



impact report 2025

April 2024 - March 2025

what we do

The busiest food bank in downtown Toronto

our vision

To restore the dignity and integrity of individuals in helping them reconnect with our community.

our mission

To work with partners who share our vision:

- Feeding the hungry – providing basic food requirements for individuals and families in need.
- Helping people get on track – providing counselling and training to help people find jobs, safe housing and appropriate social and community programs.

our values

- Importance of volunteers
- Respect for the individual
- Accountability to stakeholders
- Responsiveness to our clients
- Compassion

land acknowledgement

Fort York Food Bank is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and we acknowledge and appreciate that this area is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that the land we operate on is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

board of directors & management

Devi Arasanayagam, Chair
Ravi Sreedharan
Leslie Gordon
Camille Jordaan
May Tangthanasup
Victoria Mitrova
Michelle Ransom
Julie LeJeune, Executive Director



meeting the growing need

Letter from the Board Chair

At the end of 2024, the City of Toronto declared food security an emergency. While largely symbolic, the declaration underscores what food banks across the city had been experiencing: A steady increase in need, resulting in 1 in 10 Torontonians turning to a food bank such as ours. These numbers are unprecedented for such a wealthy city.

Yet, even as we faced an incredible and growing challenge at FYFB over the past few years, we stepped up, rapidly scaling up our operations. As a small but nimble organization, we have continued to meet the needs of the residents of our city, from ensuring that we are well stocked with quality food including fresh milk, eggs, meat and produce, to delivering groceries to housebound residents.

This year, FYFB was once again the busiest food bank in downtown Toronto, with residents from all over the city accessing our services. We are grateful to receive a great deal of food from Daily Bread Food Bank, Second Harvest, and North York Harvest, but it simply isn't enough. So we continue to bridge the gap with our long-running food purchase program. In 2025, we budgeted \$740,000 for food purchases, and we will be increasing this to slightly over \$1 million in 2026 to keep up with growing need and food prices.

Meanwhile, we continue to enhance our services. We are routinely fine-tuning our best practice grocery store shopping experience, which allows clients to select foods, rather than receiving a randomly assorted hamper. We are also grateful to have a diverse, multilingual team of volunteers, facilitating conversation with those who rely on us. Plus, we continue to gain important insights from our annual food bank user experience survey, which guides our

Operations Advisory Group to ensure we are meeting the evolving needs of our community.

More recently, the Board came together with stakeholders to begin developing our next strategic plan. We are committed to building on our mission of feeding the hungry and reconnecting folks with our community. As we explore options, this could mean extending our hours, growing our food purchase budget, or collaborating with community partners to deliver social services. It could also mean working through the challenges of our limited physical space.

I am confident that we will continue to meet these challenges—simply because we have to. The issues around food insecurity are not going away anytime soon. Things may get worse before they get better. But FYFB will continue to adapt to meet the need.

This important work simply wouldn't be possible without the incredibly supportive FYFB community. I am deeply grateful for our small but dynamic staff team who lead our day-to-day operations, our board of directors for their guidance and vision, and the hundreds of volunteers without whom we would not be able to function. I also want to thank our wonderful food partners, community partners such as the Rotary Club and the Bike Brigade, and our many donors and funders. Together, your generosity ensures our hungry neighbours have somewhere to turn for nourishing food and support.

With thanks,



Devi Arasanayagam
Board Chair

delivering more than food

Dignity-focused service means recognizing each person's unique needs

Every week, there's a knock on Patrick's door from a Bike Brigade volunteer. It's something he looks forward to, because it means he'll be receiving a hamper of nourishing foods from FYFB.

Our partners at the Bike Brigade deliver hampers to older adults like Patrick who would otherwise have difficulty accessing the food bank. Some folks are housebound, others have health challenges that make it difficult to visit us, and for many more, the wait in line during summer heatwaves or cold winter days is simply too much.

As a person living on Old Age Security benefits, Patrick has come to rely on the Bike Brigade and FYFB. Without our support, he doesn't know what he'd do. "It would devastate my very limited budget, especially with the price of groceries today," he shares.

The food we provide to Patrick doesn't just fill on his own plate—it often stretches to support family members who are struggling, too. "My food bank gifts are also shared with my niece, who has cancer, and her children," he explains.

The hamper we pack up and deliver to Patrick each week is made especially for him—something he says he's deeply grateful for.

"The food bank provides me with nutritious and delicious foods for my needs at the age of 77," he says, adding that the foods meet his dietary needs for high cholesterol and high blood pressure. "The food bank is a lifeline for my health and well-being."

"The food bank is a lifeline for my health and well-being."

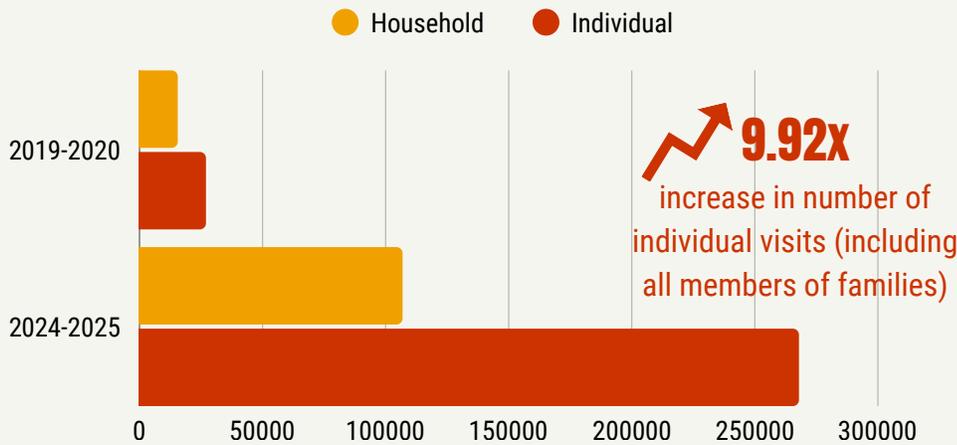


267,929

individual visits, including all members of families, in 2024-2025

the need keeps growing

The number of household visits and individuals served by all visits has grown drastically over the past five years.



32%

are families with children

17%

are adults over age 65

25%

are children (under age 18)

7%

identify as having a disability



1 in 10 Torontonians rely on food banks



enlivening our space

Beautiful works of art have breathed new life into our space this past year. Our **“Tree Mural,”** painted by volunteers in April 2024, highlights our core values—dignity, kindness, respect, and equality—in several languages to reflect our diverse community. It symbolizes that no matter who you are or where you come from, you’re welcome here. Meanwhile, **“The Harmony Mural”**—an acrylic painting on canvas installed in October 2024—was a community outreach project created by artists Funmilola Adeseun, Luigi Morra, Victoria Armstrong, and Xavier Langley. “The inpouring of zesty colours of the rainbow projects an unending radiation of love, and through this colourful mural, the artists hope to elicit pleasant memories, love and unity, vibrancy in relationships and hopes of good harvests,” the artists’ statement explains. Together, these works of art brighten our space and inspire joy and belonging.



\$170,694

raised for FYFB

step by step

On a February evening, over 400 people from our community joined us for Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY), an annual fundraising walk in support of charities serving people facing homelessness, hunger, or hurt.

Together, our supporters raised an incredible \$170,694. This funding will help keep our shelves full in the coming year, ensuring we have nourishing foods for the growing number of people who rely on FYFB. In 2024, we saw more than 100,000 household visits—an unprecedented number that speaks to the depth of the affordability crisis in our city.

It takes a deeply invested community to provide this level of support, and we are grateful for everyone who stepped up. CNOY25 was such a success because of you—our dedicated fundraisers, generous donors and corporate sponsors, and passionate organizers and volunteers. We appreciate you deeply, and we hope you'll join us next year for CNOY26 on February 28!



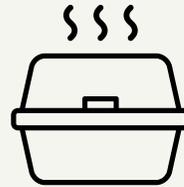
programs with impact

Our services nurture community connections



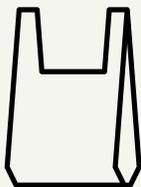
grocery-style food bank

Our grocery store approach offers our clients the power of choice. With the help of volunteers who have been trained in our nutrition program, clients select grocery items from the main food groups based on their individual tastes and dietary needs.



hot meal program

FYFB offers hot meal service on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday during our regular food bank hours, and on Sunday around midday. Ready to eat on the spot or take away, our hot meals provide a delicious bite to eat for our hungry neighbours.



delivery program

Our team of volunteers delivers hampers to 180 older adults each week. The program promotes health and nutrition, enhances social connection, and supports aging in place and independence for elderly community members.



herb garden

Our urban herb garden flourishes along Borden Street from late spring through the fall. Planted and tended by volunteer gardeners, the garden provides our food bank clients with fresh herbs for flavourful and nourishing meals.

thank you!

Your support makes a difference in our community every day

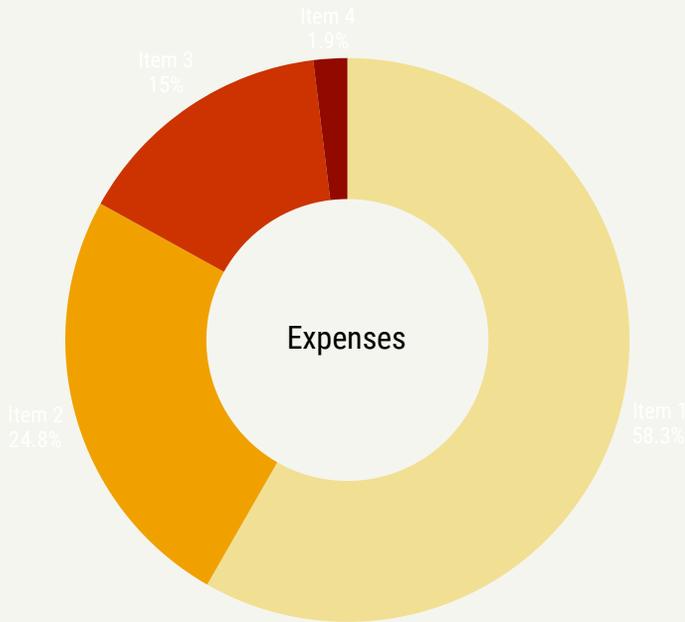
We are deeply grateful for you—our generous donors and sponsors, supportive partners, dedicated volunteers, and caring community members. With two full-time and two part-time staff, and a huge crew of folks who give their time, FYFB is truly a community effort. We simply couldn't help so many of our hungry neighbours without your many contributions.



36K+
volunteer hours
power FYFB

financial report

Year ending March 31, 2025



Revenue	1,691,890
Expenses	
Food purchasing	728,602
Program delivery costs	309,493
Occupancy	187,881
Fundraising & administration	24,202
Total Expenses	1,250,178
Surplus	441,712



vision for tomorrow

A look at what's ahead for FYFB

In recent months, FYFB's Board of Directors and key stakeholders have come together to develop our strategic plan for the coming year. This is no small feat. Like all food banks, FYFB has faced a surge in need over the past few years, and while many other food banks are seeing early signs of a plateau, we are seeing growth in large and very large households turning to us. So it's crucial that our plan reinforces our priorities and takes into account the deepening food insecurity crisis in our neighbourhood and across our city.

Our strategic plan for the coming year is defined by three core objectives:

Meeting the needs of our community – This is central to our core mission, and it will continue to be a top priority for our organization. In addition to providing vital food support, we also serve an important function in referring our clients to community resources that support their health and well-being.

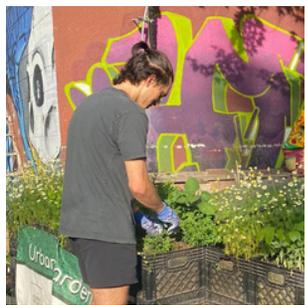
Enhancing the staff and volunteer experience – This plays an important role in helping us provide the best possible support to our clients. Positivity, familiar faces, and lots of languages being spoken create a welcoming environment for our clients—and this helps us build trusted relationships. When folks trust us to support them and their best interests, we have the greatest opportunity to help connect them with vital resources.

Developing facilities for program success – This is also crucial to providing the best possible service to our community. We are continually working to make every nook and cranny count in our space.



While the future may bring new and increasing challenges, the incredible support of our community means FYFB will continue to be there for our hungry neighbours.





FYFB
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