



Ottawa Food Bank

# 24 | 25 YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT



## Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Ottawa Food Bank operates on the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. This land has served as a gathering place and source of sustenance for the Algonquin people for countless generations.

In recognizing this land, we also recognize the deep relationships Indigenous communities have with food, land, and water. Indigenous food systems encompass more than the physical act of feeding; they embody a profound interconnectedness with the natural world. Colonization has disrupted these systems, impacting Indigenous food sovereignty through land displacement and the degradation of traditional resources.

As we address food insecurity today, we are reminded of the ongoing need to support and empower Indigenous communities to reclaim their rights to govern their own food systems. We commit to building respectful relationships and supporting pathways toward equitable access to food, land, and resources.



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This report provides an overview of the Ottawa Food Bank's activities from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.



**Rachael Wilson**  
Exiting Chief Executive Officer



**Natalie Spooner**  
Interim Chief Executive Officer



**Trevor Whike**  
Ottawa Food Bank  
Board Chair

## A Message from the CEO and Board Chair

The 2024-2025 year was transformational for the Ottawa Food Bank. More than ever, we balanced our traditional role as an emergency food provider with deeper action to tackle the roots of food insecurity — marking a new chapter for our organization.

This shift came at a pivotal time. We concluded the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and developed a new plan that continues to prioritize support for member agencies in the network we support — while advancing our North Star Goal of eliminating food insecurity in Ottawa by 2050. The network is at the centre of this plan, at the heart of the food security sector, and on the frontlines of Ottawa's food insecurity crisis.

The year was marked by tough decisions at a time of record-breaking visits across the member agencies we support. Reducing food distribution to ensure sustainability was a difficult decision — one we never imagined making. We are deeply grateful for the network's guidance, understanding, and resilience.

It became clear that calls for change could not wait. Throughout 2024-2025, our continued push for government action alongside voices from the network, neighbours who access food banks, allies, and experts resulted in the City of Ottawa passing a motion in the fall of 2025 to advance food security in our municipality. While this motion highlighted the gravity of food insecurity in Ottawa, it gave us

hope and allowed over 700 of our supporters who spoke up to feel heard. At the same time, we continued investing in centering people with lived experience, developing wrap-around support programs, building agency capacity, and seeking sustainable funding. These efforts are essential to our long-term vision.

None of this work would be possible without our community. We recognize the work of Food Banks Canada and Feed Ontario, our national and provincial partners, who continue to guide and shape broader conversations. Volunteers, including board members, and staff dedicated time across functions to ensure our work as an emergency food provider for programs in Ottawa could continue. Donations continue to make up 98% of our funding, meaning donor support is not only appreciated, but it is essential, too.

In the report that follows, we hope you will see the impact of your contributions. Whether you gave your time, food, funds, voice, or allyship, you made a difference. As we respond to today's needs and work toward eliminating food insecurity by 2050, we invite you to stay with us on this journey. Together, we're building a healthier future for Ottawa.

**This fiscal marked Rachael Wilson's final year with the Ottawa Food Bank. We thank Rachael for her years of service. We welcome Natalie Spooner as Interim CEO. Learn more at [ottawafoodbank.ca](http://ottawafoodbank.ca).**

## Board of Directors

We thank the following individuals for their leadership that has guided the Ottawa Food Bank during a transformational year. We look forward to continuing to work together towards our strategic commitment of ending food insecurity in Ottawa.

### CHAIR

Trevor Whike  
President, TALOH Solutions Inc.

### VICE CHAIR

Timothy Cullen  
Partner, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, McMillan LLP

### TREASURER

Steve Mennill – Retired

### SECRETARY

Kat Hamilton  
Director, Advocacy and Campaigns  
CNIB

### DIRECTORS

Beth Ciavaglia  
Executive Director, Parkdale Food Centre  
  
Brian Harrigan  
Manager, Partnership Development,  
Agriculture & Food, Food Banks Canada  
  
Ferenaz Raheem  
Senior Project Manager, CIMA+

### Jeff Bell

Chief Financial Officer, AtkinsRéalis

### John Ariyo

Executive Director, Scarborough Charter Secretariat

### Lisa Fabian

Executive Director, Care Centre Ottawa

### Marilyn Matheson

Executive Director, Harmony House

### Matthew Blostein

Wealth Advisor, Associate Portfolio Manager, CIBC

### Ric Allen-Watson

Director of Food Services,  
The Ottawa Mission



Ottawa Food Bank



## Our Vision

Healthy, accessible, sustainable food for all.

## Our Mission

We work in partnership to create a healthier city by empowering people, increasing access to healthy food, and advocating for systemic changes that reduce food insecurity.

## What We Do

The Ottawa Food Bank is the central hub for food collection, storage, and distribution in Ottawa, aiming to support the vital programs at the frontlines of Ottawa's food insecurity crisis. We work in partnership with a network of nearly 100 community food programs that include community food banks, food cupboards, meal programs, multi-service programs, kids' summer nutrition programs, and after-school snack programs. We also go beyond traditional food banking by finding solutions that support the network's capacity to serve the community and to advocate for long-term, sustainable solutions to food insecurity in Ottawa.

## Our Work



### Grow Food

We grow fresh produce seasonally to uphold our promise of fresh, healthy food for families accessing food programs.



### Distribute Food

Food that is grown, donated, and purchased through community donations is distributed across the member agency network.



### Support the Network

We go beyond food banking by providing wrap-around support services, training, funding, and more to agencies.



### Advocate

We bring together elected officials, people with lived experience, agencies, and other advocates to drive policy changes that can improve food security.



### Volunteer

We engage a dedicated team of volunteers across functions to support our work.



### Raise food and funds

We work with dedicated partners who raise food and provide monetary support that enables us to fight food insecurity.

# Our Strategic Plan

The Ottawa Food Bank concluded its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The plan focused on supporting member agencies as we moved past the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, the organization increased fresh and nutritious food distributed, and built capacity and resiliency in the network through collaboration, training, and funding. The Ottawa Food Bank established and funded Wrap-Around Support pilots in 50% of community food banks across the city. These

pilots helped test and scale the different models needed to meet the unique needs of each community. Additionally, the plan focused on stabilizing the Ottawa Food Bank – moving towards sustainability and strength.

Now, the Ottawa Food Bank looks to the **2025-2028 Strategic Plan**, which reimagines our food banking model and builds on our bold vision: By 2050, no one in Ottawa is food insecure. Our future-forward strategy requires the right model to get there.

With increasing diversity in communities and varying needs, the food banking sector needs to adapt as well. We are excited to work with the member agency network to design a new way of food banking in Ottawa.

We are proud of the work that we have achieved together. But there is much more to be done. Together with our community, we are building a vibrant city where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

## 2025-2028 Strategic Plan – At a Glance

<b>DIRECTION 1</b>	<b>REIMAGINING FOOD BANKING</b>	<b>Outcome:</b> The Ottawa Food Bank network has created a new system plan and is testing it. We aim to better support local agencies and help end food insecurity in our community.
<b>DIRECTION 2</b>	<b>SUPPORT THE MEMBER AGENCY NETWORK TO BUILD ITS CAPACITY AND RESOURCES</b>	<b>Outcome:</b> Agencies have access to more food and resources (including people, time, and funds) to be sustainable.
<b>DIRECTION 3</b>	<b>REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY FOR THOSE ACCESSING MEMBER AGENCIES</b>	<b>Outcome:</b> Member agencies are better equipped to improve food security for all individuals accessing their food program.



# Who We Support

The Ottawa Food Bank works in service of the frontline member agency network. We are deeply grateful for the work of staff and volunteers at each agency and their food programs. We are grateful for your partnership in the Ottawa Food Bank network, and commitment to serving the community with dignity and grace.

We support  
**67 agencies**  
that operate  
**92 food programs**

In 2025, the network received  
**588,866** visits — double the visits since 2019

## Community Food Banks

Care Centre Ottawa  
Banff Avenue Community House  
Banque Alimentaire C.C.S. Food Bank  
Blair Court Community House  
Britannia Woods Food Pantry  
Caldwell Family Centre  
Centretown Community Food Centre  
Community Compassion Centre  
Confederation Court Community House  
Dalhousie Food Cupboard  
Debra Dynes Family House  
FAMSAC Food Cupboard  
Foster Farm Family House  
Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard  
Heron Emergency Food Centre  
Lifecentre Food Bank  
Lowertown Community Resource Centre - Lowertown Good Neighbours Community House  
Morrison Gardens Food Centre  
Orléans-Cumberland Food Bank / La Banque alimentaire d'Orléans-Cumberland  
Parkdale Food Centre  
Partage Vanier  
Pavilion Food Bank  
Pinecrest Terrace Community House - Food Bank  
Riceville Food Centre  
Rideau Rockcliffe - Emergency Food Program  
Russell Heights Community House  
Sadaqa Food Bank  
Salvation Army - Booth Centre  
St. Joseph's Parish  
Westboro Region Food Bank

## Food Cupboards

African, Caribbean & Black (ACB) Wellness Resource Centre  
AIDS Committee of Ottawa (The Living Room)  
Algonquin Students' Association Food Cupboard  
All Nations International Development Agency  
Bruce House  
Carleton University Food Centre  
Carlington Community Health Centre  
Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI)  
Centre espoir Sophie  
Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre  
Harmony House  
John Howard Society - Ste. Anne Residence  
Kosher Food Bank  
Collège La Cité  
Minwaashin Lodge  
Odawa Native Friendship Centre  
Operation Come Home

Ottawa Innercity Ministries  
Salvation Army - Bethany Hope Centre  
Sandy Hill Community Health Centre  
South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre  
St. Joe's Women's Centre  
St. Mary's Home - Young Parent Outreach Centre  
Tungasuvvingat Inuit  
UOSU Food Bank  
Youth Services Bureau - Besserer  
Youville Centre

## KickStart - After 4 Clubs

After 4 Club - Banff Avenue  
After 4 Club - Blair Court  
After 4 Club - Britannia Woods  
After 4 Club - Caldwell/Carlington  
After 4 Club - Carlington Community Health Centre  
After 4 Club - Christie Lake  
After 4 Club - Confederation Court  
After 4 Club - Debra Dynes  
After 4 Club - Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation  
After 4 Club - Foster Farm Community House  
After 4 Club - Lowertown Community Resource Centre - Club 310  
After 4 Club - Michele Heights Community House  
After 4 Club - Morrison Gardens  
After 4 Club - OrKidstra  
After 4 Club - Pinecrest Terrace  
After 4 Club - Rideau Rockcliffe / Leetian & Isaac  
After 4 Club - Russell Heights  
After 4 Club - Winthrop Court

## Meal Programs

BGC Don McGahan  
BGC Ron Kolbus  
Caldwell Family Centre Cooking Class and Community Kitchen  
Capital City Mission  
Centre 454 - Anglican Social Services  
Centre 507  
Christie Lake Meal Program  
Empathy House of Recovery  
Heather Manor  
Jericho Road  
Ottawa Mission  
Ottawa Mission Food Truck  
Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services  
Shepherds of Good Hope  
St. Luke's Table  
The Door Youth Centre  
The Well

# Food Distribution

As demands rose this fiscal year, the Ottawa Food Bank made a tough decision in January 2025. In order to sustainably supply and stretch food available through the year, we reduced the amount of food agencies would receive from us. Rising demands on food programs and rising costs of food were all factors in this decision, which symbolized the dire need for a systematic shift in Ottawa and across the country.

While this change was difficult, it allowed us to better align food distribution with our annual budget while prioritizing nutritious, in-demand food items for member agencies. Together with the member agency network and people with lived experience of accessing food banks, we made our food distribution more responsive to the needs of the

community throughout the year. The member agency network shone through, exemplifying resilience during this challenging time for food banks.

In total, the Ottawa Food Bank distributed **7,932,502 pounds of food** to the member agency network. Our commitment to fresh food remained making up **47%** of food distributed. Thank you to our partners like Metro whose provincial meat and protein recovery program, One More Bite, brought in 128,035 pounds of frozen meat.

The Ottawa Food Bank works closely with food industry partners to purchase fresh and non-perishable items at significantly reduced rates. By leveraging bulk purchasing, we secure prices well below typical retail costs. This strategy

## Did You Know

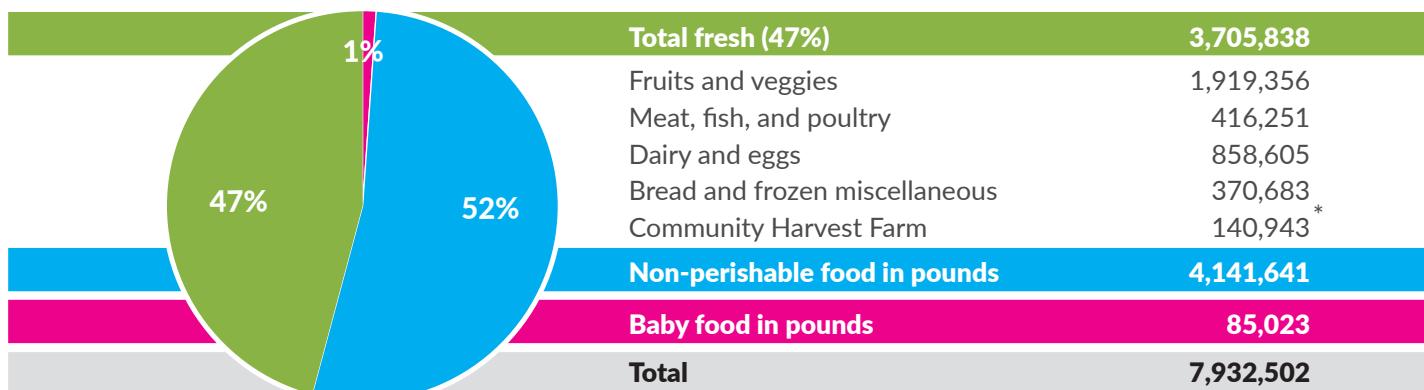
Thanks to the support of Food Banks Canada, the Ottawa Construction Association, and an anonymous donor, our food delivery was improved with the purchase of a 24' refrigerated truck.

enables us to deliver substantially more food to the community—at a cost comparable to what individuals would pay—ensuring every dollar goes further.

**5,701,798 pounds**  
of purchased food distributed,  
valued at **\$9,359,881**.

**2,182,452 pounds**  
of donated food distributed,  
valued at **\$8,251,026**.

## Food Distribution by Category (In Pounds)



\*An additional 33,572 pounds was grown on our farm but not yet distributed during the fiscal year period.

## Beyond Food

Member agencies also distributed non-food items. By receiving otherwise costly items like diapers from food programs, families are able to reallocate their spending to other needs like rent, childcare, and medical expenses. Thanks to our **Basics** program supported by **Preston Square**, 169,064 pounds of baby items were distributed, including diapers, formula and cereal to agencies serving young families across the city.



**84,041 lbs**  
Diapers



**33,995 lbs**  
Pet food



**57,248 lbs**  
Household and hygiene products



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## Supporting Ottawa's Youth

Children and youth under the age of 18 represent 37% of food-insecure individuals in Ottawa. In addition to supporting families through community and emergency food programs, the Ottawa Food Bank also supports programming specific to children and youth across the city through our KickStart After 4 Club. In total, 119,513 pounds of food was distributed to these programs. Snacks included fruits, vegetables, crackers, hummus, and dairy products.



We are grateful for the generosity of our industry partners and donors who support us through food drives, events, and collection bins at grocery stores across the city. We are grateful for your generous donations and the hard work of staff and volunteers who support food and beyond for families in the city.

## Home Delivery

This fiscal year also marked the last phase of our Home Delivery program as more agencies build their own home delivery capacity. For the third year in a row, the Ottawa Food Bank partnered with Feed the City, formerly Gopher-it Cares, to offer home deliveries across the city. This program distributes food to individuals and families unable to attend their designated food programs, due to mobility challenges, being immunocompromised, and those coping with illnesses or injuries. In total, 2,935 deliveries were made by Feed the City and the Ottawa Food Bank's volunteers.

# Food and Operations Industry Partners

Thanks to generous donations and strong relationships with food industry partners such as grocers, manufacturers, and wholesalers, the Ottawa Food Bank obtains food efficiently and in large quantities. This support not only improves our operational effectiveness but also helps provide fresh, nutritious food to families and individuals facing food insecurity in our city. We want to express our sincere thanks to the following partners for their unwavering support and collaborative partnership.

- Aenos Food Services
- All Special Wholesale
- Amazon
- Burnbrae Farms
- Canadian Tire Centre
- Carleton Mushroom
- Chicken Farmers of Canada
- Coca-Cola
- Costco
- Erb Transportation Limited
- Farm Boy
- Feed Ontario
- Food Banks Canada
- Food Basics
- Foster Family Farm
- Franks Catering & Baked Goods
- FreshCo
- Giant Tiger
- Hindu Temple of Ottawa
- Italfoods
- iXCEED Packaging Solutions
- Jack Larabie Distribution Inc.
- Loblaw's
- Metro
- Natrel Inc. Sealtest
- No Frills
- NPI Group
- Orleans Fruit Farm
- PepsiCo Canada
- Place D'Orléans Shopping Centre
- Premium Meats
- Stericycle Expert Solutions
- Summerlea Dairy Logistics Inc.
- The Shandex Group
- Walmart Canada
- Weston Bakeries
- Worldwide Food Distributors
- Your Independent Grocer

# 15 Years on the Community Harvest Farm



Last year, we marked our 15th season of planting, cultivating, and harvesting fresh produce on the Community Harvest Farm. The farm is one of many ways we fulfill our commitment to fresh, nutritious food, resulting in a bountiful harvest from Spring to Fall each year. In our 15th annual harvest, we grew the highest quality crops we have seen in the history of the Community Harvest Farm. Despite a changing climate and scorching summer, staff and volunteers ensured that the health of crops was not compromised.

Together, **174,515 pounds** of fresh food was yielded from **22 crops** ranging from potatoes and tomatoes to beans and cauliflower. This harvest is a direct result of the **1,091 volunteers** who gave **5,821 hours** of their time to the farm.

We thank Tom Black and his family of the **Black Family Farm** who have generously donated use of the eight-acre land on which we operate the Community Harvest Farm. We also thank the **Rideau Club** for donating \$109,000 in support of our farm. The Rideau Club, along with Ciena and NAV Canada are also active participants in the Adopt a Crop program, contributing funds and volunteering in support of the farm.



# Supporting the Network

The Ottawa Food Bank works in service of the member agency network. Beyond food, we strive to support the network through changing landscapes and growing demands. Our focus includes capacity building, service expansion, and the inclusion of voices from the network and people with lived experience.



## Wrap-Around Support Initiative (WASI)

WASI seeks to work with food program visitors to help address their root causes of food bank usage. WASI enabled food bank visitors at several member agencies to receive support from dedicated WASI support staff, funded by the Ottawa Food Bank. Support included systems navigation, counselling, and warm referrals. WASI partners also collaborated to conduct resource fairs that educated food bank visitors about the various services available to them.

### Wrap-Around Support Success

*A single parent visiting a food bank did not realize that they were eligible for the Canada Child Benefit. After informing them of this opportunity, a Wrap-Around Support worker assisted them with the application process, and they successfully received the funds. The financial support significantly reduced their reliance on the food bank.*



## Technological Advancements

In June 2025, the member agency network participated in a network-wide upgrade of Link2Feed, a platform used to store food bank visitor information. The transformation brought shared access to visitor data across the network, instead of agency-specific access. This change allows the network to have a fuller picture of a visitor's need and a better understanding of the breadth of need across the network. Thanks to funding from **Feed Ontario** and the **Ottawa Community Foundation**, member agencies were able to access funds, on-the-ground staff, and volunteer support from the Ottawa Food Bank to manage this transition.



## Member Agency Investment

Access to consistent, reliable funding continues to be a major challenge for member agencies. This year, the Ottawa Food Bank granted **\$919,025** to support the network of member agencies. This included core funding for staffing and operations, emergency support for programs facing short-term challenges, and targeted funding to increase access to culturally appropriate foods. Investments were also made in innovation and collaboration through multi-year pilot projects and capacity-building initiatives.



## equiTABLE

Having the voices of people with lived experience at the Ottawa Food Bank table ensures that the decisions we make are informed by those most impacted by food insecurity in our city. In 2024-25, the equiTABLE Resident Action Group, comprised of **nine members** with lived experience of food insecurity, helped shape key Ottawa Food Bank initiatives, including the Link2Feed modifications, WASI, and food distribution. They also led community outreach and represented the organization in local media to raise awareness of food security issues.



Ottawa Food Bank



# Advocacy in Focus

As demands on the network of member agencies grow, the need for coordinated action at all levels of government becomes more urgent. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Ottawa Food Bank focused its advocacy efforts primarily on municipal engagement. Without meaningful policy changes, systemic food insecurity will continue. Learn more in the **2025 Ottawa Hunger Report** titled [Food Insecurity in a Broken System](#).

## 2024-25 Highlights

### Increased Municipal Funding for Food Security

In the City of Ottawa's 2025 Budget, the Ottawa Food Bank's request for a 10% increase for member agencies receiving Sustainability Funding to support food programming was approved. This resulted in 21 agencies receiving increased municipal funding.

### Informing the Future of Poverty Reduction

In 2024, the City of Ottawa's first Poverty Reduction Strategy was approved with a food security pillar. This led to the creation of a Food Security Working Group which includes key representation from the Ottawa Food Bank.

### Call for a Declaration of Emergency

In October 2024, the Ottawa Food Bank began a campaign to call on the City of Ottawa to declare a food insecurity emergency. Several Ontario cities including Brockville, Kingston, Mississauga, Smiths Falls, and Toronto have since done the same, building on a provincial movement to signal for help from higher levels of government who dictate pivotal policies like social assistance. Over the course of the campaign, more than 700 residents emailed City Councillors and the Mayor, amplifying the network's call for systemic action on hunger and poverty.

### A New Hope to Address Root Causes

After nearly a year of community advocacy, City Council unanimously **passed a motion** in September 2025 titled "Advancing Food Security by Addressing Root Causes" — a direct outcome of coordinated advocacy, community mobilization, and persistent pressure from the network and residents. The motion commits the city to five dedicated actions to address food insecurity in Ottawa, including advocating to the provincial and federal governments. We thank City Councillor Marty Carr, who represents Alta Vista (Ward 18) where the Ottawa Food Bank is situated, for moving this motion.



# Ottawa's Best Volunteers

Volunteers are an undoubtedly essential part of the Ottawa Food Bank's team. Thanks to their dedication, we are able to grow fresh produce on our farm, distribute food from our warehouse, thank donors at events, support agencies on-site, and so much more. Their contributions are woven into every part of our work, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing support.

In 2024-25, our Volunteer Engagement program continued to evolve as we explored new ways to nurture volunteer

skills and expand opportunities. In our annual feedback survey, **93%** of respondents shared that they felt highly appreciated in their role, which is a reflection of the strong relationships we strive to build. Thank you to our volunteers for offering their time and talents in countless meaningful ways.

For more information on the Ottawa Food Bank's volunteer program, please visit us at [ottawafoodbank.ca/volunteer](https://ottawafoodbank.ca/volunteer) and review our annual *Volunteer Impact Report*.



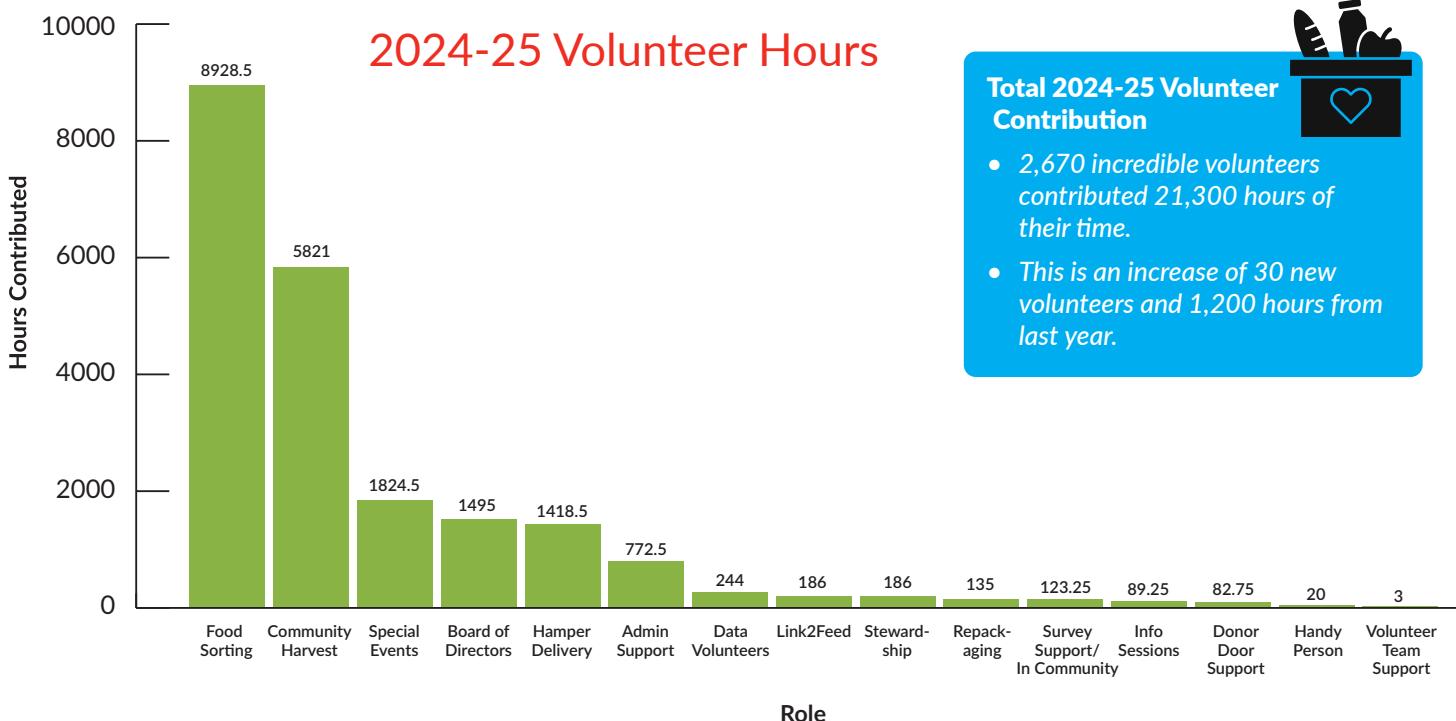
*"I feel fulfilled knowing that I am able to support the community and create a positive impact."*



*"I believe strongly in the cause – food for all."*



*"Volunteering both at my local food bank and at the farm leaves me feeling like I make a difference. I'm always welcomed at both places, and the volunteers are well led."*



## Total 2024-25 Volunteer Contribution

- 2,670 incredible volunteers contributed 21,300 hours of their time.
- This is an increase of 30 new volunteers and 1,200 hours from last year.



# Community Matters

The Ottawa Food Bank is funded 98% by our community. We would not be able to support the member agency network without the vital donations of food and funds generously given to us by you, our generous neighbours and partners. We are so grateful for your generosity and for your choice to support the Ottawa Food Bank.

Here is a snapshot of your generosity in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

## Signature Events

### THANKS for GIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thanks for Giving Food Drive: Thanks to participating grocery store partners, 105 passionate volunteers, and generous donors, 17,351 pounds of food and over \$900 was collected at the start of the 2024 giving season.



Holiday Food Drive presented by Mosaic: Over the 2024-25 winter season, 3,101 fridges were filled for a week thanks to the \$599,400 and 123,706 pounds of food raised by participating groups.



Fill the Plates Spring Food Drive: Our Spring Food Drive raised 23,430 pounds of food and over \$3,790 with the support of 30 grocery store partners, 120 volunteers representing the Ottawa Food Bank, and neighbours turned donors.



### FOOD SORT CHALLENGE

Food Sort Challenge presented by Mondeau Bathroom and Kitchen, a division of Boone Plumbing and Heating Supply: In May 2025, TD Place Arena was filled with competing teams in our annual fast-paced competition to see who could sort 1,000 pounds of food the fastest. Together, 49 teams and 24 volunteers raised \$198,715.90 including over \$17,000 in gifts in-kind.

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Chandos Construction**

**TOP FUNDRAISER: MP Lundy Construction**

**MOST-SPIRITED TEAM: Alterna Savings**

## Partner Events

**CBC's Make the Season Kind** returned for another impactful year, raising a record-breaking \$317,179. We're grateful to Toon Dreessen (President, Architects DCA) for generously matching donations up to \$20,000, and to two anonymous donors whose matching gifts totaled \$15,000.



### The CTV Morning Live Holiday Helpers Food Drive

raised \$408,074 and 16,750 pounds of food. We were joined live on air by donors such as CLV Group, InterRent, and the many sponsors of the Mike McCann Charity Golf Tournament. Generous donations were also made by CAPCORP Financial, Amazon Web Services, and McMillan LLP.



**The 40th Annual OC Transpo / Loblaw Holiday Food Drive**, the city's largest one-day grocery store food drive, collected 81,000 pounds of food and \$25,500. We thank the 200 volunteers who signed up to collect donations at over 27 participating stores.



At the **2025 Rideau Club Gala**, a \$109,000 gift was made towards the Community Harvest Farm in support of growing fresh, healthy produce for families in Ottawa.



The annual **Ottawa Summer Food Drive**, organized by Khalsa Aid Canada, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, and Italfoods returned for another year. 90,000 lbs of food was donated thanks in part to 16 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board schools and their students who hosted food drives, and a generous gift in-kind from Italfoods.



## A Legacy of Impact

With socioeconomic uncertainty on the rise, the need for stability has never been greater. The 2024–25 year was marked by exceptional community generosity, which has helped ensure the sustainability of the Ottawa Food Bank. This was the second year of **Premium Meats'** 10-year, \$1 million pledge to donate meat and poultry products. These high demand items are deeply appreciated by families seeking food assistance. Multi-year support allows us to continue providing essential food and services through our member agency network, offering a consistent lifeline to families accessing food programs across the city.



Image courtesy of Caroline Phillips

## Ottawa Community Foundation

In January 2025, the Ottawa Food Bank attended the Mayor of Ottawa's inaugural Gold Hearts Gala presented by Fairmont Château Laurier, an evening of charitable giving. The Ottawa Food Bank was selected as the recipient of proceeds from the gala. During a night of exceptional generosity, the Ottawa Community Foundation made a historic \$1 million gift to the Ottawa Food Bank in response to rising food insecurity in the city. The grant supported technological advancements for the network and the purchasing of food. In total, the Gold Hearts Gala raised approximately \$1.3 million, including a \$50,000 matching gift from The Jeffrey and Joanne York Family Foundation.

## A Gift from Franklin Holtforster and Birgitte Alting-Mees

The 2024–25 year was completed with a record-breaking \$2.5 million commitment from longtime community leader, Franklin Holtforster and his wife, Birgitte Alting-Mees, and their three sons. This is the first gift of this magnitude in the organization's four-decade history. The family's multi-year donation will be given to the Ottawa Food Bank in ten \$250,000 installments from 2025 to 2035, supporting the purchase and distribution of food to the network of agencies. To celebrate the power of community, a new mural designed by local artist Dave Lafreniere of Mural Magic was unveiled at the Ottawa Food Bank's warehouse, including a component honouring this generous gift.



**“When you give, you’re not just helping someone today. You are building a future where fewer people have to face impossible choices. And when you give consistently, you create momentum. You become part of a collective force that can shift what’s possible.”** - Franklin Holtforster

# Financial Overview

**\$8.2 million**

Total value of food donated

+

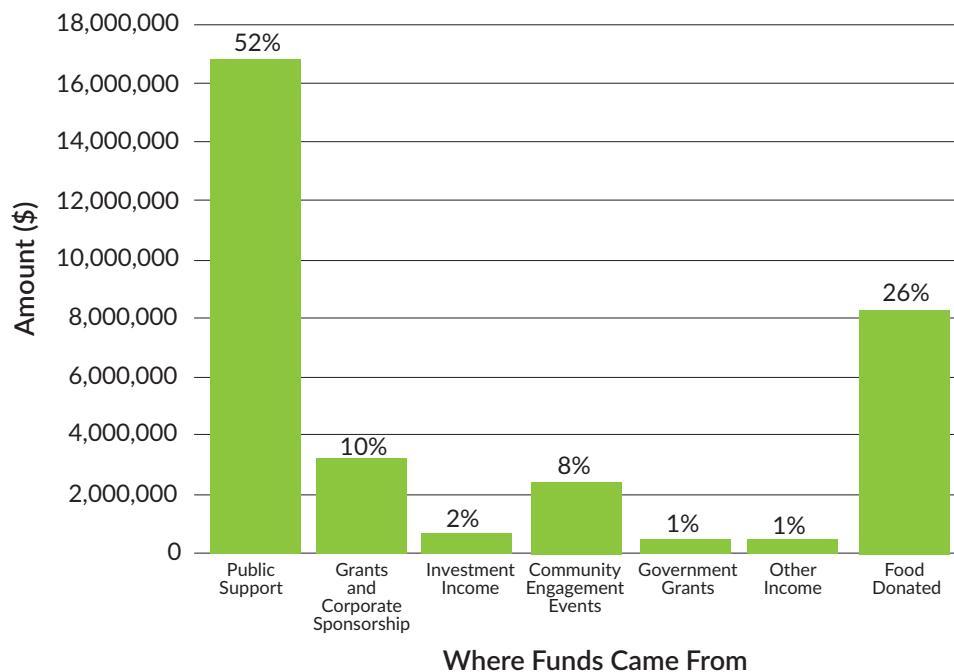
**\$23.8 million**

Total funds donated

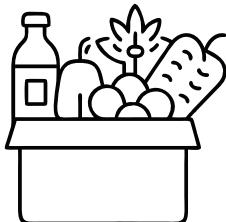
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**\$32 million**

Total food and funds invested to support the community



## Impact of your donations:



**\$24,857,547**

Charitable Programs including food purchases, distribution of donated food, and operations



**\$3,982,802**

Food and Fund-Raising efforts



**\$1,641,473**

General Administration

Ottawa's food insecurity crisis continued to place significant pressure on our operations as demand for food assistance remained high across the community. Rising food costs required continued investment in food purchasing, with \$9,359,881 spent on food purchases to support the member agency network and the people they serve.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, the Ottawa Food Bank

recorded total revenues of \$32,038,606 and ended the year with an operational surplus of \$1,556,784. After adjusting for unrealized investment gains of \$1,010,898, which are non-cash in nature and subject to market fluctuations, the Ottawa Food Bank had a total surplus of \$2,576,805. The surplus will be carried forward into the current fiscal year and used to partially offset the projected fiscal year 2025-26 deficit,

helping to address continued economic pressures, higher food costs, and anticipated funding shortfalls.

**To see the full impact of your support, please visit [ottawafoodbank.ca](http://ottawafoodbank.ca) to review our complete Audited Financial Statements and look at our Charity Intelligence page to get a complete breakdown of outputs.**



Ottawa Food Bank

There is no Ottawa Food Bank without Ottawa. Our donors have contributed funds, food, and essential items for neighbours, showing their commitment to supporting those who are food insecure. To all of you who generously contributed throughout the past fiscal year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Your support will go a long way in supporting the Ottawa Food Bank network.

Visit [ottawafoodbank.ca/thank you-2024-2025](http://ottawafoodbank.ca/thank you-2024-2025) to review the list of donors who contributed \$5,000 or more in the 2024-25 fiscal year.



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