



London and Area Food Bank Inc. Information Sheet 2019

- For the first 7 months of 2019, we have directly helped an average of 8124 individuals a month (or 3218 families).
- 38% of all individuals we help are children and youth under the age of 17.
- In 2018, 42,275 hampers were distributed to over 24,921 different Londoners.
- Families turn to the Food Bank for help as a last resort. In fact, in 2018, 31% came to the food bank only once in the year for help, 68% came 4 times a year or less (every 3 months). Only 2.5% of families come each month.
- It is important to note that only an emergency supply of groceries is given to those that need it -a family of 4 receives around \$100 worth of food items during a visit.
- We also help over 25 other programs and social agencies with the food given to the food bank. This includes meal programs like school breakfasts; drop-in programs like Youth Action Centre, and residential programs like the Unity Project and Mission Services.

Where Do the Funds from Business Cares Food Drive Go?

Currently the funds from “Business Cares” go into 4 major programs:

- **Community Harvest (farm fresh produce)**– A program to increase the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables donated from local farmers to the food bank. This includes growing projects, harvest and gleaning teams and straight food donations. In its sixth year, over 300,000 pounds (\$600,000 value) of fresh local fruit and vegetables have been donated this year. Another 120,000 pounds of produce from the region have been shared with Food Banks across the province. The direct cost of this program is only \$40,000.
- **Community ReFresh** – A new program run in partnership with the City of London to pick up fresh product (fruit, vegetables, dairy, bakery, meats) from grocery stores that is not saleable, but is still safe and edible. Business Cares has provided the funds for the refrigerated van. Currently 21 grocery stores are participating!
- **Milk and Egg Purchases:** A program of FeedON (Ontario Food Banks) with the Egg and Dairy farmers, helps to provide donations of fresh eggs and dairy to assist 20% of the need. Business Cares provides 80% of the funds to make sure that everyone will receive eggs and milk in their hamper.
- **Baby Food and other Food purchases.** Volunteers purchase monthly baby formula tailored to the current demand. Also, throughout the year we get opportunities to buy food (both perishable and non-perishable) that is of great value. This is done through the group purchasing of skids as arranged by FeedON (Ontario Food Banks)

Because of the generosity of Business Cares, the London Food Bank continues to maintain its monthly handout at our desired level of monthly emergency giving. This level gives approximately 4-5 days of good nutrition to a family in need.

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