

# OUR CITY. YOUR IMPACT.

## Covid-19 Report





**WE BELIEVE THAT  
ACCESS TO FOOD  
IS A BASIC HUMAN  
RIGHT AND THAT  
NO ONE SHOULD  
GO HUNGRY OR  
FACE BARRIERS TO  
ACCESSING FOOD.**

**Our Vision:**

End hunger in our city.

**Our Mission:**

We collaborate with all to eliminate food insecurity,  
and advocate solutions to end poverty.





Neil Hetherington  
CEO

## Because of you...

In the face of a global pandemic, our city has come together in ways we have rarely, if ever, seen.

As we reflect on the past five months, we are uplifted by the collective resolve and commitment of our donors, partners, and volunteers. We are grateful for your generosity – and that of so many who stepped up to provide a lifeline to those experiencing hunger and poverty.

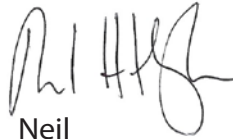
That we distributed 45% more food across the network than the year prior was not simply the result of sheer determination. It was possible through the tremendous support of volunteers, donors and strategic partnerships with fellow non-profits, all levels of government, and the private sector. Despite the massive hurdles we faced, no one was denied food bank service.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 will be experienced for years to come, particularly by those already living in poverty. This is especially so for our neighbours from Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, who have been so deeply impacted by the pandemic. As the city re-opens and the Government State of Emergency ends, many of our residents will remain in emergency situations and will continue to require supports.

Below, we share a timeline of the impacts of COVID-19 on our city as it relates to food insecurity, and how we collectively responded to the crisis. None of this would have been possible without you. Thank you.

We hope you will continue to stand with us in the fight to end hunger in the months and years ahead.

In partnership,

  
Neil

During COVID-19, there was a

**200%**

increase in new clients accessing food banks in Toronto.



Between March - July 31,  
we distributed

**6.7M**

pounds of food, a **45%** year  
over year **increase**.



Surveyed families reported children going hungry more often during the pandemic, rising from **one in four** before the pandemic to **one in three** during.





**“The kids are eating three times more [at home] than before COVID-19. Not having school makes it hard to do anything. The adults and older kids need to sacrifice so that the younger ones can eat.”**

Food bank client, name withheld



**Your Support in Action**

# COMMUNITY SNAP SHOT



## Scarborough

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Toronto, it was our city's most underserved communities that were impacted the hardest; Scarborough is one of these communities.

With 23% of the suburb's population living in poverty and 67% identifying as visible minority, the acute needs of this community – **and the correlation between race/ethnicity and poverty** – were both amplified and multiplied during the pandemic.

Many food banks and meal programs across Scarborough were forced to close down to adhere to Public Health safety measures. But thanks to a strong network of existing members, and new partners who stepped up in response to the pandemic, we redoubled our efforts to ensure that members of this disproportionately vulnerable community were able to access food.

Through member agencies, like Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA), Daily Bread was able to distribute more than 25% more food across Scarborough. Prior to COVID-19, ACSA served an average of 7,748 individuals per month. In May 2020, ACSA served 19,760 – an increase of 155%.

Through Warden Woods Community Centre and the Scarborough Food Security Initiative, volunteers delivered food to the homes of vulnerable members of the community.



Thanks to a partnership with the City, the Toronto Public Library, and North York Harvest, Daily Bread also opened 12 temporary 'pop-up' food banks to ensure access to food in areas where there were service gaps.

When libraries reopened, grassroots organization Emmanuel Life Management Centre re-opened their food bank in the parking lot of the Toronto Community Housing building out of which they operate. With no refrigeration or storage, and few resources, they remained committed to providing food for their neighbours in need. With Daily Bread's support, they also opened a food bank to support the neighbourhood of Chester Le, a group of townhouses that previously lacked direct access to a food bank.

In total, 18 new food programs were launched in Scarborough in response to COVID-19.

The importance of grassroots organizations cannot be understated. They are nimble and resilient. And, because they are rooted in the community and have deep understanding of local issues, they are trusted. As Daily Bread braces for the long-term impacts of COVID-19, and readies for the ever-increasing need for food, we will continue to invest in building the capacity of grassroots organizations that join our network.







## During the pandemic, many individuals and families turned to food banks for the first time. Luis shares his story.

“With this virus going on around, [COVID-19] has affected our family in several ways.

It started with my job slowing down. I work in construction as a builder and in demolition. My work was impacted because the owners decided to stop projects. As such, my income was affected. This means less money knowing we have rent and bills to pay. All these little things add up and make it difficult for our family.

My kids’ education has also slowed down, as they now try to concentrate and re-adapt on their learning.

I do want to thank Daily Bread Food Bank and their donors, volunteers and staff because it helped us a lot in bringing food to our family. We just hope that this ends soon so we can continue with our daily routine.

Thank you for going that extra mile and helping people on their needs in this difficult time.”

*Luis, food bank client, April 2020*

Since his work resumed in June, Luis and his family no longer require the support of the food bank.

# TIMELINE

DATA FROM MARCH 13 – JULY 31, 2020



# BEFORE COVID-19

In 2019, there were **over 1 million visits** to food banks in Toronto and Mississauga.

(Who's Hungry 2019)

**78 food banks** operating in the Daily Bread Food Bank network.

**1 in 5** people in Toronto are food insecure.

# MARCH

On March 13, The City of Toronto announces city-wide closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daily Bread sets up a Global Medic tent at its on-site food bank in Etobicoke to facilitate uninterrupted service to the community.

One-third of Daily Bread member food banks (20) are forced to close. Remaining food banks adapt to meet increased need and most shift to pre-packaged food hampers based on family size.

Daily Bread suspends volunteer groups in response to Public Health safety measures. Volunteer numbers at the warehouse drop 70% from mid-March to the end of June as compared to the same period the year prior.

Daily Bread is declared an **essential service** by the City of Toronto.

To ease the strain on local food banks, the Government of Ontario provides funding to Feed Ontario for an emergency food box program.

Public food donations **decrease by 6%** compared to the same time last year.

One in three Canadians say they could not manage an unexpected \$100 expense and one in four is worried they will need to rely on a food bank in the near future. (Angus Reid)



# MARCH

In response to Public Health mandates, the Daily Bread staff and core volunteers are split into two teams, and the organization's workweek extends to six days.

Daily Bread's kitchen suspends the delivery of prepared meals to food programs across the city. Impacted agencies are immediately provided with incremental funding to ensure continuous access to food.

Daily Bread manages distribution logistics of donations from major industry partners – Loblaws, Kraft/Heinz, and Sobeys – through the City's Office of Emergency Management to Second Harvest, Red Cross, Salvation Army, North York Harvest, and Daily Bread.

From March – June, AMJ Campbell provides drivers and trucks to support the pick-up of public food donation bins at grocery stores and fire halls across the city, easing the mounting pressure on Daily Bread's fleet.

The Slight Family Foundation makes landmark **\$1,000,000 donation** to Daily Bread. The donation is leveraged by Loblaws to procure **\$1.25M** in gift cards to supplement fresh food for client hampers.

# APRIL

At least **1 million** additional Toronto residents are now likely relying on government support due to job losses, compared to 210,000 people at the end of February. (Toronto Foundation)

Daily Bread assists in establishing food security as a top priority item for City of Toronto's COVID-19 response and joins the City's Emergency Operations Centre on Community Food Access.

The average number of weekly visits to food banks across the city climbs from 15,000 to close to 20,000 – nearly a **25% increase** as compared to February.

Daily Bread, Canadian Red Cross, and the City of Toronto partner to launch a program to deliver emergency food hampers to individuals unable to leave their homes due to COVID-19.

Nearly **12 times more** people in Toronto ask the City via 211 for referrals for help with food security.

In partnership with the City, Toronto Public Library (TPL), North York Harvest, and Second Harvest, **11 temporary 'pop-up' food banks** are launched in select libraries across the city - with a 12th opened in May.

Rocketman App, popular amongst TTC riders, adds new functionality to its platform to highlight locations of all publicly accessible food donation bins and directs individuals in need of food to 211.



# APRIL / MAY

Daily Bread creates a central online registration portal for new clients. With their unique ID number, they are able to access food banks across the city quickly and with limited physical interaction.

Daily Bread partially resumes its prepared meal program. From May to July, casseroles are delivered to agencies through a new partnership with UberEats.

Daily Bread **distributes 76% more food** (by weight) to agency members than a year prior.

Daily Bread opens a temporary warehouse to distribute 60,000 Feed Ontario emergency hampers across the city.

APRIL

MAY

Electronic tablets are distributed across Daily Bread food banks so that staff and volunteers can track client visits safely outdoors and address lineups quickly.

Daily Bread launches a new central Information & Referral call centre through which clients across Toronto can speak with trained volunteers to register for a food bank or find assistance accessing resources.

More than **3 million jobs** were lost between February and April 2020, leading to a historic **13.7%** unemployment rate.

# JUNE

In response to the closure of eight temporary Library food banks, **11 new food programs** are established in partnership with local community groups.

Daily Bread **distributes 90% more food** (by weight) in June alone compared to the same period last year. Some food banks are experiencing as much as three times the number of weekly visits as compared to February 2020.

Despite a dramatic decrease in volunteers during COVID-19, staff and a core group of volunteers assembled over 31,000 pre-packed hampers for distribution at our on-site food bank, and through the Red Cross and North York Harvest since March.

Food banks see a **200% increase** in new clients compared to February.

Daily Bread **increases funding** to member agencies by **870%** to help them meet increased client volume and invest in infrastructure updates that allow them to serve the community safely.

Daily Bread increases food purchasing by **over 120%** to meet the needs of the community as compared to the same month last year.

# JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

Daily Bread publishes research report *Hunger Lives Here* which illustrates the heightened health risks and challenges faced by food bank clients due to COVID-19.

JULY

Daily Bread resumes delivery of casseroles and foodstuffs to agencies across the network. Daily Bread projects full meal program, including prepared soups, to resume in October.

Since the COVID-19 crisis was declared in March, Daily Bread distributed **6.7M pounds of food**, a **45%** year over year **increase**.

AUGUST

Once all existing Daily Bread member food banks re-open, it is projected that **90 food banks and tenant programs** (including 16 new food banks) will be open across the city - a net growth of **25%** prior to the pandemic.

By September, **over 25,000** emergency food hampers provided by Daily Bread will have been delivered through the Red Cross Mobile Food Bank partnership to nearly 3,000 high-risk house-bound individuals - including **over 1,720 seniors**.

SEPTEMBER

# THANK YOU

**Thank you for being a lifeline to those experiencing hunger and poverty during COVID-19.**

It is not an overstatement to say that this work would not have been possible without your compassion and commitment to help create real change in our city.

We want to hear from you! Should you have any questions, please connect with us at [info@dailybread.ca](mailto:info@dailybread.ca) to learn more.

