



# THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION'S ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2024



# ABOUT THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION

The Food Bank of York Region (FBYR) is committed to providing food relief to people experiencing severe food insecurity. Our Food Bank serves as the regional food collection and distribution centre for a network of 70+/- non-profit agencies, including municipal food banks, community food pantries, schools, social services agencies, and social housing food pantries.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to alleviate severe food insecurity in York Region by providing a central hub to distribute healthy surplus food to non-profit organizations that provide food services to at-risk residents.

## What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity has been broadly defined as the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. In Canada, food insecurity is measured on a spectrum ranging from concerns about running out of food, lacking money to purchase sufficient or quality food, to having to reduce food intake or skip meals.

## The Rise in Food Insecurity

Food insecurity continued to rise in 2024, an ongoing trend Canada-wide since 2021. Ontario has experienced the highest increase in food bank usage in Canada from 2021 - 2024. In 2024, the number of people accessing food banks in Ontario grew by 25 percent ([Feed Ontario 2024 Hunger Report](#)).

Low-income households in York Region continue to struggle with the effects of rising costs for rent and groceries and overall inflation. An increasing number of food bank visitors in 2024 were employed but still couldn't make ends meet.

At the Food Bank of York Region, we are working hard to bridge the food insecurity gap in our region by ensuring that members of our community have access to nutritious food.



# A Message from our CEO

The Food Bank of York Region had another impactful year in 2024, as our food assistance program continued to grow to serve more people in our community facing severe food insecurity and financial challenges. This year's report provides highlights of the services delivered and the community organizations we partnered with to ensure that surplus food makes its way to the homes of people struggling to put food on the table.

The Food Bank of York Region was founded in 2013 and is a newcomer in comparison to other regional food distribution centers in the GTA. Since our small beginnings 12 years ago, we have grown to serve 70+/- local food banks, food pantries and food programs across York Region, serving people in nearly 14,000 households in 2024.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of each and every donor that makes our food assistance program possible, including members of the community, local businesses, corporate sponsors and charitable organizations. Thanks to the support of food retailers, food brokers, farmers and local food drives we were able to collect and redistribute over \$9 million worth of food in 2024. Our services would not have been possible without the 700+ volunteers who gave of their time throughout the year.

We're incredibly grateful to our community for your support and generosity as we work together to ensure that no one in York Region experiences hunger or has to skip meals. Your support makes it possible for the Food Bank of York Region to continue to work to ensure that every person in our region has access to sufficient and nutritious food—a basic human right.



**Alex Bilotta**  
*Founder and CEO*

## Our Affiliations



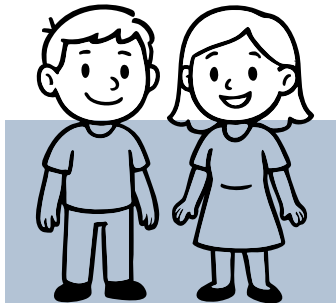
# Our Impact in 2024

Thanks to the generosity of our community, over 37,000 people in York Region and the surrounding area had access to food when they needed it.

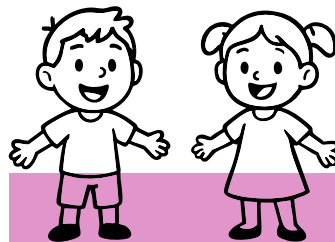
## OUR REACH IN 2024

- 244,939 total visits to our network for food assistance
- Nearly 14% increase in people served
- 21% more households served

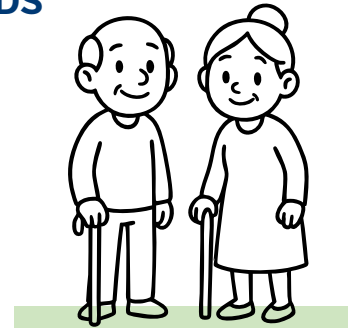
## PEOPLE SERVED 37,111 PEOPLE IN 13,802 HOUSEHOLDS



ADULTS: 60.9%



CHILDREN: 29.7%

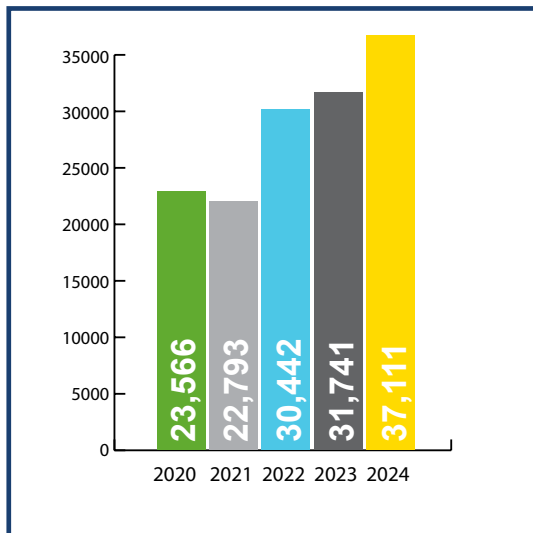


SENIORS: 9.4%

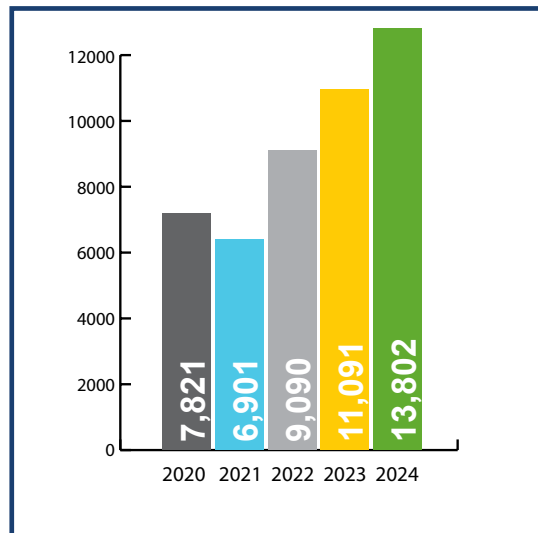
## Growth in services

Since 2020, the Food Bank of York Region has grown its services year-over-year to serve 57% more food-insecure individuals and 76% more households.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED 2020-2024



NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED 2020-2024



# Food Distribution in 2024

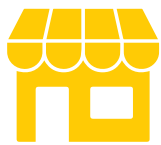
Our Food Bank is committed to the rescue of surplus food and its redistribution to our network of food assistance providers.

## In 2024:

- **\$9.9 Million worth of food distributed**
- **60%** of the food distributed in 2024 was fresh or frozen food
- For every **\$1 dollar donation**, our Food Bank distributed over **\$5 worth of food**

## Food Sources

Thanks to the support of many generous donors, our Food Bank collected and delivered over two million pounds of donated food in 2024!



49.9 %

Food Retailers



48.4 %

Food Brokers



1.7 %

Food Drives and Purchases

## Sponsors and Friends



The Catherine and Maxwell  
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



# Community Partners Highlights



**Home on the Hill** works with people with mental illness and their families, providing online and in-person family support, education, resources, recreation therapy, housing and food support.

“The Food Bank of York Region’s donations allow us cost savings which enable us to keep our doors open to help people struggling with mental illness in Richmond Hill and its surrounding areas of York Region. This provides a sense of security to our residents knowing that there will be food. Having food support alleviates the pressure to provide for our vulnerable sector.”—*Home on the Hill*



**Helping Hands Food Pantry** is operated out of the Maple Hill Baptist Church in Keswick, and they also partner with other churches in their community to feed residents in need. They serve as many as 40 families per food pantry (80 per month).

“Our clients have shared the financial difficulties that they are having with rising prices for the cost of living, and how it can be a challenge to afford groceries. We are grateful for the food deliveries and donations provided by The Food Bank of York Region. You are helping us to be able to serve people in need in our community of Georgina.”—*Helping Hands Food Pantry*

**William Lyon MacKenzie Housing Co-Operative** is home to many seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities, and the support from the Food Bank of York Region ensures that residents have access to fresh, nutritious food, easing the financial burden and providing a sense of security during difficult times.

“For many of our seniors, the food bank’s support means they don’t have to choose between paying for necessities like gas and electricity or putting food on the table. Families with young children can provide healthy meals without constant worry, and those with disabilities receive the nourishment they need to maintain their well-being.



“Beyond just providing food, The Food Bank of York Region fosters a sense of community and care. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.”—*Irene Alexander, President, William Lyon MacKenzie Housing Co-Operative*

“I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to The Food Bank of York Region and Student Nutrition Ontario for their thoughtful and generous donation to our family. Your help goes a really long way, especially with our family of five!”—*Kelly and family*

# Our Partners and Friends

Our food assistance program in York Region is made possible by the generosity of many individuals, corporations, and foundations. We are grateful to each of our partners and friends for their generous support in 2024!



## Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign

Tim Hortons has been raising funds for local charities for over 25 years through the Smile Cookie Campaign. We are extremely grateful for all the Tim Hortons restaurants in Vaughan, Woodbridge, Richmond Hill, Maple, Thornhill, and Concord that sponsored us for the 2024 campaign! Thanks to their support, we were able to serve more people struggling with food insecurity in our community.

## Walmart Fight Hunger. Spark Change Campaign

Every year, Walmart hosts its annual Fight Hunger. Spark Change Campaign in support of food banks such as The Food Bank of York Region. Thank you, Walmart, for your generous support which makes it possible for us to serve more people in need!



## Bingo World and Gaming Newmarket

Every year, Walmart hosts its annual Fight Hunger. Spark Change Campaign in support of food banks such as The Food Bank of York Region. Thank you, Walmart, for your generous support which makes it possible for us to distribute more food to more people in need in York Region!



# Recognition for Our Volunteers

Without the amazing volunteers that give of their time, the services the Food Bank of York Region provides would simply not be possible! We are very grateful to every individual and every corporate volunteer group who generously donated their time to fight food insecurity in York Region.



Total Volunteers in 2024: **724**

Total Volunteer Sessions: **2,527**

Total Volunteer Hours Served: **6,912 hours**

Increase in Volunteers: **46% more volunteers in 2024!**



Ozery Bakery



Omnivex Group



Planview



# Food Drives

Many concerned members of our community—including individuals, businesses, corporations, healthcare providers, schools and sports teams—make our services possible through food drives. We are very grateful for the people who collect food to help those who need it the most!



**Shiyane:** Shiyane raised 525 pounds of food by requesting that her friends and family gift her non-perishable food items for her birthday. Thank you Shiyane!



**“I had the pleasure of volunteering at the Food Bank of York Region, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience. The entire operation is well-organized and runs smoothly thanks to the amazing team. I highly recommend getting involved with this food bank—it’s a great place to make a positive impact!”— Andrew**



## Our Community Food Assistance Partners

The Food Bank of York Region supported a network of 78 community partners in 2024 that provide vital food services to low-income and at-risk residents of York Region experiencing food insecurity.

### Food Pantries & Meal Providers (49)

- Community Food Pantries (14)
- Food Closets (9)
- School Food Pantries (21)
- Community Meals & Outreach Services (2)
- First Nations Food Banks (3)

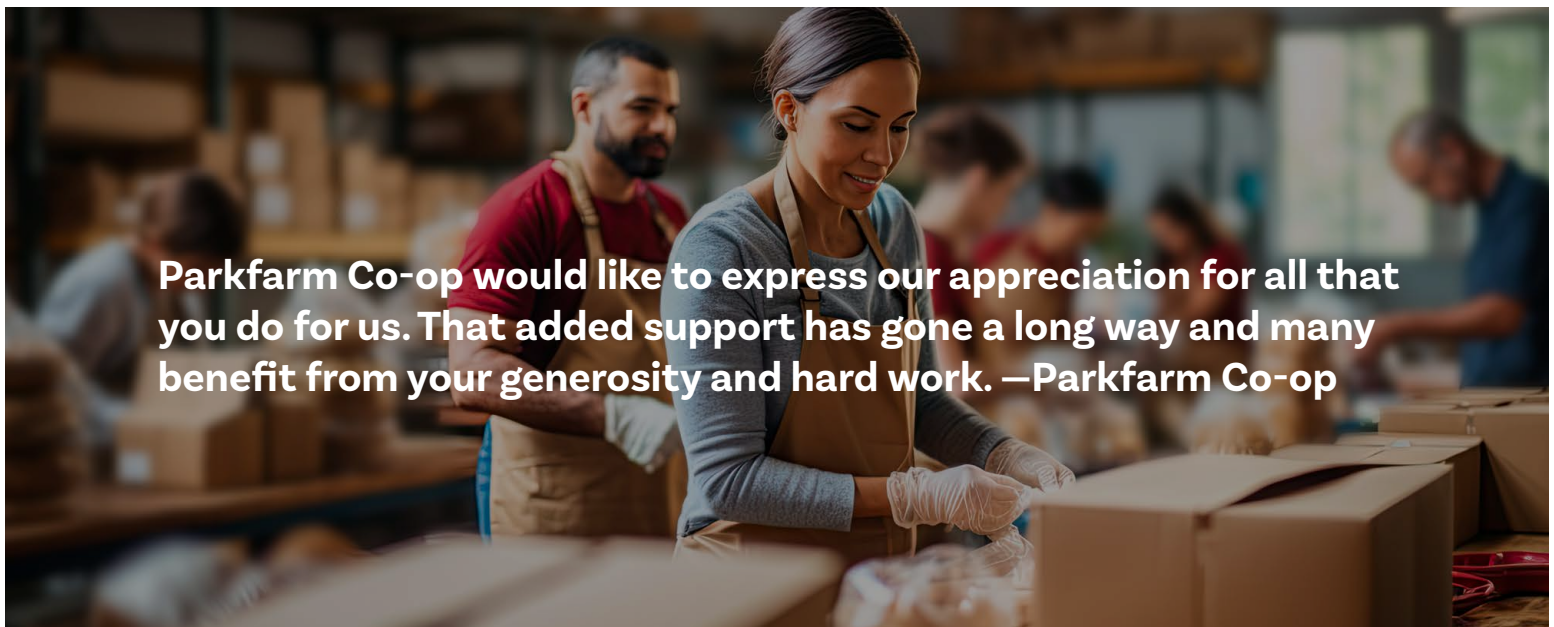
### Emergency Programs (7)

- Shelters for the Unhoused (3)
- Women's Shelters (2)
- Substance Abuse Programs (2)

### Housing Programs (22)

- Youth & Transitional Housing (1)
- Social Housing (21)

To see the full list of our network of community food providers, please visit [fbyr.ca/community-partners](https://fbyr.ca/community-partners)



**Parkfarm Co-op would like to express our appreciation for all that you do for us. That added support has gone a long way and many benefit from your generosity and hard work. —Parkfarm Co-op**

# Our Financials

The Food Bank of York Region does not receive any federal, provincial or municipal funding. We are grateful to all our generous donors and sponsors whose donations make it possible for us and our community partners to provide healthy food to our neighbours in need in York Region.

## Donations & Income:

Donated Food and Goods	88.1%
Designated Funds & Grants	3.1%
Monetary Donations	7.1%
Other Revenue	1.7%

**Total Donations & Income:** \$ 11,245,156

## Expenses & Outflow of Goods

Donated Food & Goods Distributed	88.6%
Food Program Costs	8.4%
Administration	1.8%
Fund Development	1.2%

**Total Expenses & Outflow of Goods:** \$11,182,063

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



## Your Donations at Work



**9.9 MILLION**

Dollars of food rescued and distributed



**OVER 60%**

Fresh and frozen produce distributed



**37,111+**

People receiving food assistance



# How You Can Help

Partner with us to fight food insecurity in York Region.  
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)