



Ottawa Food Bank

SPRING 2024

# You Feed the Need

## TOGETHER, WE ARE SO MUCH STRONGER

**Working together for 40 years.**

Serving Ottawa since 1984.

### A note from Rachael

Dear caring neighbours,

As I look back on everything you've helped us achieve this year, despite facing tremendous challenges, I am beyond grateful. No matter how you choose to support the Ottawa Food Bank, you are helping people who face hunger in our communities.



I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. It shows a few of the many ways your gift makes a difference.

Although the need has drastically increased, I also feel hopeful as we enter this 40th year of food banking in Ottawa. Together, we are on the path to ending food insecurity in Ottawa. I hope you will continue to support this wonderful network and our work to ensure everyone can thrive in our city.

With sincere thanks,

Rachael Wilson  
CEO  
Ottawa Food Bank

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

A look back over the past 40 years

Partner spotlight: Centertown Community Food Centre

An update on your gifts in action



# Your gifts in action



25 after school  
programs provided  
healthy snacks to  
2,000 children



140,201 pounds of  
fresh fruits and veggies  
distributed from our  
own crops!



Cold storage increased  
by 300% at our new  
home on Bantree Street



1,034,750 pounds of  
protein distributed to  
our community



50% of distributed  
food is fresh, like fruit,  
eggs, and milk

## COVER STORY



Doors Open Ottawa 2023

## Thank you! 40 years of fresh, healthy food for people across Ottawa

The Ottawa Food Bank has been serving our community since 1984. Thanks to the amazing support of friends like you, we have been providing nutritious, fresh food to people facing hunger in our community for 40 years. Although this year marks our 40th year of serving our community, we don't view this as something to celebrate.

That's because our community is facing the highest level of need in its history.



Did you know that the Ottawa Food Bank was created in 1984 as "temporary measure" to address local food security issues at the time? And yet, annually, the Ottawa Food Bank network of 112 food programs

sees **over 490,000 visits for food support. That is the highest level of visits in the Ottawa Food Bank's 40-year history**, and a 68% jump since 2019! Currently, in Ottawa, 1 in 7 community members face food insecurity.

**We are so grateful you've been there beside us – giving what you can to ensure there's fresh, healthy food available to meet the increased need!**

We will be honouring our 40th anniversary in different ways throughout 2024. Know that your support helps us create a healthier city by increasing access to healthy food, empowering people, and advocating for changes that reduce food insecurity.

*Whether you've been giving for 40 years, 40 months, 40 weeks or 40 days... we are so grateful you're there – helping provide fresh, nutritious food to people in our community.*

## Centretown Community Food Centre

*Your wonderful and compassionate support provides food to more than 110 agency partners across Ottawa!*



Some of the wonderful staff at CCFC

Centretown Community Food Centre, where Diana Mahaffy has been the manager since October 2020, is a part of the Ottawa Food Bank network.

2023 was a big year for the Food Centre. They provided food to over 12,000 people, which was an increase of 54% over the previous year! The Centre moved from Bank Street to 370 Catherine Street, where

they're now able to offer fully accessible service to the community (no more stairs!).

Even better, the Centre is co-located with the City of Ottawa's Catherine Street Community Service Hub where visitors can access a number of other social services – providing a fully rounded support system.

Diana says, "At the new location we have a lot more space, so we are now able to provide a grocery store type environment to visitors, giving them the opportunity to choose their own grocery items according to their needs and preferences."

**"At the end of each day, I know that the Food Centre team has made a positive impact on the lives of the people who access our services. Coming to work every day with the volunteers who are so committed to helping their neighbours and so much fun to work with is a joy!"**

She also notes that 50% of the food they distribute comes from the Ottawa Food Bank. **Your generosity really does support the work of community food programs all across the city – thank you!**

## HISTORIC GIFT

### Premium Meats pledges \$1 million in meat and poultry products.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Premium Meats for their recent \$1 million pledge! This is the first gift of this size to the Ottawa Food Bank in our 40-year history.

The donation will provide meat and poultry products to the Ottawa Food Bank network for 10 years starting this year. "The cost of living is making it hard for some people to make ends meet and pay bills, and this initiative is meant to help the community," says Marc Steele of Premium Meats. He adds,

**"Premium Meats has our community at heart. We deeply empathize with families and individuals in our community who are experiencing need. We hope our gifts and ten-year commitment to the Ottawa Food Bank will ease the fear and worries families feel when they cannot afford to pay the bills and put enough food on the table. I'm hoping that other business will see what we've donated today, that would encourage them to do the same, to give whatever they can to the Ottawa Food Bank."**

This wonderful donation will help meet the increasing demand for food, and provide healthy choices to families and children. We are so grateful to Premium Meats and to all of the local businesses who give back what they can to help people who are struggling to put food on the table.



Ottawa Food Bank Staff and Board with Marc Steele of Premium Meats and his wife Marie



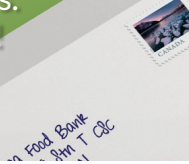
# Other Ways to Help

There are many ways to help the Ottawa Food Bank and no matter which way you choose, your support is greatly appreciated!

## Donate Money

Every \$1 you give is stretched further, thanks to our incredible industry partners. This means more food to our neighbours!

Donate at [ottawafoodbank.ca/donate](http://ottawafoodbank.ca/donate).



## Host a Food Drive

Host a food or fund drive. For more information go to: [www.ottawafoodbank.ca/ottawa-food-bank-events/register](http://www.ottawafoodbank.ca/ottawa-food-bank-events/register).



## Donate Food

Drop your non-perishable items in our red bin at the front of your local grocery store or bring them to our Bantree St. warehouse.



## Donate Stocks

A gift of stocks allows you to save more and give more! Consider donating your stocks directly to the Ottawa Food Bank. If you would like to donate stocks, please download and follow the instructions on the Donation of Securities form. Use your smartphone camera to scan this QR code to easily access the Donation of Securities form online.



## Leave a Gift in Your Will



TOMORROW'S  
HARVEST

LA RÉCOLTE DE  
L'AVENIR

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will to the Ottawa Food Bank, contact Jenn Graves, Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer, at 613-745-7001 ext. 114 or at [jenn@ottawafoodbank.ca](mailto:jenn@ottawafoodbank.ca).



To find out other ways you can become involved by donating food, time or other supplies. Please call us at 613-745-7001 ext. 222 or by email at [foodbank@ottawafoodbank.ca](mailto:foodbank@ottawafoodbank.ca).



Ottawa Food Bank

2001 Bantree Street Ottawa ON K1B 4X3 | [ottawafoodbank.ca](http://ottawafoodbank.ca) | 613-745-7001  
Registered Charity Number: 10808 2363 RR0001

@OttawaFoodBank



13630NL1