



# THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION'S ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022





# ABOUT THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION

The Food Bank of York Region (FBYR) is committed to providing hunger-relief to people experiencing severe food insecurity. We are the regional food collection and distribution centre for a network of 80 +/- non-profit agencies, including community food pantries, schools, social services agencies, and community housing cooperatives.

## Why We Do It

Food insecurity is a public health crisis that negatively impacts people's physical, mental, and social health. In the case of children, food insecurity affects children's wellbeing and development—including their ability to learn and perform well at school. Food insecurity has been rising at an alarming rate, due to skyrocketing inflation, the rising cost of food, and the lack of affordable housing for low-income households. (For information on food insecurity in York Region, please read our [2021 York Region Report on Hunger.](#))



## Why Food Insecurity in our Region

Food bank usage in Canada increased by 15% in 2022, the highest increase since the 2008 recession. Growing levels of food insecurity have been traced to:

- The rising costs of food and rent due to skyrocketing inflation and the lack of affordable housing.
- Stagnant provincial social assistance rates for seniors and persons with disabilities dependent on Old Age Security or disability support, struggling with rising costs of living.
- Rates of inflation and rising cost of living have vastly outpaced increases in income, with average disposable income declining by 5.7% for low-income households.

# A Message from our CEO and Board Chair

On behalf of the Food Bank of York Region, we would like to thank the Regional Municipality of York, and every individual, foundation, business, and corporation that supported us in the fight to alleviate food insecurity in York Region in 2022.

In the past year, Feed Ontario reported that Ontario saw the biggest single-year increase in food bank use in a decade. York Region was no exception to this trend, as our Food Bank saw an increase of 25% of people served in 2022. We also expanded our network from 60 to 88 non-profit partners who provide food assistance in their programs.

In 2022, we invested in the launch of an exciting new initiative: our School Food Pantry Program to assist children from low-income families experiencing food insecurity. At the time of this report, we have grown this program to serve 21 schools in the region. We also worked to raise public awareness regarding the rising trend of food insecurity in York Region, both through the media and the publishing of our second annual York Region Report on Hunger.

Our 2022 Annual report highlights the progress that was made—thanks to your generous donations—in addressing food insecurity in 2022, at a time that has posed unique economical challenges for many. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing support!

Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of people facing food insecurity in York Region.

**Alex Bilotta**  
Founder and CEO

**Dr. Reverend Bruno Ierullo**  
Board Chair

## Alex Bilotta Featured in the Top 100 Magazine



The Top 100 Magazine · Follow  
January 26 ·

We are pleased to announce that Alex Bilotta will be featured in the Top 100 Canadian Professionals magazine.

Alex Bilotta has made it his mission to be part of the solution to poverty and hunger in Canada. As founder and CEO of The Food Bank York Region (FBYR), his commitment to fighting food insecurity is highly visible. FBYR is a food distribution hub, collecting and distributing non-perishable, fresh, and frozen foods to nearly 90 agencies, from social services to schools, community housing, homeless and women's shelters, and food pantries throughout York Region. They are the connecting link between surplus healthy food and the non-profit organizations that deliver it to members of the community struggling with food insecurity.

### Our Affiliations



# Our Impact in 2022

Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, our Food Bank has grown its reach year-over-year to provide more food to more non-profit organizations that provide food and meals to the people they serve. Our food distribution continued to grow in 2022, due to the rising costs of food and rent, which have placed enormous pressure on low-income households.

## Average Increase in Reach since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 104.5% Increase in food distributed
- 38% More non-profit organizations served
- 62% More individuals reached
- 44,325 Emergency home deliveries made



## PEOPLE SERVED: 28,452 PEOPLE IN 8,437 HOUSEHOLDS:



ADULTS: 68%

INCREASED 24.8% FROM 2021 TO 2022



CHILDREN: 30%

INCREASED 18.4% FROM 2021 TO 2022



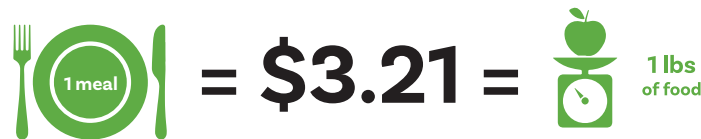
SENIORS: 10%

INCREASED 44.2% FROM 2021 TO 2022

## Food Distributed

**\$6.21 Million worth of food distributed or food for 1.93 million meals\***

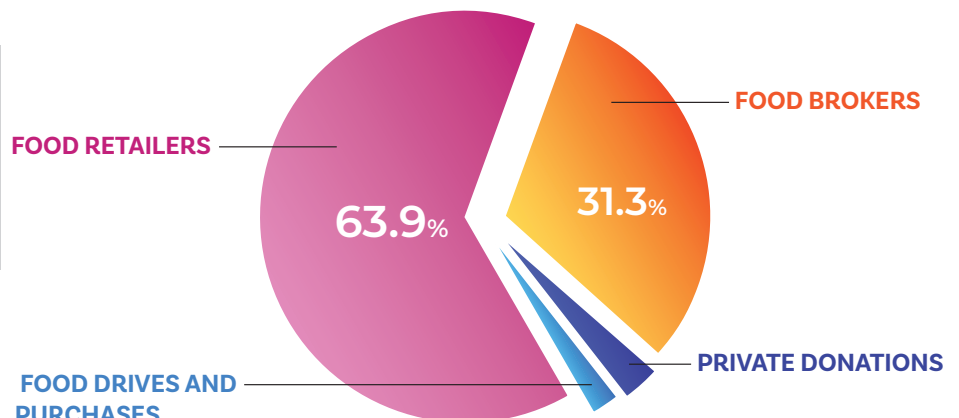
56% of the food distributed in 2022 was fresh or frozen food



(\*Calculated using Food Bank Canada's 2022 Food Valuation Standard)

## Food Sources

A heartfelt thanks to our many generous donors who contributed nearly two million pounds of donated food in 2022!







# Our COVID-19 Home Delivery Program

Our Covid-19 Home Delivery program ran from May 2020 to August 2022, at which time it was retired. This program was highly impactful in bringing food to the doorsteps of people unable to access food programs, including seniors, persons with disabilities, and single-parent households.

A big thank you to everyone who supported this program, including the Regional Municipality of York, United Way, and Food Banks Canada!

## Covid-19 Home Delivery Program 2020 – 2022 Impact

**44,325**

Emergency Home Deliveries

**10,939**

Individuals Served

**35%**

Children Served

**1,610,413**

Meals Delivered



**“I am so grateful for this service as without it, I would go hungry and malnourished,”** explains an anonymous client. **“Being single, 72 years old, living alone and no family, I can’t access a food bank or meal program on my own without great difficulty.”**

— **Newmarket Today, Feb. 14, 2022**

**“As a single mom of four boys, this service has helped my family tremendously. I don’t have to worry about providing healthy meals for my boys and there’s no judgment. I can maintain my confidentiality and not feel embarrassed for having this need for support.”**

— **Home Delivery Recipient**





# NEW: The Food Bank of York Region's School Food Pantry Program

In the latter months of 2022, the Food Bank of York Region launched its School Food Pantry Program to help create and support school food pantry programs in schools in York Region. Our School Food Pantry Program is helping to support vulnerable school-aged children in 21 schools across York Region by providing school-safe, fresh and nutritious food to any student and their family facing food insecurity.

## From our School Food Pantry Program participants:



“Inflation, the increasing number of families relying on low-wage work, and the exorbitant cost of housing in York Region means more families, many who have never experienced food insecurity before, are now relying on help from others. We welcome the support of the FBYSR to establish supports in our schools that contribute to food security for students and families,” said Yvonne Kelly, Community and Partnership Developer with York Region District School Board (YRDSB).—[Markham Review](#)

## Wilclay Public School:

“Our school is a performance plus school and lower socioeconomic status (SES), and we do experience issues of food insecurity for the majority of our students. This program will benefit our students and become a part of our food and nutrition snack program here at Wilclay.”



Wilclay Public School



# Recognition for Our Volunteers

The Food Bank of York Region counts on volunteers to carry out our hunger relief efforts. A special thank you to the 231 amazing volunteers who donated 3,709 hours of their time to join efforts with us to end hunger in York Region and deliver food to our neighbours facing food insecurity! Here are just a few of our wonderful volunteer groups. **Thank you to all our volunteers who make our services possible!**



# Thank you!



## Highlighting our Sponsors and Friends

We are grateful for the many corporations, foundations, organizations and individuals that generously give of their resources, finances, and time to support the Food Bank of York Region's food security programs.

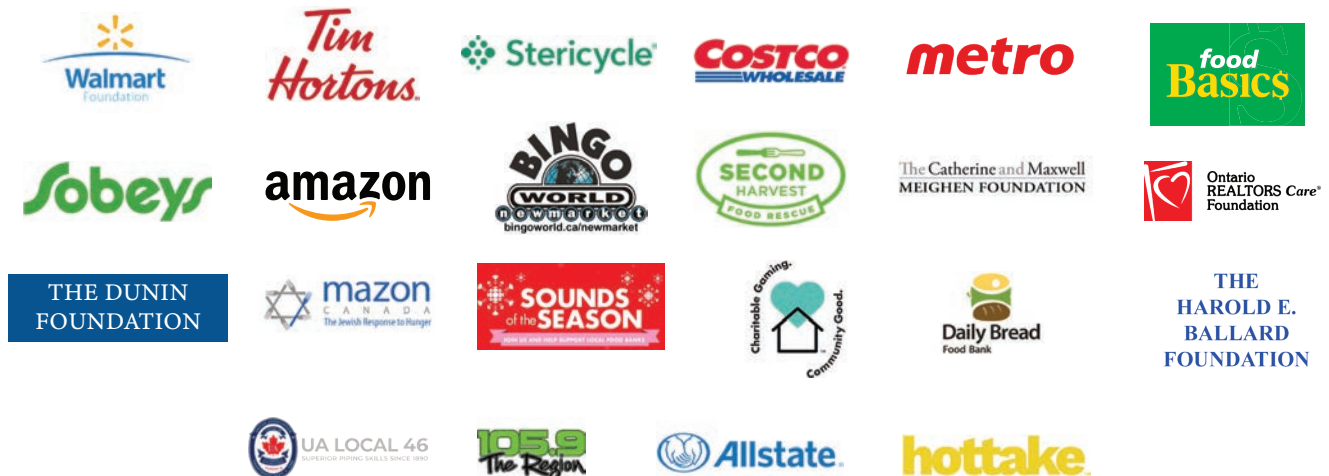
### A Big Thanks to the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign!

Tim Hortons has been raising funds for local charities for over 25 years through the Smile Cookie Campaign. The Food Bank of York Region is extremely appreciative of the Tim Hortons restaurants in Richmond Hill and Vaughn that sponsored us for the 2022 Smile Cookie campaign! Thanks to their support, funds were raised to provide food for nearly 225,000 meals!



### Sponsors and Friends

Thank you for partnering with us to provide food for needy members of our community and to fight food insecurity in York Region!





# Community Food Drive Sponsors

It takes a community to feed a community, and we are grateful to the many local businesses that sponsor food drives on behalf of the Food Bank of York Region! Every donated food item makes it possible for us and our community partners to reach more of our neighbours facing food insecurity.



Thank you, Deco Homes, for your support through your Holiday Food Drive.

Thank you Allstate and all our local business sponsors for your generous donations!

## Local Business Sponsors

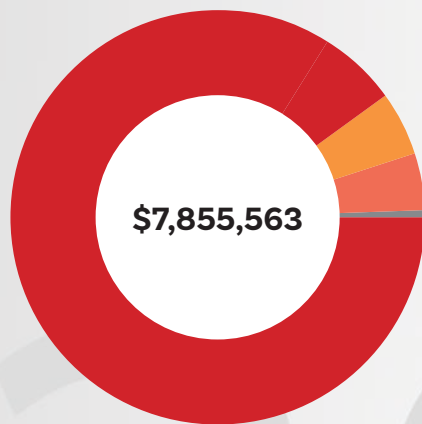
Thanks to local businesses, donors, and all our volunteers, for supporting the Food Bank of York Region and our community partners to feed more people facing food insecurity!

For more information on how you or your company can get involved, visit [fbyr.ca](http://fbyr.ca).



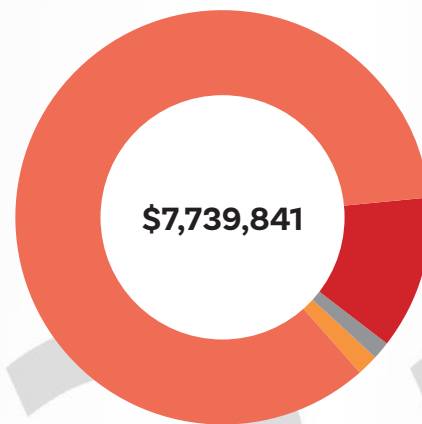
# Financials

REVENUE AND DONATED GOODS:  
TOTAL: \$7,855,563



Donated Food and Goods: **84%**  
Designated Funds & Grants: **7.3%**  
Grants: **7.2%**  
Donations: **1.5%**

EXPENSES AND OUTFLOW OF DONATED GOODS:  
TOTAL: \$7,739,841



Donated Food & Goods Distributed: **85.2%**  
Food Program Costs: **10.2%**  
Administration: **3.1%**  
Fund Development: **1.5%**

To view the complete financial statement and our auditor's report, visit: [fbyr.ca/annual-reports](https://fbyr.ca/annual-reports)

Our generous donors provided \$566,964 of monetary donations in 2022 to ensure that members of our community struggling to put food on the table would have enough to eat.

Thank you for your generous giving! Every dollar you give translates into five dollars worth of food delivered to those who need it most.

## What We Can Do With Your Help



**6.2 MILLION**

Dollars of Food  
Rescued and Distributed



**56 %**

Fresh and Frozen  
Produce



**28,452**

People receiving  
food assistance



# Our Community Partners

In 2022, we proudly supported a network of 88 community partners that provide food services to vulnerable and at-risk residents of York Region:

## Community Food Pantries (14)

105 Gibson Centre, Markham  
Apple Creek 7th Day Adventist Church—Markham  
Aurora Food Pantry  
Chippewas of Georgina Island Food Bank  
Georgina Community Food Pantry  
Holland Landing Food Pantry  
Humanity First Food Bank  
Markham Food Bank  
Master's Pantry Food Bank (Unionville Alliance Church)  
Mount Albert Food Bank  
Newmarket Food Pantry  
Northridge Community Church Food Pantry  
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank  
St. Stephen's Anglican Church—Maple

## Food Closets (10)

CAYR Community Connections  
Communion Keystone Chapel—Vaughan  
Hope for Today Fellowship—Keswick  
Jewish Russian Speaking Community of Ontario  
John Howard Society—Newmarket  
Maple Hill Baptist Church—Keswick  
New Hope Methodist Church—Newmarket  
Parya Trillium Foundation—Markham  
Seneca College (King Campus)  
United In Christ

## Community Meals (3)

Crossland's Church  
St. Andrew's Church—Sutton  
The Gathering Place—Sutton

## Outreach Services (2)

The Loft Street Outreach Van  
Welcoming Arms

## Substance Abuse Programs (2)

Cornerstone to Recovery—Kettleby Ranch  
Teen Challenge

## Schools (Pantry & Food Programs) (21)

Alexander Mackenzie High School—Richmond Hill  
Armadale Public School—Markham  
Bayview Secondary School—Richmond Hill  
Bill Hogarth Secondary School—Markham  
Dennison Secondary School—Georgina  
Ellen Fairclough Public School—Markham  
Glad Park Public School—Stouffville  
J.L.R. Bell Public School—Newmarket  
Jersey Public School—Keswick  
Keswick High School—Keswick  
Maple Leaf Public School—Newmarket  
Markham Gateway School—Markham  
Milliken Mills Secondary School—Markham

Rosedale Heights Public School—Thornhill  
Stouffville District Secondary School—Stouffville  
Sutton District High School—Sutton  
Thornlea Secondary School—Thornhill  
Unionville High School—Markham  
Wendat Village Public School—Stouffville  
Wilclay Public School—Markham  
Wismer Public School—Markham

## Homeless Shelters (4)

Blue Door Shelters  
Home on the Hill  
Inn from the Cold  
Out of the Cold—St. Mary's Anglican Church

## Women's Shelters & Services (2)

Belinda's Place  
Rose of Sharon

## Youth & Transitional Housing (2)

360° Kids Hub—Richmond Hill  
Sutton Youth Shelter

## Social Housing (25)

Alison Court—Newmarket  
Bogart Creek Co-op—Newmarket  
Calvary House—Markham  
Carpenters Local 27 Housing Co-operative—Newmarket  
Charles Darrow Housing Co-operative Inc.—Aurora  
Crescent Village—Richmond Hill  
Crown Heights Co-op—Thornhill  
Eamon Park Co-op—Concord  
Friuli Benevolent Corporation  
Genesis Place—Richmond Hill  
Hagerman's Corners—Markham  
Hamilton Place—Newmarket  
Hesperus Village—Vaughan  
Jackson's Point Co-operative  
Keswick Community Homes Co-operative—Keswick  
Lakeside Residences—Keswick  
Landsberg/Lewis Co-op—Richmond Hill  
Legion 414 Village—Woodbridge  
Mulock Village—Newmarket  
Newmarket Co-operative  
Northview Court 1—Georgina  
Parkview Village Seniors Homes—Stouffville  
Royal Oak Court Manor—Mount Albert  
Spring Brook Gardens Co-op—Richmond Hill  
William Lyon Mackenzie Co-operative—Thornhill

## Animal Shelters (3)

OSPCA Cat Feral Program  
Rescue Angels  
Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us fight food insecurity in York Region and rescue surplus food. You can help by:

## Donating

Make a one-time or monthly financial contribution at [fbyr.ca/donate](https://fbyr.ca/donate)

## Sponsoring

Host a corporate event, food drive, or matching program. [fbyr.ca/get-involved](https://fbyr.ca/get-involved)

## Volunteering

Our work would not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time. [fbyr.ca/volunteer](https://fbyr.ca/volunteer)



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The Food Bank of York Region is a registered charity  
(Charitable Registration B/N: 849539473RR0001)