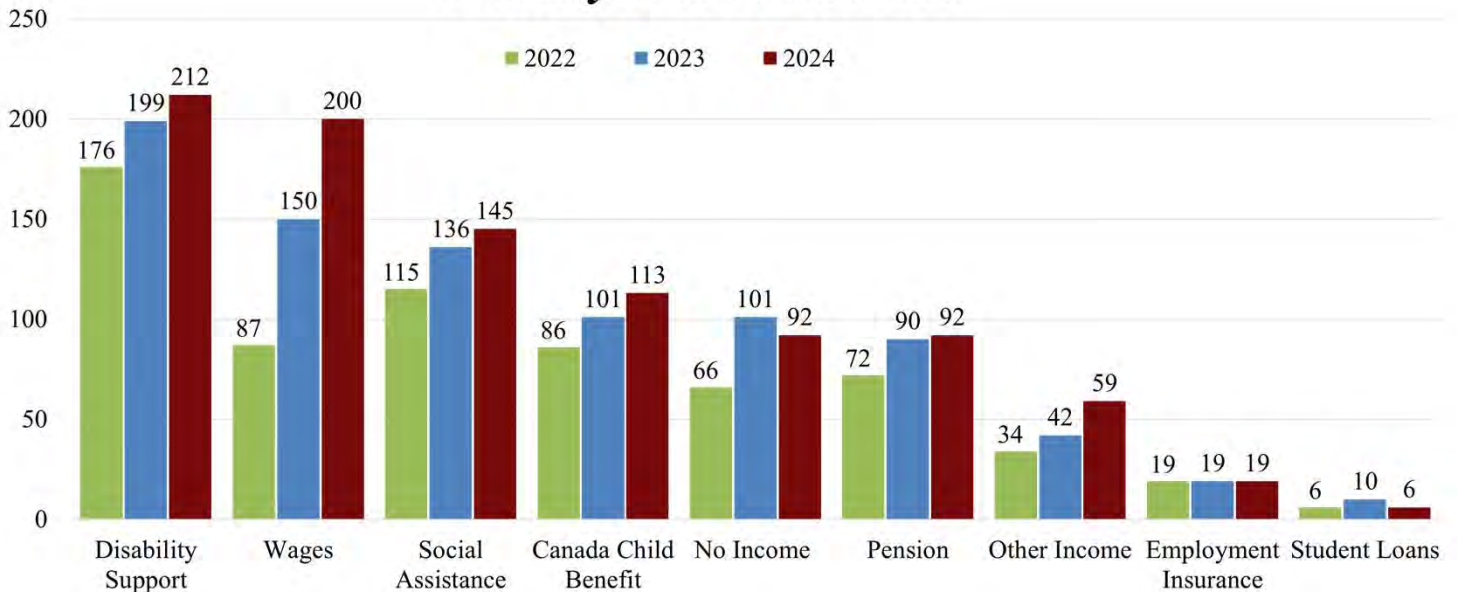
PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

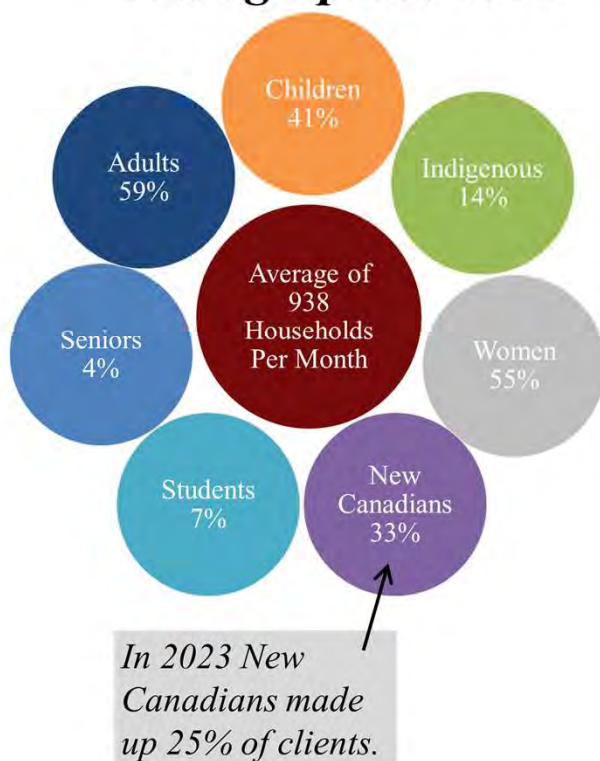
Housing Types 2024



Primary Income Sources

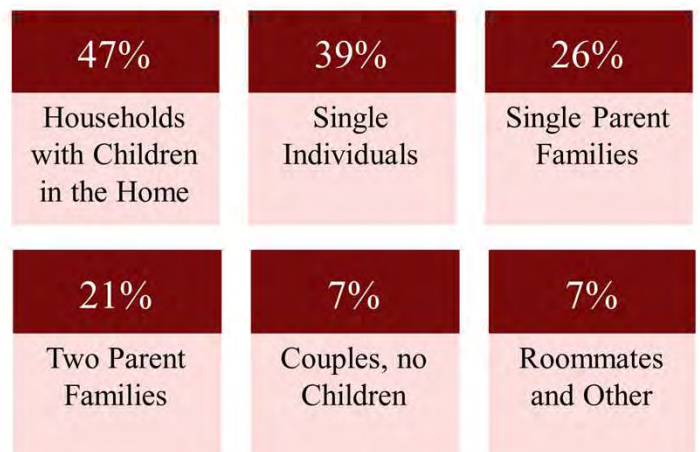


Demographics 2024



We support to those in a variety of situations. During times of crisis, anyone may find themselves in need of our services. We are here for our community, and prioritize vulnerable populations.

Household Dynamics 2024



VOLUNTEERS



*More than **250** volunteers contributed **40,590** hours of service in 2024, nearly **6,000** hours more than last year!*

Volunteer Hours 2024

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.

157 hours – Garden

273 hours – Events and Off Site Activities

841 hours – Board of Directors

1,008 hours – Helpful Hobbies

1,348 hours – Community Kitchens

2,267 hours – Reception and Administration

2,519 hours – Thrift Store

9,200 hours – Client Services

22,980 hours – Warehouse

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

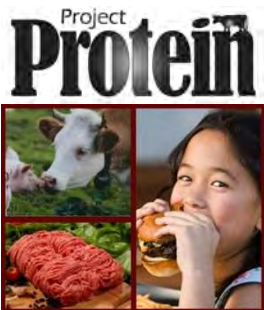
Engaging with our Community raises the awareness of Food Security and sometimes helps to recruit resources. Most importantly, it inspires community members to action, and to advocate on behalf of our cause.



Despite the rainy weather, many joined us for the annual Canada Day Party in the Park at Galt Gardens.



In June we joined the City of Lethbridge in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day at Galt Gardens. We hosted the Community Feast and concession and fed 200 people in less than an hour!



This year we held a booth at Ag Expo for the first time. Many people stopped by to learn about Project Protein.

Over 800 community members came and enjoyed our Whoop Up Days Pancake Breakfast this year. After a hearty meal it was just a quick walk to go watch our float in the parade!



Engineering firms joined forces to compete, showing off their skills and collecting canned goods for local food banks.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Multiple agency partners worked together for Ready Set Go Back to School Fairs that helped over 1,500 students with school supplies.



We hosted Trick or Eat for Halloween. This spooky event saw lots of food brought in by those collecting cans instead of candy!

We invited Arabic clients and community members to our first ever Arabian Nights cooking classes. These ladies came together for great community and cultural cuisine. Joined by members of the Library's language and literacy program, these ladies created food to share with our clients while working on their English-language skills. These classes not only engaged a community in need of community, but also connected them with local resources and an opportunity to give back.



Our Garden Party in celebration of International Garden Days and our Christmas Market hosted our Food Recovery and Helpful Hobbies products for sale. These products are made by volunteers to raise funds for IFB programming.

CHRISTMAS HOPE

This Christmas IFB provided 975 holiday hampers complete with all the fixings for a special meal.

Working collaboratively with Christmas Hope Agencies, more than 13,500 people received holiday help. Almost 1,300 volunteers contributed over 11,850 hours of service to ensure every family had the chance to enjoy a Merry Christmas with food on the table and gifts under the tree for the little ones!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committed to Reconciliation, IFB embraced the journey of developing our own Land Acknowledgement. With support from Elders and Bridging Worlds Consulting, we participated in several Indigenous led activities to understand the meaning behind our new statement:

Interfaith Food Bank is deeply connected to this land, the traditional land of the Blackfoot Niitsitapi people. We acknowledge the history and resilience of the Blackfoot, Metis, Inuit and other First Nations people who call this land home.

We recognize and value the gifts from this land: food, water, medicine, teachings, connection and joy, sustaining us through the changing seasons.

Interfaith Food Bank strives to be a sanctuary where all people can find nourishment and healing over time. We recognize that change is a journey and will continue to practice Reconciliation at every step through sharing, caring, honesty and respect.



Our staff and board members participated in a Blanket Exercise led by Elder Ann Fox to gain understanding of the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



To gain a deeper understanding and respect for Indigenous culture, IFB's staff and board members participated in a sweat followed by traditional foods.



At the Canada Day celebration in Galt Gardens, a Tipi was set up for community members to visit and learn why Canada Day can be a challenging day for Indigenous People.

In honour of Truth and Reconciliation, throughout September we hosted several Culture Camps where community members created traditional Indigenous arts and hosted a Community Feast with traditional Blackfoot foods.



CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS



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.



This year IFB turned 35! We hosted a celebration in July to kick off our 35th Anniversary Campaign to raise \$35,000 for our Endowment Fund before July of 2025.



Rogers Charity Classic Birdies for Kids Campaign matched community donations up to 50%, raising nearly \$40,000.



The Second Door Thrift Store sells new and gently used household items to raise funds for food purchases and operational costs and provides affordable items for food bank families.



The annual Friends of Interfaith Charity Dinner and Silent Auction was a huge success. This year we raised more funds to support IFB programs than ever before.

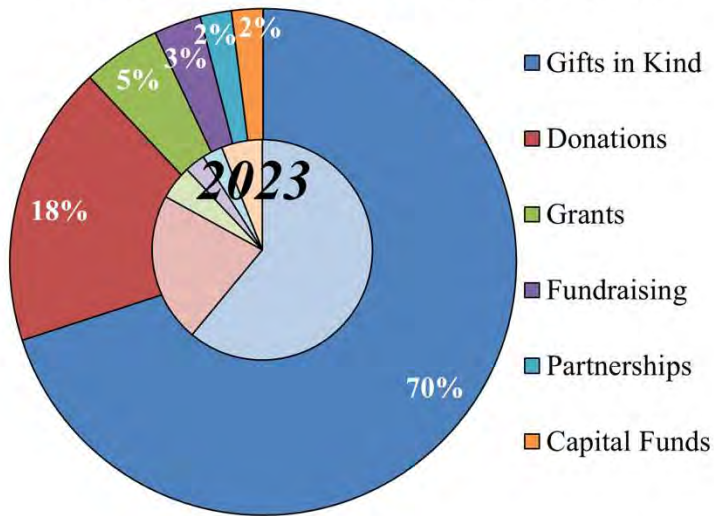


The majority of our support is received from others hosting events on our behalf. Our team is always ready to help out!

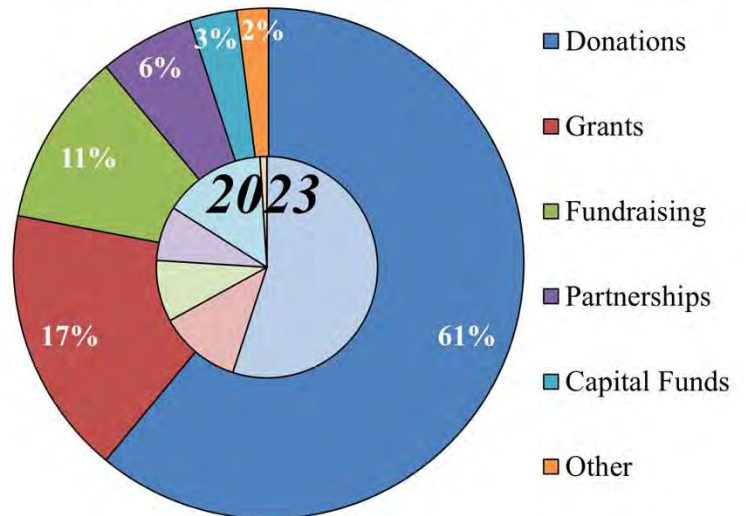
- AMA annual Fill Our Fleet and Shred It Campaigns
- Logic Lumber Dixon Memorial Car Show
- Vane Farm Centre Pancake Breakfast
- Lethbridge Truck Expo
- Davis GMC Buick Free Oil Lube and Filter Event
- Lethbridge Bulls School's Out for Summer
- Lethbridge Hurricanes Teddy & Toque Toss
- And so many more!

FINANCE

Income Breakdown 2024



Financial Breakdown 2024



\$3,708,085.12
*Total Gift in Kind
Donations 2024*

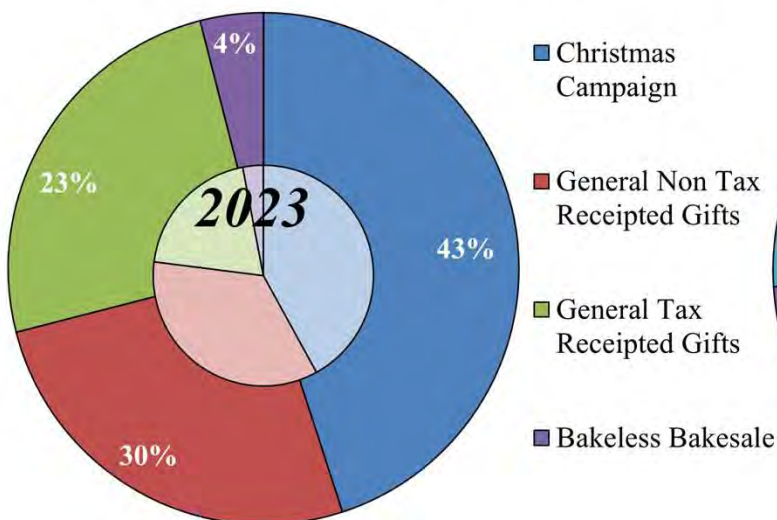
Food
98%
\$3,628,560.31

Non-Food
2%
\$79,524.81

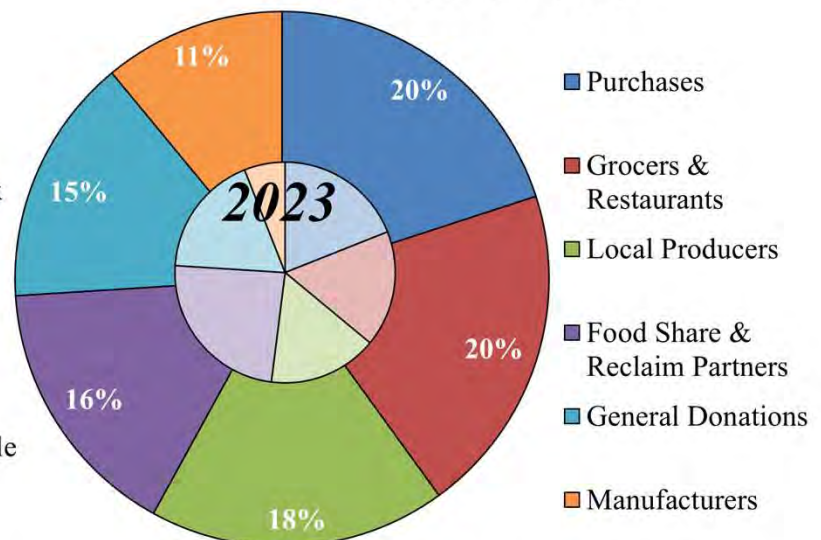
Non-Food Distributed to Clients
71%
\$56,094.09

Non-Food Used for Fundraising
29%
\$23,430.72

Financial Donations 2024



Food Intake 2024

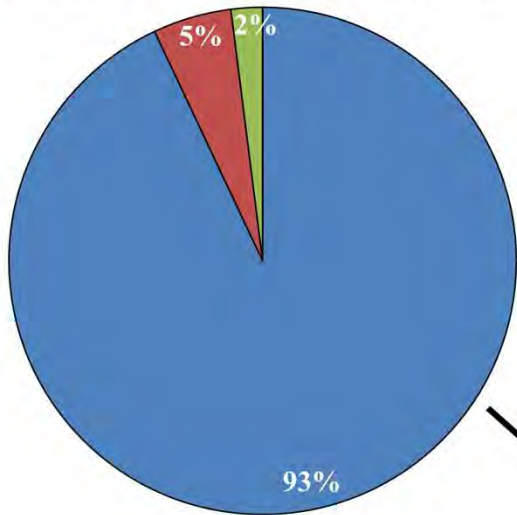


The majority of our support is received In-Kind, primarily in food. The bulk of our finances are received from donations, grants and fundraising initiatives.

FINANCE

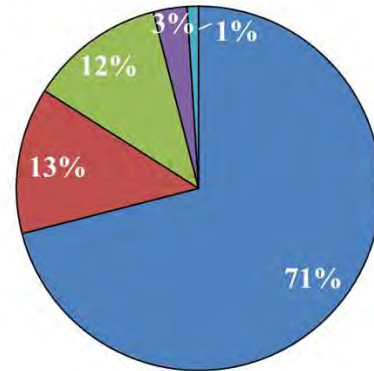
Expense Breakdown 2024

■ Programs ■ Administration ■ Fundraising



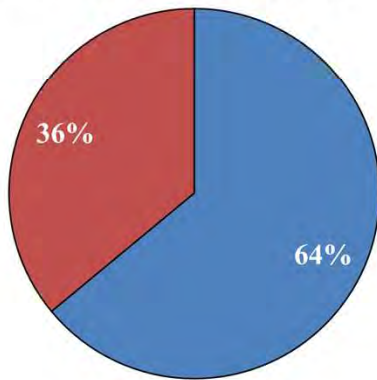
Program Expenses

■ Donated Food & Supplies ■ Purchased Food & Supplies
■ Wages & Benefits ■ Facilities
■ Program Administration



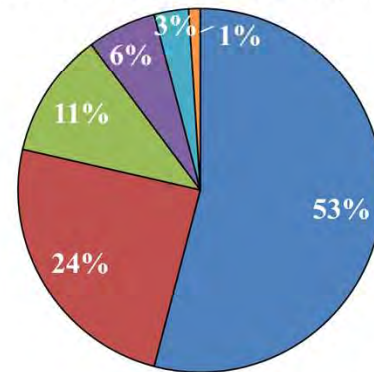
Fundraising Expenses

■ Wages and Benefits ■ Event Costs & Supplies



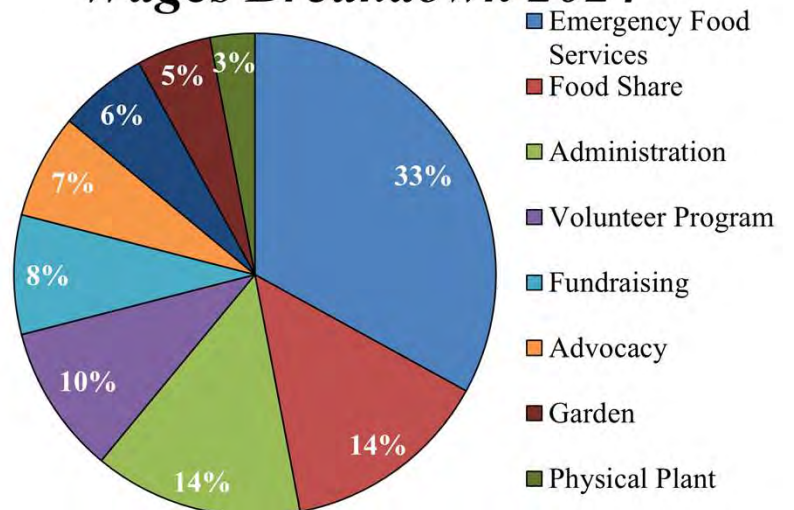
Administration Expenses

■ Wages and Benefits ■ Office and Telephone
■ Insurance ■ Professional Fees
■ Interest and Bank Charges ■ Licenses and Memberships



The majority of our expenses are directly program related and align with our primary activities: food and facility. The paid staff team of 13 employees supervise over 200 volunteers to provide services within our 22,000 ft² facility that includes 2 warehouses, 2 kitchens, 2 gardens, and a small thrift store.

Wages Breakdown 2024



GRANTS AND FUNDERS

We do not receive ongoing funding from any source, but instead are eligible for project specific grants. In 2024, we focused our grant requests on building internal capacity to keep up with demand, and reducing barriers for our clients. The majority of support is received in donations, and fund-raising initiatives hosted by others on our behalf.



Food Banks Canada provided several grants to support our efforts in 2024:

- Standards of Excellence Grants to support our work towards Accreditation
- Capacity Boost Grant (Equipment Purchases and Commercial Freezer)
- Access Grant (Cultural Foods, and assistance in reducing Language and Transportation Barriers)
- 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
- Tax Clinic Outcomes Reporting Grant, supported by KPMG Canada for preparation of tax returns for client families
- Food Banks Alberta provided funds to assist with fresh egg purchases

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.

The Government of Canada provided grant support through the Canada Summer Jobs program to fund 2 summer students, and a Truth and Reconciliation Grant to support Culture Camps and a Community Feast during Reconciliation Week in September.



The Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta provided a Proactive Grant to assist with Emergency Food needs in December, and we supported a Youth In Action Grant recipient with her project to support our Baby Bundle Program.

Community Food Centres Canada in partnership with Medavie provided funding through the New Growth Fund to support our Garden Programs and install commercial trellis for our raspberry patch.



community food centres
CANADA good food is just the beginning



ARCONIC
FOUNDATION

Arconic Foundation supported our Roots for Independence Program by providing funding to support Halal Hampers and include Community Kitchen Programming for Muslim families in addition to additional workstations/cabinets in the Co-op Community Kitchen.

We received a Community Facility Enhancement Program Grant that will support facility renovations in 2025 to improve offices, washrooms and replace bay doors in the North Warehouse.



Red Cross funding supported the conclusion of our Essentials for Essential Workers project through the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund. This project supported our capacity to recruit, retain, engage and support our personnel - both staff and volunteers - to allow us maintain the workforce required to provide quality food security supports to our community.

SPONSORS & MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

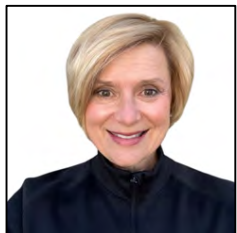


FRIESEN PLASTICS INC

Manufacturer of Flexible Packaging
Signs, Labels & Graphics



2024-2025 Board of Directors



Angela Wilde
President



Susan Burrows-Johnson
Past President



Sandra McGrath
Vice President



Laurie Gibson
Secretary



Keith Greeno
Treasurer



Echo Nowak
Director



Kim Waterfield
Director



Rich Thiessen
Director



Frank Onuh
Director



Brittia Tonin
Director



Blair Roth
Director



INTERFAITH
FOOD BANK
SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

2024 Staff Team



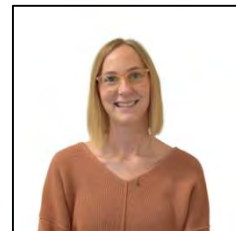
Danielle McIntyre
Executive Director



Neil Heaton
Operations Manager



Gladys Karanja
Client Intake Supervisor



Amy Granger
Fund Development



Bill Selles
Volunteer Coordinator



RJ Westra
Food Access Coordinator



Troy Tollestrup
Warehouse Manager



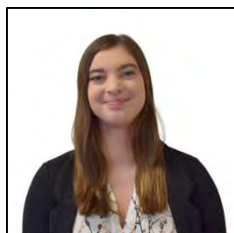
Michelle Parry
Food Share Coordinator



Aaron Fedunec
Driver & Operations



Jessica Gelata
Kitchen Facilitator



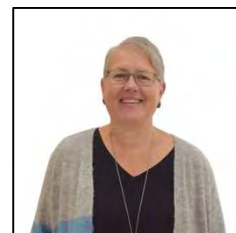
Myla Krippel
Admin & Finance
Assistant



Mariam Ghali
Client Advocacy Coordinator



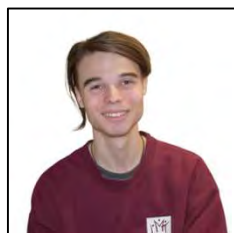
Taylor Doyle
Marketing &
Communications



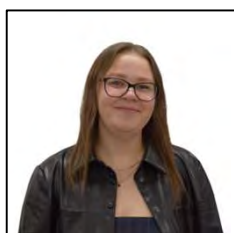
Cindy Friesen
Facility Use Coordinator



Lisa Schalk
Standards of Excellence



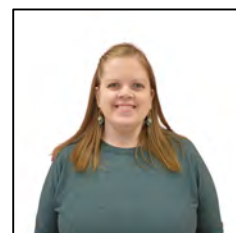
Holden Fafard
Garden Coordinator



Heidi Sommerfeld
Summer Events
Coordinator



Megan Miller
Kitchen Coordinator
(Family Centre)



Jocelyn Hill
Early Childhood Educator
(Family Centre)

Connect with us online:

