



Ottawa Food Bank

SPRING 2026

You Feed the Need

GRATITUDE REPORT

TOGETHER, WE ARE SO MUCH STRONGER



A note from Natalie

Dear caring neighbour,

As the affordability crisis in our community continues to grow, the role of the Ottawa Food Bank is evolving to keep pace – and it's YOU who makes our vital work possible. With your support, we are balancing our traditional role as an emergency food provider with deeper action to tackle the roots of food insecurity.

Donor support is not only appreciated, but it is essential, too. Community members like you provide 98% of the Ottawa Food Bank's funding, ensuring we can continue to be there for our neighbours amongst increasing demand for emergency food assistance in our city.

This isn't easy work, nor is it always straightforward. Addressing hunger in Ottawa requires us to provide food for today while advocating for policies that will improve things for our neighbours in the future. **I am grateful to have you by our side as we dream of a future with healthy, accessible, sustainable food for all.**

With heartfelt appreciation,

Natalie Spooner
Interim CEO, Ottawa Food Bank

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As the need in our community evolves, so are we

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Your gifts in action



98%

of OFB funding

comes from the generosity of donors in our community just like you



119,513 lbs

of snacks distributed to children's nutrition programs



7,932,502 pounds

of food distributed to nearly 100 food programs across Ottawa in 2025



21,300

hours given by volunteers – the most ever in a year!

As the need in our community evolves, so are we

When we share the Ottawa Food Bank's goal of ending food insecurity in our city by 2050, many say it's not realistic – that hunger will always exist here and across the country. **With your help, we are challenging that assumption.**

The Ottawa Food Bank's new strategic plan reaffirms our commitment to a city without food insecurity. 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 – and YOU! – to design a new way of food banking in Ottawa.



Our latest strategic plan outlines three important priorities:

- Reimagining food banking to better support local food programs
- Supporting the member agency network to build its capacity and resources so they can be sustainable
- Reducing food insecurity for those accessing member agencies

Together, we are building a vibrant city where every person has the opportunity to thrive.



Making major strides through advocacy

Without meaningful policy changes, systemic food insecurity will continue. The Ottawa Food Bank has recently focused our advocacy efforts at the municipal level. You've helped us achieve some important wins including:

Increased Municipal Funding for Food Security

We procured a 10% increase in funding for 21 member agencies.

Informing the Future of Poverty Reduction

The Ottawa Food Bank is participating in the Food Security Working Group for the City of Ottawa's first Poverty Reduction Strategy.

A New Hope to Address Root Causes

City Council unanimously passed a motion in September 2025 committing to five actions to address food insecurity in Ottawa.

"If I'm just one small person but I can help bring change in somebody else's life, then my life feels better. Sometimes all it takes to bring important changes in our community is one person."

– Proud Ottawa Food Bank donor





Giving everyone a space where they belong

Belong Ottawa provides welcoming spaces for anyone seeking support and community connection. Home to The Well, St Luke's Table, and Centre 454, the organization serves individuals experiencing homelessness, precarious housing, mental health challenges, substance misuse and addiction issues, isolation, and deep poverty.

"Your support—through donations, advocacy, and care—truly changes lives."

With the skyrocketing costs of living and affordable housing remaining out of reach for many, Belong Ottawa is responding to increased need with limited

resources. Food from the Ottawa Food Bank helps Belong Ottawa provide fresh, nutritious meals for program participants.

Belong Ottawa has served over 140,000 meals since June 2025. They also offer access to showers and laundry, and connections to vital social supports. Open seven days a week, their mission is to foster dignity, wellness, and hope for everyone who walks through their doors. **Your support of the Ottawa Food Bank helps make this important work possible.**

To learn more about Belong Ottawa, visit: www.belongottawa.ca

Nurturing a legacy

Growing up on a farm in Saskatchewan, Bob Morrissey learned the importance of food, land, and community early on. His childhood experiences shaped his appreciation for the work that goes into ensuring everyone has enough to eat, and that all people are treated with dignity.

Bob began volunteering with the Ottawa Food Bank following his retirement from a long career in the defence industry. "I am fortunate to be in a position to give back to an organization that truly matters to me," he says. "I have seen firsthand the impact that nutritious, locally grown food can have on individuals and families. The Community Harvest Farm, in particular, resonates with me. It connects my farming roots with a mission that I care about profoundly."

Wanting to make a difference for generations to come, Bob has also chosen to leave a gift in his will to the Ottawa Food Bank Community Harvest Program.

"By leaving a legacy gift, I hope to extend my impact beyond my lifetime and help ensure that the values I hold—community, compassion, and the fundamental right to food—continue to grow for generations to come. This gift is not just a reflection of my past, but an investment in a future where everyone has access to the nourishment they need to thrive."



To read more stories and learn how you can make a lasting impact for people facing hunger, we invite you to visit: ottawafoodbank.ca/donate/planned-giving

Volunteer Spotlight:

Sharing gratitude with supporters like you

The Ottawa Food Bank's Stewardship Volunteers have two simple words they want to share: thank you! Filling shifts every Tuesday and every second Friday, stewardship volunteers work to strengthen relationships with supporters and cultivate a community through phone calls and other outreach.

"I feel we are all part of a community of caring people with a common cause," says volunteer Fatima. "When I clarify that I am calling [donors] to say thanks, I feel a light turns on in their hearts." Fellow volunteer Rebecca agrees. "Even those who receive a repeat telephone each year still tell me that they enjoy hearing from us," she explains.

Their sentiments are echoed by stewardship program volunteer, Hannah. "Here at the Ottawa Food Bank, I feel part of a community of people including staff and volunteers who support each other and work together to help those who are experiencing food insecurity. I am proud to belong to this community."



Read more about this and other great volunteer stories: ottawafoodbank.ca/category/community-matters/

Ways to Give

However you give, we're thankful for you

As a friend of the Ottawa Food Bank, you support our community members facing hunger when times get tough. We ALL have a role to play as we work towards a city free from hunger by 2050! There are so many ways to get involved with the Ottawa Food Bank.



Make a one-time gift
to help your neighbours
by visiting
ottawafoodbank.ca/donate



Commit to a monthly gift
for maximum efficiency and
make a difference year-round



Donate food
by bringing healthy wish list
items to one of our drop-off
locations



Become a volunteer
to assist with activities
like food sorting and special
events



Leave a legacy
by including the Ottawa
Food Bank as a beneficiary
in your will



Want to do even more to help?
We'd love to chat. Please reach
out at 613-745-7001 or
foodbank@ottawafoodbank.ca



Donate online at: ottawafoodbank.ca/donate
or scan the QR code with your smartphone



Ottawa Food Bank

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