



## **Annual Report 2018**

BURLINGTON FOOD BANK  
2018 Burlington Food Bank,  
Annual Report to the  
Community  
March 28, 2019

## Introduction

In 2018 the board of directors and the staff focus was on the client at the Burlington Food Bank. In February we agreed that we would change the client visit frequency from once a month to every 3 weeks. In addition, we expanded the community garden where more fresh produce was grown to give our clients more variety and more volume of product. A new scale was purchased in Q4 last year to allow us to track food coming and going more accurately. We are now able to calculate the quantity of food donated and distributed understanding the true value of what we bring in and distribute. Often donors want to know how much food they collected and the value of the food. Food Banks Canada estimates that each pound of food is valued at \$2.60.

## Grants

The board continued with grant writing in 2018 and was awarded \$1000.00 from the Burlington Foundation. The money was used to purchase Blue Bins for storage and a wheeled food collection bin.

## Clients

Overall visits to the food bank were up 13.4%, in 2018 compared to 2017.

Burlington Food Bank visits	<b>7,578</b>
St. Christopher's Open Doors visits	<b>4,727</b>
Total visits	<b>12,305</b>

## Why the increase with client visits in 2018?

- Increase in living expenses (rent, hydro, gas, etc.) without the same increase in wages.
- Higher minimum wage usually coincided with a few less hours per week.

The Food Bank has become more visible in our community via better connections with other agency partners. Some examples are, Next Door Social Space, Warwick Surrey Our Community Cares, Aldershot HUB.

## Community Outreach

The Burlington Food Bank continues to provide food and financial support to several local partners. Most notably:

- Wellington Square Friday Night Community Dinner
- Open Doors at St. Christophers Tuesday Dinner
- St. Lukes Wednesday Luncheons
- Compass Point Food Pantry
- Glad Tidings Dinners
- St. Mathews Lunch For Seniors
- Reach Out Centre for Kids Burloak
- Our Community Cares (Burloak and Warwick Surrey)

## Our Partners and Supporters

In 2018 our financial position continued to stay strong thanks to the generosity of our community donors and fundraisers;

- The Tim Horton's strong Smile Cookie campaign provided **\$51,689.00** to the Burlington Food Bank

- The Burlington Oldtimers Hockey Club and the Bowser Babes along with the Burlington Oldtimers Slo-Pitch League contributed over **\$27,135.30**
- The Gift of Giving back, our largest food donor, provided us with approximately **10%** of the **601,000** pounds of food and hygiene products they collected during their fall food drive
- Burlington Food Bank hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ride to Provide fundraiser which grossed a total of **\$61,000.00**
- Rotary Burlington Central golf tournament **\$35,000**
- Burlington Concert Band - **\$3500**

We also received significant food and hygienic product support from, Walmart, Loblaws, Michael's, Bob's No Frills and J & G Meats.

The Burlington Food Bank is indebted to these organizations along with a number of local churches, corporate organizations and private individuals who continue to help support the Food Bank by providing us with food and cash donations each year.

## **Our Team**

The Executive Director, the Operations Manager and our many volunteers continue their strong work ethic to assist the Food Bank in feeding the hungry in our community. Their hard work and creative ideas for client improvements are greatly appreciated by the board and the community. Each of these individuals help keep the lights on and their passion doesn't go unnoticed.

In addition to our regular volunteers we have been fortunate over the past year to have received volunteer help from the employees of many corporations and organizations who have given up their time to come into the food bank to help sort and pack food.

## Looking Ahead

In 2019-2020 the board & staff will continue to improve the food security service to our client base. The board is looking at several programs,

- Launching a program to better serve the seniors in our community
  - FIRST – Food Initiative Reaching Seniors Together
- Look at extended hours to accommodate all clients that can't make it to the food bank under the current hours of operation
- Look at running additional fundraisers to help support current and new food programs
- Starting an endowment fund to secure money for the future
- Collaborate to look at bringing food bank services and other social programs under one roof (HUB concept)
- Consider a capital program to purchase and secure space for the future

The Burlington Food Bank continues to improve the customer experience in our community. I want to thank the staff, our many volunteers, the board and all those who have helped our community address hunger in Burlington.

Sincerely,

**Norm Crook**

Chair, Burlington Food Bank

**Mary Gowan**

Vice-Chair, Burlington Food Bank