



THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION'S **ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025**



ABOUT THE FOOD BANK OF YORK REGION

The Food Bank of York Region (FBYR) is committed to providing food relief to people experiencing 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.

Our Mission

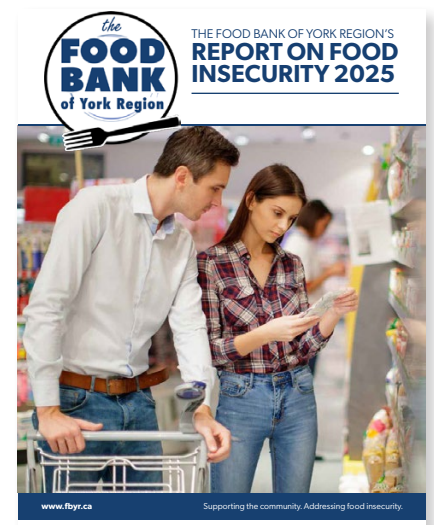
Our mission is to address food insecurity in York Region by providing a central hub to distribute healthy surplus food to non-profit organizations that provide food services to at-risk residents. We are also active in advocating for public policy to address underlying causes of food insecurity and to raise awareness of this critical issue.

Food Insecurity in York Region

A review of the past five years in York Region reveals disturbing trends of growth in poverty, food insecurity and homelessness. A [2025 York Region Community and Health Services report](#) found that over 230,000 residents of York Region were living below the poverty line, representing 18.4% of the population.

The number of people accessing food banks has increased in York Region by an alarming 57% over the past five years. Low-income households in York Region continued to struggle in 2025 with the effects of skyrocketing inflation—the rising cost of rent and groceries, and the lack of affordable housing. (For more information, see [FBYR's 2025 Report on Food Insecurity in York Region](#).)

At the Food Bank of York Region, we are working hard to provide food relief to people in our region experiencing food insecurity, to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient nutritious food.



Our Affiliations



A Message from our CEO and Board Chair

Food insecurity continued to affect over a million people in Ontario in 2025—including tens of thousands of people in York Region who visited food banks throughout the year. Hunger hurts, and people struggling to put sufficient food on the table need the support of their local community to make ends meet.



In 2025, our community stepped up to the plate in big ways to support our efforts to fight food insecurity and to work to ensure that every person in our region had access to sufficient food. Throughout the year, numerous individuals, corporations, retailers and foundations partnered with us in our shared mission.

We are grateful to every member of our community and every organization that makes our food assistance program happen through their generous giving. There are the hundreds of volunteers who gave of their time throughout the year. And the food retailers, food brokers, farmers and local food drives that provide the food that we collected and redistributed to over 70 community partners in 2025. Our community partners, including municipal food banks, community food pantries, and school food programs, shelters, and social housing, provide direct food assistance to our community.

We're incredibly grateful to our community for your support and generosity as we work together to ensure that no one in York Region has to skip meals. Together we are working to build a stronger York Region and a more food-secure community.

Alex Bilotta
Founder and CEO

Sandra Zoratti
Board President

Alex Bilotta Awarded King Charles III Coronation Medal



In May 2025, Alex Bilotta, was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for The Food Bank of York Region's exceptional contributions to fighting food insecurity. The King Charles III Coronation Medal is a commemorative honour granted in recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

A big thank you to Feed Ontario and Food Banks Canada for their nomination, as well as FBYP's board of directors, staff, and volunteers who make FBYP's work possible.

Partnering for Impact

Our strategy for alleviating food insecurity is to collect, warehouse, and deliver surplus food to community organizations that provide food services to the local community in York Region. Since the founding of the Food Bank of York Region in 2013, we have built a growing network of municipal food banks and local food pantries, social housing, schools, shelters, and other non-profit organizations serving at-risk residents. This partnership strategy has proven to be effective, in that it allows local agencies to focus on their primary services without having to divert scarce resources to sourcing food.

Our Network

We are grateful for the work of each of our community partners and their staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to provide food to members of their communities.

Community Partners

- **70+/- partners served**
- **24 Community Food Banks, Pantries & Closets**
- **9 Shelters & Substance Abuse Programs**
- **13 School Food Pantries**
- **22 Social Housing Food Pantries**

Community Food Banks & Pantries

105 Gibson Centre - Markham
Apple Creek 7th Day Adventist Church
Aurora Food Pantry
Chasdei Kaduri Jewish Food Bank - Concord
Georgina Community Food Pantry
Holland Landing Food Pantry
Humanity First Food Bank
King Township 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 - Aurora
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank

Food Closets

CAYR Community Connections
Community Keystone Chapel
Compassion Huddlers
Helping Hands Food Pantry - Maple Hill Church
Hope for Today Fellowship - Keswick
Jewish Russian Speaking Community of Ontario
New Hope Free Methodist Church
Parya Trillium Foundation
United in Christ
The Gathering Place - Sutton

Social Housing

Bogart Creek Coop
Carpenters Local 27 Housing Coop
Centre Green Coop
Charles Darrow Housing Co-operative Inc. - Aurora
Crescent Village - Richmond Hill
Crown Heights Co-op - Thornhill
Eamon Park Co-op - Concord
Genesis Place - Richmond Hill
Hagerman's Corners Coop
Hamilton Place - Newmarket
Jackson's Point Co-operative
John Fitzpatrick Steelworkers Housing
Keswick Community Homes Co-operative
Lakeside Residences
Landsberg/Lewis Co-op - Richmond Hill
Legion 414 Village
Newmarket Co-operative
Northview Court
Parkfarm Coop
Royal Oak Court Manor - Mount Albert
Spring Brook Gardens Co-op - Richmond Hill
William Lyon Mackenzie Co-operative - Thornhill

Substance Abuse Programs

Cornerstone to Recovery - Kettleby Ranch
Home on the Hill
Teen Challenge

Schools

Armadale Public School - Markham
Ashton Meadows Public School - Markham
Bayview Secondary School-Richmond Hill
Crosby Heights Public School - Markham
Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School - Georgina
Ellen Fairclough Public School - Markham
HG Bernard Public School - Richmond Hill
High Gate Public School - Markham
Huron Heights Secondary School - Newmarket
Keswick High School (2 sites) - Keswick
Markham Gateway School - Markham
Ramer Woods Public School - Markham
Thornlea Secondary School - Thornhill

Shelters

Belinda's Place
Blue Door Shelters
Home on the Hill
Inn from the Cold
Rose of Sharon
Sutton Youth Shelter

Our Services

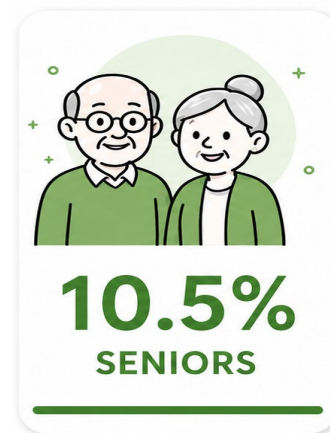
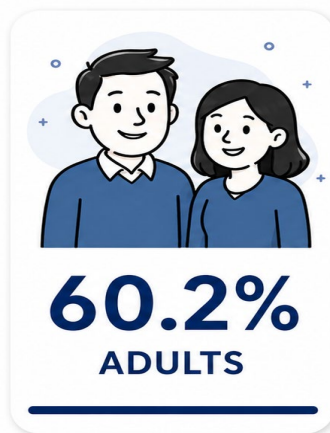
Our Impact in 2025

Thanks to the deep generosity of every donor and volunteer—including members of the community, local businesses, corporate sponsors and charitable organizations—our Food Bank was able to provide food assistance to the people who needed it most.

OUR REACH IN 2025

- 234,090 Visits to our network for food assistance
- 34,829 People Served
- 11,709 Households Served
- 3 First Nations communities Served

AGE DEMOGRAPHICS PEOPLE SERVED BY AGE GROUP



“Behind every food bank visit is a story. A parent skipping meals so their kids can eat. A senior choosing between medication and groceries. A worker juggling multiple jobs and still coming up short at the end of the month. These are not outliers.” — Food Banks Canada

Food Distribution in 2025

The rescue and redistribution of nutritious food to support at-risk members of the community provides an immediate solution to food insecurity. Our food program ensures that more food ends up on more tables, while decreasing avoidable food waste.

In 2025:

- **\$7+ million worth of food distributed**
- **57% of the food distributed in 2025 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 received nearly two million pounds of donated food in 2025!



Our Partners and Friends

It takes a community to ensure that every person in York Region has access to food security. We are very grateful for the corporations, foundations, and organizations that generously gave their resources, finances, and time to support our food assistance programs in 2025!

Tim Hortons 2025 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 2025 campaign! Thanks to your sponsorship and the community's participation, over \$177,100 was raised for our food assistance program!

In 2025, The Smile Cookie campaign raised \$22.6 million to support over 600 local charities and community groups. Thank you Tim Hortons for your amazing generosity, and for helping the Food Bank of York Region to put more food on more tables!



Walmart 2025 Fight Hunger. Spark Change Campaign

Walmart Canada's annual Fight Hunger. Spark Change Campaign has been raising funds in support of The Food Bank of York Region since 2018. The campaign raised a total of \$3 million in 2025 for food banks across the country. Thank you, Walmart, for your generous support of our Food Bank as together we work to fight food insecurity in York Region!



A Big Thank You to Ontario Trillium Foundation!

The Food Bank of York Region received a generous grant from The Ontario Trillium Foundation to purchase a new truck for our food program services. This 26-foot refrigerated truck will replace an old fleet truck and allow us to deliver refrigerated fresh and frozen food to our community partners.

MPP Laura Smith joined us to inaugurate our new truck and draw attention to the Food Bank of York Region’s mission to fight food insecurity!



Laura Smith

is with The Food Bank of York Region.

Follow

January 23, 2025 · 🌐

Hello #Thornhill! I had the opportunity to visit the Food Bank of York Region (FBYR) and see firsthand the impact of a \$150,000 Capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

This funding helped purchase a new refrigerated truck, which will enhance FBYR’s ability to distribute fresh, perishable food across the region.

Congratulations to FBYR for their continued work in fighting food insecurity and thank you to all those who make a difference in our communities.

Learn more here: <https://laurasmithmpp.ca/the-food-bank-of-york-region.../>



Sponsors and Friends















































Community Partner Highlight

The Food Bank of York Region pioneered the unique approach of assisting community housing cooperatives in setting up in-house food pantries to provide food for residents struggling to provide sufficient food for their family. For the past 10+ years, FBRY has provided food for many community housing cooperatives in the region.

Jacksons Point Cooperative Homes

“I want to take a moment to express just how much of a difference the food pantry at Jacksons Point Co-operative Homes has made for our community. For many residents here, including myself, making ends meet is an ongoing challenge—especially with the rising cost of living. The food pantry has become a lifeline for families, seniors, and individuals facing financial strain.

As a full-time student, with my household currently relying on a single income, the support from the food pantry has been invaluable. It has helped us stretch our budget and ease some of the stress that comes with choosing between essentials like food, bills, and school expenses. This resource allows us to focus on building a better future, knowing that our basic needs are supported.

The response from the community to FBRY’s efforts at this location has been overwhelmingly positive. We are truly grateful for the compassion and care shown, and we hope to see this support continue—and even expand—as the need remains great.”— *Christine*



“The company I work for has partnered with the Food Bank of York Region this year. The FBRY team is amazing and incredibly accommodating. They’re helpful and super-friendly whenever we’ve been on site packing and sorting donations. I’d highly recommend the FBRY. SO worth it knowing that our efforts are helping the community.” – Vanessa

Recognition for Our Volunteers

The services the Food Bank of York Region provides are made possible by the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time and resources to support our mission! We are very grateful to every individual and every corporate volunteer group who partnered with us to provide food to members of our community in need!

Total Volunteers: 902

Total Volunteer Hours Served: 5,552 hours

Increase in Volunteers: 25% more volunteers in 2025!



EmployABILITY Award

We were honoured to receive recognition from the York Region Catholic School District for supporting their Pathways to EmployABILITY Program.

Students gain experience and skills volunteering at our warehouse, and we have the privilege of seeing them grow through hands-on learning!



Food Drives

Hosting a food drive is a great way to make a difference in our community while raising awareness about food insecurity in our region. We are grateful to the many members of our community—individuals, businesses, corporations, healthcare providers, and sports teams—who collected food to help those who need it the most!



“Volunteering at the food bank was a truly meaningful experience. I joined to give back and help those in need, and I left feeling grateful and inspired. The team was welcoming, the work was impactful, and it reminded me how even small actions can make a big difference. Highly recommend it to anyone looking to support their community.” - RAK



NEW: Pet Food Security Program

When pet owners face food insecurity, they can struggle to feed their pets too. This often leads them to sacrifice their own needs to feed their pets or to provide less nutritious food. Pet food insecurity is a hidden—and growing—issue.

The Food Bank of York Region is partnering with [PetSmart Charities of Canada](#) and [Feed Ontario](#) to respond to pet hunger with the delivery of pet food right alongside food for their people. Pet food security is critical for the health and well-being of pets.

We also serve several animal shelters in our area, providing pet food, including:

OSPCA Cat Feral Program
Rescue Angels
Shades of Hope



In observance of Pet Hunger Awareness Day, PetSmart Charities of Canada donated \$100,000 to the Food Bank of York Region (FBYR)... “Pets are really significant in helping people deal with loneliness and isolation, which we see quite a bit in food bank clients,” Ashton-Smith said. “This [donation] will certainly have an impact in helping them to keep pets at home, and make sure that they’re fed and healthy. That’s huge.”— [YorkRegion.com](#)

Our Financials

We are grateful to all our generous donors and sponsors whose ongoing support, grants, and donations make it possible for us and our community partners to address food insecurity in York Region.

Donations & Income:

Donated Food and Goods	82.2%
Monetary Donations	12.4%
Designated Funds	2.8%
Other Revenue	2.6%

Total Donations & Income: **\$ 8,516,672**

Expenses & Outflow of Goods

Donated Food & Goods Distributed	84.6%
Food Program Costs	12.1%
Administration	2.1%
Fund Development	1.2%

Total Expenses & Outflow of Goods: **\$8,277,995**

To view the complete financial statement and our auditor’s report, visit: fbyr.ca/annual-reports



JOIN OUR EFFORTS



Volunteer



**Host a Food
or Fund Drive**



Donate



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

Sponsoring

Host a corporate event, food drive, or matching program.
fbyr.ca/get-involved

Volunteering

Our work would not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time.
fbyr.ca/volunteer



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