Daily Bread Food Bank

July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026

2026 Annual Impact Report

Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Daily Bread Food Bank

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Connect with us

Donate

Help neighbours who are facing hunger.

Donate

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Vision, mission, values

Vision, mission, values

Vision

To end hunger in our city.

Mission

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

Values

Accountable

Commitments we make are commitments we keep.

Creative

We continuously pursue new and refined solutions to serve the needs of our communities.

Equitable

We advocate for policies that enable everyone to fully participate in society.

Evidence-based

Our actions are informed by evidence and form impactful solutions.

Inclusive

We embrace diversity of people, thought and experiences, and prioritize the voices of those affected by poverty.

Operating principle

Food is a human right. Everyone should be able to access the food they need.

Daily Bread Food Bank operates from a human rights-based approach that prioritizes participation, accountability, non-discrimination, equality and empowerment.

Message from our Board Chair and CEO

Food insecurity often hides in plain sight. It quietly reveals itself in the impossible choices many people must make: a parent skipping a meal so their child can eat, a senior choosing between groceries and a hydro bill, or a worker trying to stretch every last dollar after rent consumes most, if not all, of their paycheque.

Across Canada, nearly one in four people now live in a food-insecure household. In Toronto, one in 10 people rely on the Daily Bread Food Bank. In a city and country as prosperous as ours, these numbers are obscene. Never would we have imagined that Daily Bread would need to scale its operations so dramatically to meet this extraordinary level of need. Yet that is exactly what we have been called to do over the past six years. And with new economic pressures continuing to mount, there is every reason to believe these numbers will only get worse.

At Daily Bread, our responsibility is twofold. We are committed to meeting this need today, ensuring that everyone who turns to us can access food with dignity. At the same time, we are working to build a future where fewer people need food banks at all through our advocacy work.

This year, we expanded our network by 19 programs to reach communities experiencing the greatest strain. Together with donors, volunteers, and partners, we distributed 40.7 million pounds of food, the equivalent of nearly one million meals every week.

On the advocacy front, Neil's friend Bobby received his first Canada Disability Benefit payment this year, alongside over 300,000 other people in 2025-2026. Knowing that this support provided him with some relief brought a deep sense of joy, as well as renewed inspiration that we can change systems when we work alongside the people we serve.

The National School Food Program was also made permanent, and the City of Toronto worked hard to take a leadership role in its expansion. All 330,000 students in Toronto now have access to a morning meal.

Finally, all three levels of government are making investments to increase the supply and preservation of affordable housing and expand access to affordable rental homes.

None of these actions would have taken place without Canadians demanding change. And while there is much to celebrate, our numbers make clear that there is much more work ahead.

To every donor, supporter, advocate and volunteer: thank you. Your willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder, united in this fight, makes this work possible and brings the hope of a brighter future within reach.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and everyone on the Daily Bread team, we are grateful for your partnership, trust and faith as we continue working toward a Toronto where everyone can realize their right to food.

In partnership,

Neil Hetherington
Chief Executive Officer

Gaylen Duncan
Board Chair

Board of Directors and Management

Daily Bread Food Bank is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected annually by its agencies, which reflect the city of Toronto. Over one-third of the Board self-identify as individuals with lived or living experience with poverty and food insecurity. We believe this adds significant value to the conversations, decisions, and governance structure of the organization.

Board Executives

Gaylen Duncan
Chair
Ex officio Member of all Board Committees

Amos Sarwan
Vice-Chair
Finance Committee

Nicole Barry
Treasurer
Finance Committee (Chair)

Emmy Kelly
Corporate Secretary
Governance and Nominations Committee (Chair)

Board Members

Bill Argeropoulos
Fundraising Committee (Chair)

JT Badiani
Finance Committee

Jamille Clarke-Darshanand
Program Support Committee (Chair)

Andrew Davis
Fundraising Committee

Eileen de Villa
Program Support Committee

Margaret Gunawan
Governance & Nominations Committee

Gale M. Kelly
Fundraising Committee

Maheen Merchant
Finance Committee

Michael Messenger
Governance & Nominations Committee

Rajiv Sujan
Program Support Committee

Committees

Each committee is made up of three or more individuals from the Board of Directors. They may also include agency representatives and may be supported by management. The goal of each committee is to provide oversight and guidance in governance matters.

Finance Committee

provides oversight on all financial matters including controls, investments, enterprise-wide risk management, and budgeting.

Fundraising Committee

advises on the development of Daily Bread's fundraising strategy and monitors its implementation.

Program Support Committee

supports, guides, and monitors activities related to development of current and new programs and services throughout the city.

Governance and Nominations Committee

is responsible for recommending governance policies and procedures to Daily Bread's Board of Directors and ensuring compliance. This committee also focuses on the recruitment of candidates for membership on the Board. It ensures that candidates are representative of our communities and have the skills, knowledge, and experience required to support the Board in achieving its objectives.

Management

Samantha Cooke
Vice President, Philanthropy

Gretchen Daniels
Chief Financial Officer

Joanna Dwyer
Interim Vice President, Marketing and Communications

Neil Hetherington
Chief Executive Officer

Charles Jergl
Vice President, Programs and Services

Eva Molina
Vice President, Marketing and Communications (on leave)

Sahar Raza
Vice President, Research and Advocacy

Heather Valentino
Vice President, Operations

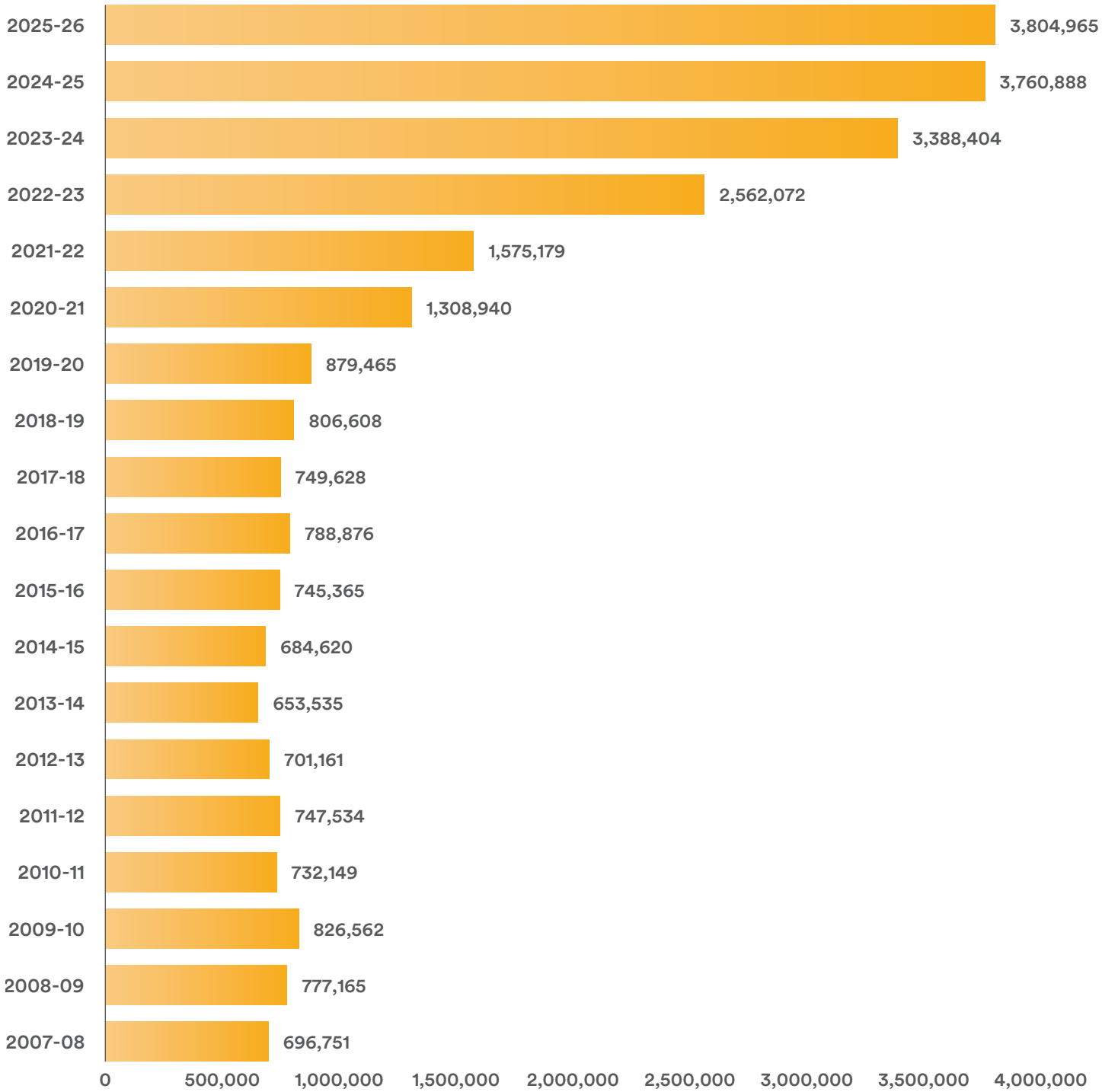
Jeffrey Wong
Vice President, People and Culture

Impact in the community

Together with our network of donors, partners, volunteers and agencies, we're making sure everyone in our city can access the food they need.

A deepening crisis

From July 2025 to June 2026, there were **3,804,965** client visits to Daily Bread food bank programs, nearly triple the amount from five years prior.



Client spotlight: Kristina

A month after Kristina unexpectedly lost her husband, she discovered she was expecting twins.

She found herself in unimaginable circumstances: she was left alone to raise her twin daughters and two older boys. Her husband had been the primary breadwinner, so Kristina was forced to leave their family home, move to a shelter — and turn to Daily Bread Food Bank for urgently needed support.

For the first two years after her daughters were born, Kristina relied regularly on fresh, nutritious food from Daily Bread. It was the most difficult time of her life. She was grief-stricken yet still caring for her young daughters and sons ages 5 and 9. All this while managing a painful, chronic health condition resulting from her pregnancy. **The income she received from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) was simply not enough to provide for her family.**

"When I first went to the food bank, I felt like I was failing, like I had screwed up," says Kristina. "I used to have a job. I have a university degree. I never imagined I'd need a food bank...

But that was before my health issues, before I lost my husband, before having four children to support," she adds. "Now I realize that I was in a really difficult situation and I just needed help."

And she is not alone — insufficient wages, inadequate income supports, and the rising cost of living are forcing more Torontonians to rely on food banks, including those with employment or higher education. **In fact, 57% of Toronto food bank clients have a post-secondary degree or higher, according to *Who's Hungry* 2025.**

Kristina's twins are now 7, while her boys are 12 and 16. Though her life is different, with new challenges, she takes comfort in knowing that Daily Bread is still there for support.

"These days, I still rely on the food bank, especially for fresh fruits like peaches, strawberries (my kids' favourites), and school lunch snacks," says Kristina. "We're so grateful for these things. Every bit of help makes a difference to our family."

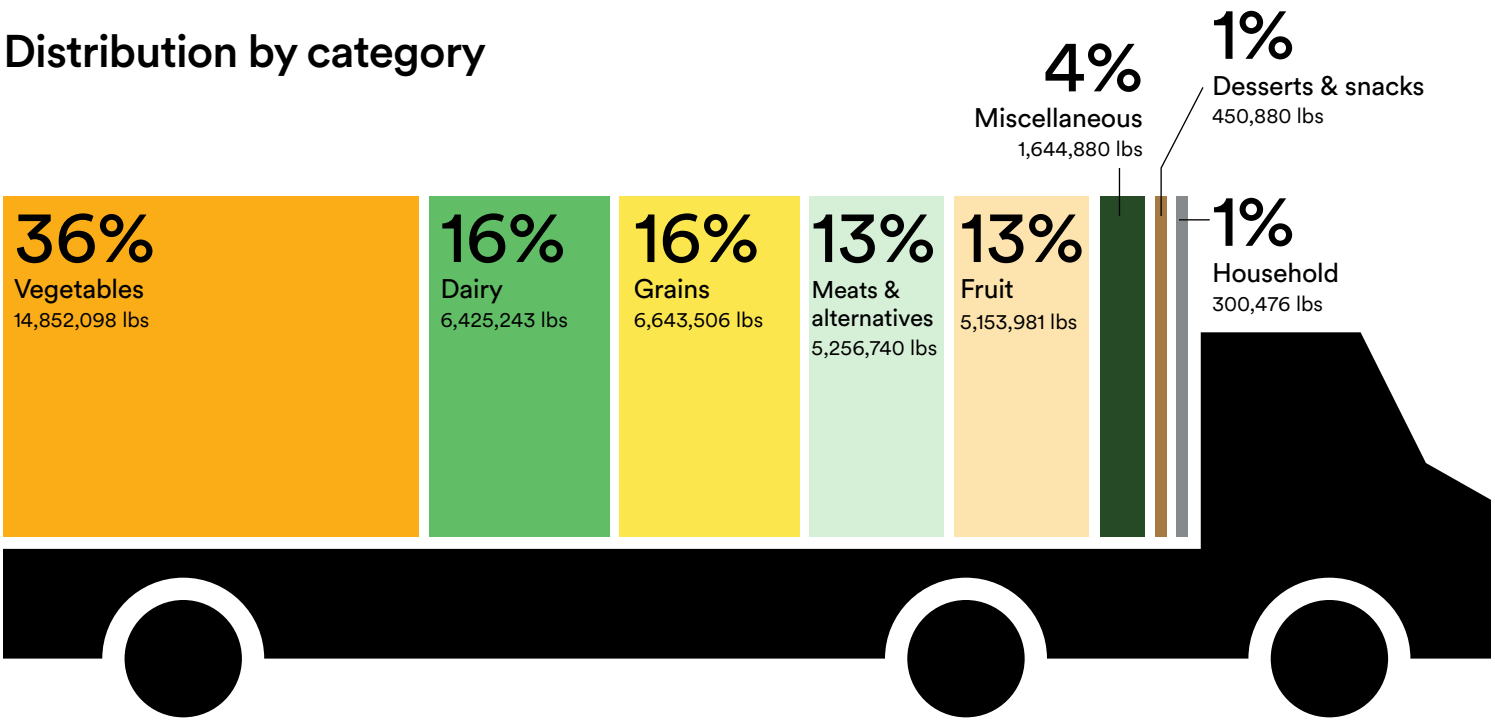
Thank you

Many neighbours, like Kristina, are pushed into poverty by circumstances beyond their control. Your support provides relief, hope, and nutritious food for families like hers.

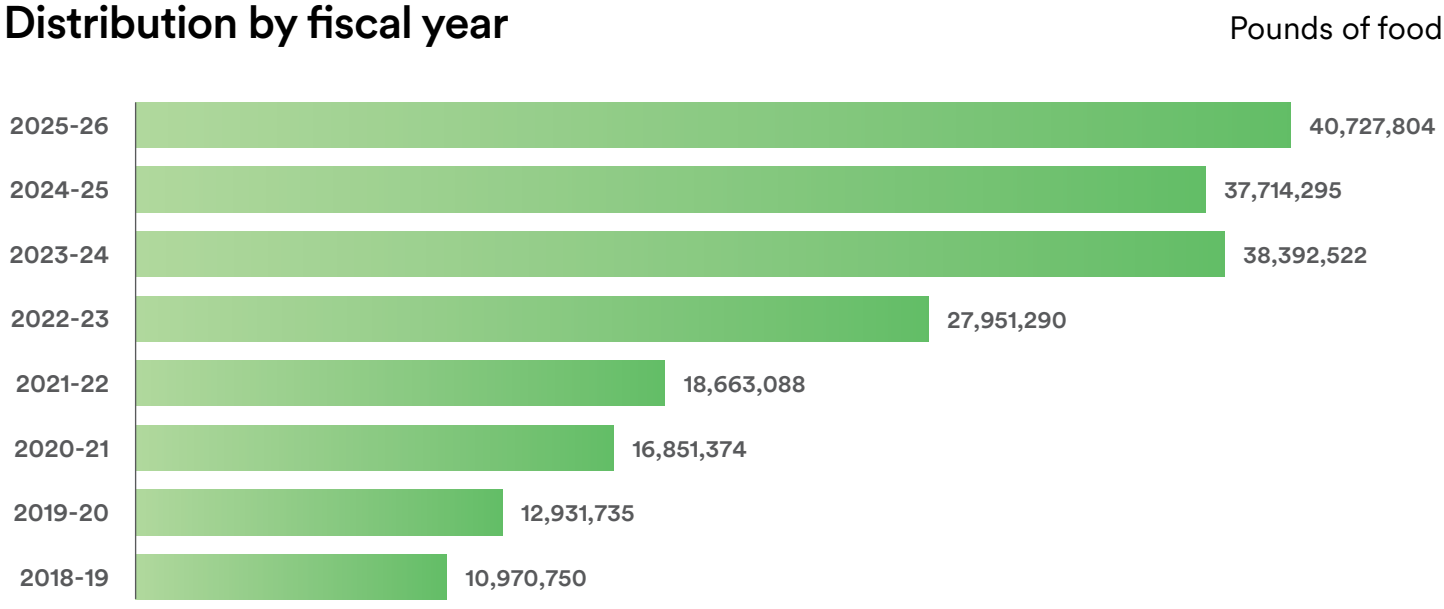
Annual food distribution

Together, with the support of donors and partners, we distributed **40,727,804 lbs of food** across the city from July 2025 - June 2026.

Distribution by category



Distribution by fiscal year



Farm to Food Bank

Take a stroll around our warehouse and you'll spot bright pops of colour everywhere: trays of red tomatoes stacked next to bins of yellow peppers, green cucumbers boxed near giant squash. You'll catch the scents of fresh carrots and sweet apples.

Much of this produce is donated through our Farm to Food Bank program. Through this program, farm-fresh crops with natural imperfections get diverted from the landfill and rescued for distribution to our 221 food programs across the city.

Last year was our most successful year to date. From July 2025 – June 2026, the program saved **5,621,857 pounds of fruits and vegetables** for those facing hunger. This was a 29.39% increase over the previous year.

We are so grateful to our 20 farm partners throughout Ontario for donating 50+ varietals each year. Together, we are reducing food waste and ensuring everyone in our communities has access to healthy, nutritious produce.

Daily Bread kitchen

Imagine opening up a recipe for chicken fajitas that calls for 66 pounds of chicken thighs, over 50 pounds of diced carrots and six full cups of chili powder.

For our chefs and volunteers, working with amounts like these is an everyday occurrence. They sauté, bake and roast thousands of meals every week to supply our 75 meal programs throughout Toronto. Many food bank clients do not have access to a kitchen to cook meals, and these programs ensure they can still enjoy a hot entree or bowl of soup.

From July 2025 – June 2026, **300,182 meals** came out of our Daily Bread kitchen, representing a **10.81% increase** over the previous year and an 18.04% increase compared to two years prior. These meals consisted of tens of thousands of casserole dishes (at 10 servings each) filled with entrees like ratatouille, Moroccan chicken, and matar paneer, as well as 21,803 individually packaged meals distributed in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross Mobile Food Bank, which delivers directly to individuals not able to access traditional food programs due to health and/or other challenges.

Did you know?

The Daily Bread kitchen team produces a meat entree and soup as well as a vegetarian entree and soup every week to cater to clients' cultural and dietary needs. Each dish is labeled with ingredient lists, nutritional facts and defrosting instructions so that agency staff know exactly how to serve that week's butter chicken or lentil shakshuka.

Retail Food Program

Surplus stock that goes unsold in grocery stores can often end up going to waste. Through our Retail Food Program, we partner with local stores to pick up this inventory and redistribute good food to families facing hunger.

From July 2025 – June 2026, 45 stores across Toronto donated **564,281 pounds** of food, an incredible 450,617 pounds of which were proteins. Our heartfelt thanks to these stores and all the retail partners who have donated a total of **2,518,349** pounds of food to us since the program's 2023 pilot. Your efforts have delivered more than 2.5 million meals to neighbours facing hunger.

Our first Open House

It's one thing to read about the impact of your donations. It's another to see it in action.

That's why on May 30, 2025, we hosted our first-ever Open House, welcoming **318 guests** to take a guided tour of our Community Food Hub and get to know all facets of our organization through 10 interactive activations.

Guests sampled caldo verde soup from our commercial kitchen, "shopped" through our on-site food bank, shivered in our industrial freezer, walked among the stacked pallets of our warehouse and took photos at the wheel of one of our trucks.

They also learned about how we distribute millions of pounds of food to food programs across Toronto and advocate to all three levels of government for policy changes that will ultimately end hunger in our communities.

Adding to the excitement was an on-site broadcast with Chloe Bernabei from the KiSS 92.5 team, who helped share the day's activities with a broader audience.

Attendees had very positive feedback, with one citing the most valuable part of their visit as "physically seeing the epic scale of the operation and how all the cogs in the wheel are interconnected." With our debut Open House under our belts, we're now looking into growing the event in the coming years.

Volunteer highlights

Volunteers help fuel nearly every aspect of our organization. They sort produce on the production floor, stock shelves in our on-site food bank, pick agency orders in the warehouse and chop vegetables in the kitchen. When clients need help booking appointments or getting referrals to other services, like free English classes or dental care, volunteers make sure they get the support they need.

Last year 12,761 volunteers walked through our doors — that's over 2,000 more than the year prior — donating a jaw-dropping 141,668 hours to our mission. That's equal to over 16 solid *years*. We are so grateful for everyone who rolled up their sleeves for the fight to end hunger!

12,761
volunteers donated an incredible
141,668
hours of their time

Champion volunteer: Jessica Unuakhalu

If you've come by our Community Food Hub in the past year, most likely it was Jessica who greeted you at the door. She donated 1,999 hours last year, the most of any volunteer, and primarily behind the front desk at Welcome Centre. On paper, her duties include checking in volunteers, hanging clean safety stripes, and brewing coffee for clients as they wait for their appointments. But in practice she does so much more. As a newcomer herself, she often provides an empathetic ear to immigrants looking for help. She remembers one couple who had no idea what a food bank was — they couldn't believe they were able to access fresh groceries at no cost. "They gave me a big hug" after they checked out, she recalls. "They were so happy — I felt fulfilled."

Research and advocacy

At Daily Bread Food Bank, we leverage research to advance meaningful policy change. Together with partners across the sector, we advocate for long-term solutions to end poverty and food insecurity.

Advocacy in action

Daily Bread CEO Neil Hetherington speaks to a reporter about the food insecurity crisis

Food insecurity becomes a national priority

With one in four Canadians struggling to afford food and other essentials, the federal government released its first-ever National Food Security Strategy this year — a recognition, after years of pressure from Daily Bread and partners across the sector, that hunger is a public policy failure and not a charitable problem. We moved quickly to shape it, submitting a joint letter with food security partners that named the strategy's most serious gap: It has no income security pillar. We also called for a cross-departmental roundtable, so that food security is not siloed inside a single ministry.

Long-term reform matters, but people need relief now. Two federal measures we pushed for landed this year: the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit, which will reach more than 12 million people, and the National School Food Program, which was made permanent through legislation and funded to reach 400,000 children with healthy meals. Neither is a substitute for adequate incomes — but together they put money and food in the hands of people who need both today.

Expanding access to the Canada Disability Benefit

July 2026 marked one year of the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) — a benefit that exists because Daily Bread and disability rights advocates across the country campaigned for years to create it. The CDB provides eligible people with disabilities aged 18 to 64 with up to $204.20 a month.

Getting that money into people's hands is a second fight. The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is the gateway to the CDB and other federal supports, and it remains difficult and costly to obtain. Our collective advocacy with

partners moved the federal government on three fronts this year: the CDB is now exempt from clawbacks, so recipients do not lose other benefits; a one-time $150 supplement that helps offset the cost of applying for the DTC; and the government has committed to reforms that reduce the administrative barriers to the Credit itself.

People with disabilities still face a disproportionate risk of poverty, and the CDB in its current form does not change that. We continue to work with a broad coalition of anti-poverty and disability rights organizations to press for further DTC reforms that would let people reach the supports they are already entitled to.

A pathway out of homelessness for people on social assistance

Ontario's social assistance system contains a trap: When a recipient becomes unhoused, they lose the shelter portion of their benefit — the very money they would need to get back into housing. Daily Bread's solution is a reserve fund that lets that shelter portion accumulate so it is there for first and last month's rent when a person finds a place to live. We made the case publicly in an op-ed in the *Toronto Star* ahead of the provincial budget, and directly to government alongside our broader push to raise social assistance rates.

The idea took hold. Toronto City Council voted overwhelmingly to urge the province to adopt it — a decision backed by a joint letter from Daily Bread and nearly 60 agencies across our network, and by letters of support from the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Feed Ontario. It is rare for a policy proposal to travel from a food bank's research to a City Council resolution in a single year.

We are now taking that momentum to Queen's Park, where one change to how the shelter benefit works could help thousands of people leave homelessness behind.

Our next front: Making rent affordable

More than 90% of Daily Bread clients are renters or are trying to become renters, and rent is where their income disappears. We are seeing more working people — many with post-secondary education — turn to food banks because a paycheque no longer covers the cost of rent and other essentials.

Affordability for low-income renters will be the central focus of our advocacy in the year ahead, and our lead ask is a Canada Renters Credit: an income-tested tax rebate paid monthly, like the Canada Child Benefit, that would reach renters directly and immediately, so that fewer people have to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table.

Bringing food insecurity to the ballot box

Elections are one of the few moments when politicians answer directly to the people they serve. During the federal by-elections this year, we partnered with community organizations to host candidates' debates in University–Rosedale and Scarborough Southwest, drawing close to 170 participants who heard directly from their local candidates about their plans for advancing food security, affordable housing, adequate incomes, and decent work.

Scarborough Southwest candidates answer rapid-fire questions
Credit: West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre

Daily Bread's Research & Advocacy team meets with MPP Jessica Bell, University–Rosedale (centre)

Queen's Park Day of Action

We joined food banks from across Ontario at Queen's Park with one central ask: Raise the Ontario Works earnings exemption from $200 a month — where it has sat since 2013 — to at least $600 a month.

At today's minimum wage, that limit lets someone work just 11 hours a month before clawbacks begin, a rule that penalizes people for taking on work. Raising it would let recipients build experience, skills and savings before their benefits are reduced — which is how people actually leave social assistance behind.

Making our case in every budget process

Budgets are where governments reveal their real priorities, so we brought our recommendations into all three of them.

Daily Bread was invited to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance — a national platform for two of our priority asks: a refundable tax credit for low-income renters, and further reform of the Disability Tax Credit.

We also made submissions to the Ontario and Toronto budget consultations, pressing for action on incomes, housing instability and social assistance rates that have not kept pace with the cost of living.

Daily Bread CEO Neil Hetherington speaks as a witness on a panel for the pre-budget consultations for the 2026 federal budget

Engaging government at all levels

This year we met with nearly 80 officials across the municipal, provincial and federal governments. Some of those meetings happened in offices and committee rooms; others happened on our warehouse floor, at food-sorting events and facility tours where decision-makers saw the scale of the need for themselves. Relationships built this way are what let us act quickly when a policy window opens.

Policy change rarely happens on an annual cycle. Every report, submission and meeting in these pages is cumulative work toward a Toronto where no one needs a food bank at all.

Who's Hungry 2025

In partnership with North York Harvest, Daily Bread released the *Who's Hungry* 2025 report, our annual profile of poverty and food insecurity in Toronto. Drawing on food bank usage data, 1,890 client surveys and 14 in-depth interviews with clients and agencies, it is the most detailed picture available of who is going hungry in this city — and why.

Call to action

The report calls on **all three levels of government** to:

- strengthen income supports
- expand and protect affordable housing
- promote decent work

Key findings:

- Food bank visits surpassed 4 million for the first time — a 340% increase since 2019.
- More than 1 in 10 Torontonians now rely on food banks, and 54% of clients visited a food program more than three times a month.
- The cost-of-living crisis is driving the hunger crisis: 96% of clients named cost of living among the top three reasons for their most recent visit.
- After paying rent and utilities, clients are left with a median of $8.33 per person, per day for food and every other essential.
- 88% of clients live in unaffordable housing, spending 30% or more of their income on housing and utilities. An alarming one in five spend their entire income on housing, leaving nothing for food and other essentials.
- Nearly half (46%) of clients live in a household where someone is employed. One in three of those households hold multiple jobs, and the median wage reported was $19 an hour — well below Toronto's living wage of $26.
- 31% of clients have a disability, and 39% of them rely on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) as their main income. ODSP pays a single person a maximum of $1,408 a month — more than $1,000 below Toronto's poverty line of $2,444.
- One in four food bank clients is a child.
- The fastest-growing group is adults aged 19 to 44, whose visits have grown 285% since 2019.

Watch this video to learn more about the findings

Advocating for solutions to end poverty

Advocacy areas of focus

Income supports

Advocating to close the gaps in our social safety net, so that every person living in Canada has sufficient income to afford their basic needs and realize their right to food.

Affordable housing

Advocating to increase supply of affordable rental housing, expand the reach of portable housing benefits, and enhance renter supports to achieve the right to food and housing for all.

Decent work

Advocating for a livable wage, paid sick days, portable employment benefits, and protections for low-income workers.

Daily Bread CEO Neil Hetherington announces the latest numbers on food bank use at the 2025 *Who's Hungry* press conference.

Photo from Canva.com

Client spotlight: Leisa

As a teenager, Leisa was determined to build the life she dreamed of. When she was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia, her doctor told her that if there was anything she wanted to accomplish, she should do it now — before her illness made it too difficult. So she did.

Leisa graduated from college and built a career in the commercial photography industry as a professional stylist. She worked hard, became in demand, and created a full life with her daughter and family.

But in 2020, her illness progressed to the point where she could no longer continue working. Then, in 2023, she was devastated by the loss of her husband and grandmother. **Without her husband's income, Leisa suddenly found herself worrying about something she had never imagined: where her next meal would come from.**

"That was a rude awakening," she says. "I did the work. I went to school, I did it right. And because my illness took me out, I ended up in this impossible situation."

Leisa is not alone. According to the 2025 *Who's Hungry* report, Toronto food bank visits reached an all-time high of 4.1 million in a single year — more than half a million more than the previous year and a 340% increase since 2019.

More neighbours are being pushed into poverty by low wages, inadequate income supports, and the rising cost of living. The income Leisa receives from the Ontario Disability Support Program falls far short of what she needs to cover rent, groceries, and the cost of supporting her daughter through college.

To make ends meet, Leisa began skipping meals.

"I let my daughter eat while I pretended to eat," she says.

This took a toll on Leisa's already fragile health, until she learned about Daily Bread Food Bank. She was able to access fresh and nourishing food that helped her regain strength.

"People need nutritious food to focus and move forward in life," says Leisa. "The food bank has given me that opportunity again, because I didn't have it before when I was skipping meals."

Your impact

For Leisa and thousands of others across Toronto, access to nutritious food provides vital support during periods of unexpected hardship, helping them manage their health and care for their families.

Agency network highlights

We work hard to provide the best support to meet the needs of Daily Bread agencies and the communities they serve.

Food programs

Daily Bread Food Bank's network consists of **131 agencies** running **221 food programs.**

125

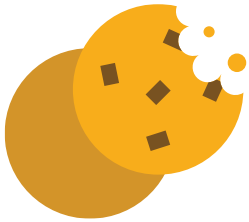
food bank programs

Distribute up to three days of fresh and shelf-stable grocery items. Clients may visit a food bank in the network once per week.

75

meal programs

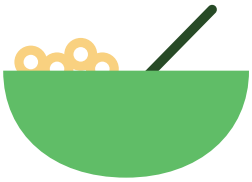
Serve a prepared meal to their community members.



15

snack programs

Serve portable snack items that are quick and easy to eat (e.g. granola bars, cookies etc.).



6

breakfast programs

Serve a light breakfast.

Volunteers at West Hill Community Support Program, which runs a food bank, meal program and snack program within Daily Bread's network

Clockwise from top: Staff and volunteers unload their first delivery at TNO St. James Town, a new program that opened this year; celebrating the opening of the new food bank at YWCA Elm Centre; the team from L'Agapanthe Francophone Food Bank visits Daily Bread to prepare for their program opening.

Agency network highlights

Without Daily Bread agencies, food would not get into the hands of those who need it.

These local food banks and community programs are on the front lines of the fight to end hunger, facing the increased demand head-on.

While the network has grown to meet today's historic need, one thing has not changed. Behind each agency is a team fueled by the belief that food is a human right. We are proud to partner with each of them so that together we can feed our city.

Last year, with a special concentration on high-needs priority zones, we added 19 programs to the network — the most we've ever added in a single year. Five of these programs are run by new agencies:

Ruchama Fraidel Relief Organization, which has operated Tomchei Shabbos food bank for over 30 years, joined Daily Bread officially in August 2025. Run entirely by volunteers, this group delivers hand-packed hampers to over 400 families.

In January 2026 we welcomed the first food bank dedicated to Black francophone communities: L'Agapanthe Francophone Food Bank run by **Charité LEO and La Passerelle-I.D.É.** This initiative provides culturally and linguistically appropriate food support to a large, underserved segment of Toronto's Black francophone population, many of whom are refugees.

Sakeenah Canada joined the network in late winter. Sakeenah's vision for The People's Market in Scarborough is to provide a safe space that responds to the immediate needs of vulnerable and racialized populations and addresses systemic barriers contributing to their food insecurity.

Around this time, we began working with the Out of the Cold Meal Program at **Saint Luke's United Church**. The team there in Cabbagetown provides 800 hot meals a week to community members. We deliver raw ingredients to them as well as soups and casseroles from the Daily Bread kitchen.

Lighthouse Training Center launched the LHTC Food Bank in April after participating in a series of Daily Bread trainings to prepare for a new food program to integrate with their many existing services. They opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Daily Bread staff and MP Ahmed Hussen, and in their second full month of operation had already serviced over 1,200 client visits.

131
agencies

221
food programs

$4.5M
distributed by Daily Bread to the agency network to increase capacity and resiliency

Strengthening our network

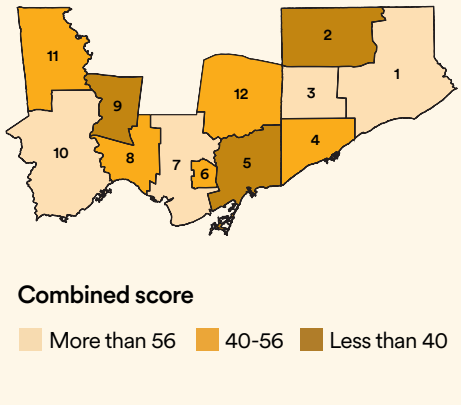
Lighthouse Training Center opened a new food bank in April in York, one of our priority areas

Building resilience in priority zones

How do you decide where a new food bank will make the biggest difference across a city? First, you need a way to measure need. Over the past few years, we've built a tool that does exactly that: a network performance score that shows how much pressure the food bank system is under in each part of Toronto. It looks at five indicators: food bank coverage, service hours, program efficiency, proximity, and service usage relative to the local low-income population. The more strain on the system, the lower the score.

This score has allowed us to keep a finger on the pulse of food bank need throughout Toronto, so if a food program decreased hours or had a sudden closure, we could see the measurable effect of that in real time. It also enabled us to identify areas where need is high but food banks are scarce, and there was room to improve availability. Those areas became our next priorities for investment, so we could bring food to the communities that needed it most.

Guided by this data, we focused on three areas: North Scarborough (Zone 2), Regent Park (Zone 6), and York (Zone 9). Our goal was to improve each zone's score by 20% by the end of the fiscal year. Through this work, we welcomed four new agencies, launched four new programs, expanded one existing program, and added 772 annual service hours.



As a result, scores rose by 31% in Regent Park and 36% in York. North Scarborough improved by 16%, falling just short of our target due to unexpectedly reduced service capacity from a new agency. Overall, the initiative has shown how data-driven planning can help us strengthen food access where it matters most.

Stronger relationships with agencies

We strengthened relationships across the food programs network through a proactive agency engagement approach. Staff conducted a minimum of two on-site visits to each of the 200+ food programs, providing tailored support, identifying operational and compliance needs, and sharing best practices. This consistent engagement helped resolve challenges, strengthen communication, and build the trusted relationships that underpin a resilient and responsive network.

Insights gathered during site visits informed strategic planning, resource allocation, and program development, while enabling early intervention to address challenges before they affected service delivery. Building strong relationships also increased agency participation in training, research, and network initiatives, supporting continuous improvement across the system.

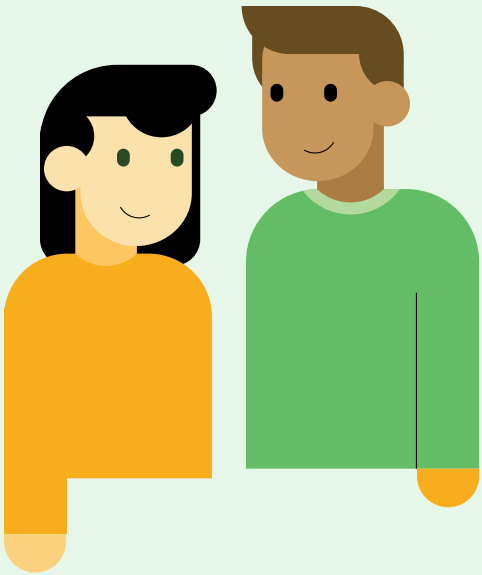
Educating on AODA regulations

Removing barriers and improving access to services for people living with disabilities remained a priority this year. To support agencies' compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Daily Bread hosted two peer learning events featuring client speakers sharing their experiences with physical and psychological accessibility. We also offered new accessibility resources, webinars, and mandatory AODA Customer Service Training. As a result, 100% of Daily Bread agencies reported understanding their obligations under the AODA, ensuring staff and volunteers complete the required training and fulfilling an objective outlined in our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

Agency leaders at our agency conference in May 2026, where we had additional training opportunities

New training resource library

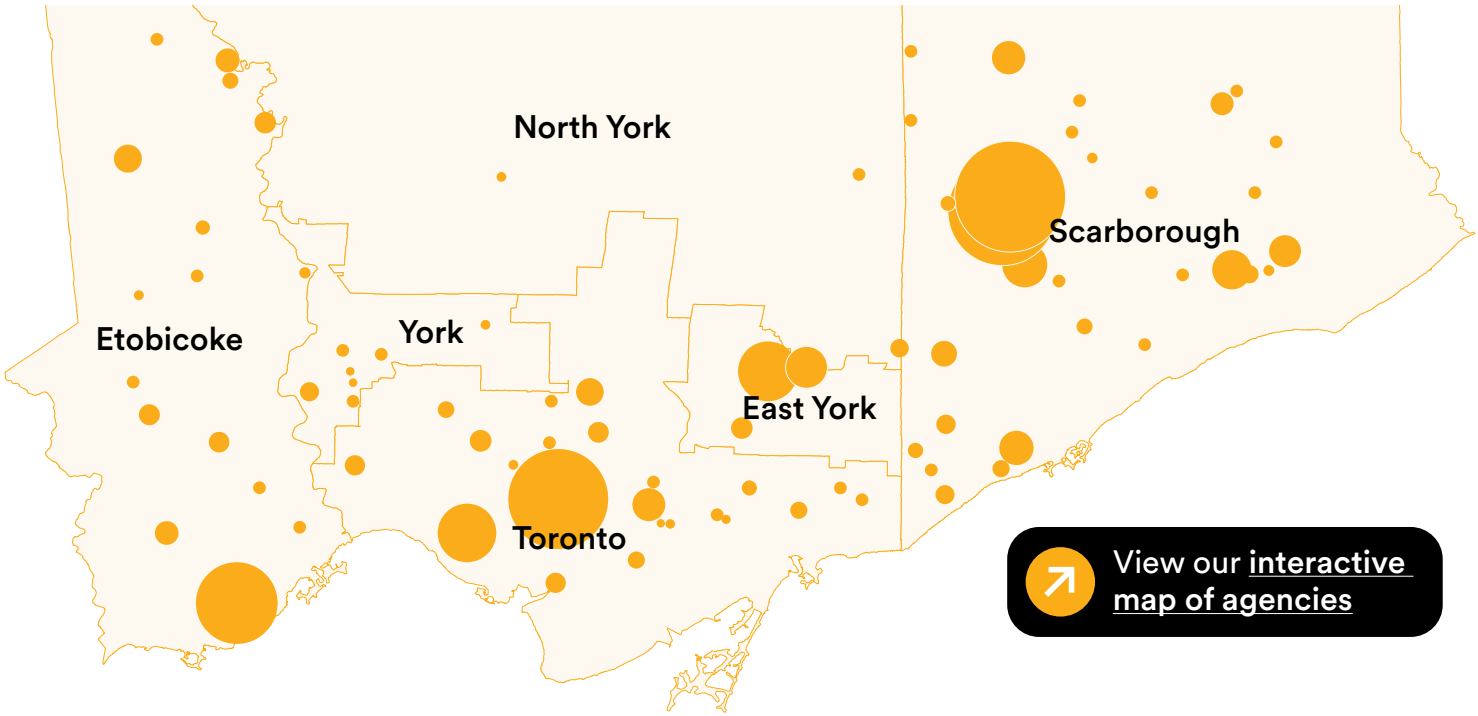
Over the past two years, we expanded training and capacity-building opportunities to help Daily Bread agencies deliver safe and effective food programs. With a network-wide training needs assessment and full-time Training and Education Coordinator, we developed more than 30 new learning resources, updated existing materials, and engaged more than 300 participants through workshops and webinars on topics including food safety, accessibility, de-escalation, and client-centred service.



Agency listing

Together, we facilitate dignified, low-barrier food access to people experiencing food insecurity.

Agency listing



Abiona Centre For Infant & Early Mental Health
Access Alliance Multicultural Health Community Services
Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)
All Saints Church Community Centre
Allan Gardens Food Bank
Alpha House
Beach Interfaith Outreach
Bethany Baptist Church
Bethlehem United Church Apostolic - Toronto
Bloor West Food Bank
Bluffs Food Bank
Braeburn Neighbourhood Place
Breakaway Community Services
Calvary Grace Food Bank
Canadian Red Cross
Canadian South Asian Growth & Support Services
Capstone Community Bible Church
Centennial College - Student Association Inc.
Centre for Immigrant & Community Services (CICS)
Charité LEO (Leadership–Espoir–Opportunité)
Christ Church Scarborough
Christ Church St. James Church
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre
Church of The Holy Trinity
Church of The Messiah (Avenue Road Food Bank)
Church of The Redeemer
Churches-on-the-Hill
College-Montrose Children's Place
CommunitiCare
Community Living
COSTI
Covenant House
Creating Together
Daily Bread Food Bank
Dr. Roz's Healing Place
East End United Regional Ministry (Nourish East End)
Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre
Emmanuel Life Management Centre
Evangel Hall Mission
Eva's Initiatives

Flemingdon Community Food Bank
Fort York Food Bank
Franklin Horner Community Centre
Fred Victor
Friends Of Jesus Christ
Good Shepherd Ministries
Grace Christian Reformed Church of Scarborough
Grace Place Food Bank
Grant AME Church
Haven on the Queensway
Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Holy Wisdom Church
Homes First Society
House of Compassion
ICNA Relief Canada
Islington United Church
Jane Alliance Neighbourhood Services
John Howard Society of Toronto
Juliette's Place (Homeward Family Shelter)
Kingsview Village S.D.A. Church
LAMP Community Health Centre
Lighthouse Centre
Lighthouse Training Center
Living Word Assembly of God Church
LOFT Community Services
Loyan Foundation
Margaret's Housing & Community Support
Meadowvale East Apostolic Church
Midaynta Community Services
Mount Olive S.D.A. Church
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Native Men's Residence
Native Women's Resource Centre
Neighbours Community Homes
Nellie's
Oasis Dufferin Community Centre
OneChurch.to
Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Parent Resources EARLY ON Child and Family Centre
Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC)
Parkdale Community Food Bank
Parkdale Queen West CHC (5P's Program)
Perth S.D.A. Church
Philadelphia S.D.A. Church
Ruchema Fraidel Relief Organization
Sakeenah Canada (GTA)
Sanctuary
Scarborough Campus Students Union
Scarborough Center For Healthy Communities
Scott Mission
Seeds of Hope (Spadina Fort York Community Care)
Sistering
Sojourn House
SOSO World Ministries
South Asian Women's Centre
St. Ann's Parish Toronto
St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church
St. James Food Basket
St. John The Compassionate Mission
St. Lukes United Church
St. Michael's Homes (Haven Toronto)
St. Stephens in the Fields
St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
Student Association of George Brown College
Syme Woolner Neighbourhood & Family Centre
TAIBU Community Health Centre
The 519
The Housing Help Centre
The Neighbourhood Group
The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO)
The Stop Community Food Centre
Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
Toronto East S.D.A. Church
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto People with AIDS Foundation
Toronto West S.D.A. Church
Transition House
Tropicana Community Services
University of Toronto Students Union
Ve'ahavta
Warden Woods Community Centre
West Hill Community Support Program
Weston King Neighbourhood Centre
Westway Christian Church
Women's Health in Women's Hands
WoodGreen Community Services
YMCA Greater Toronto Area
Yonge Street Mission
YWCA of Toronto

Donors and supporters

We are deeply grateful to our incredible community of donors and supporters for their generosity and commitment to ending hunger.

Financial donors

Transformational

$1,000,000+

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Visionary

$250,000–$999,999

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Leader

$25,000–$49,999

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$10,000–$24,999

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Brian Golden and Lydia Lee
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Burgundy Legacy Foundation
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Capital Power
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The Estate of Kevin Sanford
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The Peter Gilgan Foundation
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Phillip Rubinoff
PortsToronto
Powerline Plus Ltd
Premium Uniforms
Prismatique Designs Ltd
Quinn Family Future Foundation
Raheem Adam Gifting Fund
Randall Ladell
RBC Foundation
Renald Morin
Richard J. Balfour Foundation
Richmond Hill Christian Community Church
Ricky Goldenberg
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Robert Sinkewicz Fund
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Roman Stoykewych
Ross Turner
Rufino Coffee
Ruth Mandel - Who Gives Fund
Sandra Fellus
Sandra Huehn
Saven Financial
Saverio and Maria Di Mondo
Schneider Family Foundation
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Silas Ng
The Smith Family Foundation
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Tung-Hong Hsu
Vanessa L. Morgan
Vera Pordage
Vibe Fund
Vohra Miller Foundation
Vulpe & Pelenyi Charitable Fund
Wadepan Inc
Walmart Canada
The Waugh Family Foundation
Whitecap Canada Inc
William and Lorna Anderson
William E. Barnett
The William Birchall Foundation
Anonymous (44)

In-kind donors

Partners who donate food, from farmers and manufacturers to distributors and retailers

Visionary

250,000–999,999 lbs

ATV Farms
Dairy Farmers of Ontario
Dominion Farm Produce Ltd
General Mills Canada
Italpasta Limited
Metro Inc
Riverside Natural Foods Ltd
Rose Family Farm
Stericycle
Vaughn Mills Packaging Ltd
Wonderbrands

Changemaker

100,000–249,999 lbs

Bondi Produce
Campbell Company of Canada
Danone Inc
Dr. Oetker Canada
Egg Farmers of Ontario
First Choice Beverage Inc
Hain Celestial Canada
Lassonde
Laxmi House of Spices Canada
Loblaw Companies Ltd
Procyk Farms (1994) Ltd
Sun-Brite Foods Inc
Walmart Canada

Catalyst

50,000–99,999 lbs

Bettermoo(d)
Boots Farms
Burnbrae Farms
Canadian Fruit & Produce Company
Cardiff Products Corporation
Chary Produce
CJ Logistics
Earth Fresh Foods
Greenhouse Juice Co.
Hello Fresh
Lactalis Canada
McCormick Canada Inc
O'Dough's Bakery
Post Foods Canada
R Tindall Produce
Thai United Foods Trading Ltd
Young & Young Trading

Leader

25,000–49,999 lbs

APO Products Ltd
Burnac Produce Ltd
Canadian Produce Marketing Association
The Clorox Company of Canada
ConAgra Foods Canada Inc
Dole Packaged Foods
Egg Solutions
Manley Sales
Maple Leaf Foods Canada
Martin-Brower of Canada Co
Minor Figures
Molisana Imports
Quaker-PepsiCO
Shah Trading Company Ltd
The Shandex Group
Sobeys Inc
Sofina Foods
Trans Knights Inc
Universal Impex
WK Kellogg Canada Corp

Pacesetter

10,000–24,999 lbs

Al Ferri and Sons
Caribbean Gold
CDC Foods
Confederation Freezer
Fensa Canada Inc
Finica Food Specialities Ltd
Freybe Gourmet Foods Ltd
Gerhards Importers Canada Ltd
GoodLeaf Farms
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Peak Performance Products Inc
Procter & Gamble Inc
PTI Foods Inc
Summer Fresh Salads Inc
Summerhill Market
Terragusto Products Inc
Tierra Amigos
Topline Farms
Trenton Cold Storage
Yupi.ca Inc

Community champions

Community groups, schools, and workplaces rallying support through fundraisers and food drives

Champion Fundraisers

$100,000+

Bank of Montreal
Blakes Law Firm Challenge
CBC Make the Season Kind
Enterprise Mobility
Hullmark Investments Ltd
RBC
Scotiabank
Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie

$50,000–$99,999

CIBC
Google
Hepburn Engineering Inc
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein Employees
Stikeman Elliott LLP
TD Bank Group

$25,000–$49,999

Downtown Softball League
Employees of OTPP
Klick Health
Lenczner Slaght LLP
Liftow / Toyota Material Handling
Ontario Public Service Food Drives
QuadReal Property Group
Raymond James Canada Foundation
Rocket Cycle
Sotos LLP
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada
Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP
Torys LLP
Anonymous (2)

$10,000–$24,999

Acrisure Re Canada Ltd
Apple Canada Inc
Autodesk Foundation
BDO Canada Employees
Bell Canada Employee Giving Program
BGO Properties
Boulevard Blazers Dragonboat Team
Briarlane Rental Property Management Inc
Canada's Walk of Fame Rock The Halls
Canstruction Toronto
Cetaris Canada Inc
CPKC
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Enbridge Gas
Epstein Cole LLP
Give 30 - Ziyaad Mia
Goodmans LLP
Grandma Loves You
Hockey Summit of the Arts
Hydro One Networks Inc
Intact Insurance Company
IntegrityTO
Katie and Kate's Appalachian Trail Hike for Charity
Kinross Gold Corporation
Koskie Minsky LLP
The LoBianco Family
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Marvin's Legacy Campaign
Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP
Metro Cable TV Maintenance & Service Employees Association
Microsoft Canada
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MNP
Moody's Corporation
Morningstar Research Inc
Ontario Industrial Roofing Contractors Association
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Panson Electrical Services Ltd
PIA Law and Rehab Professionals
Pizzaville
Point Alliance Inc
Purolator
Re/Max Specialists Majeski
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The Rotary Club of Toronto
Salesforce.com
Sam Garrison
Shurway Contracting Ltd
Slalom Consulting Employees
Starlane Home Corporation
Toast.org
Wildeboer Dellelce LLP
Anonymous (3)

Champion Foodraisers

100,000+ lbs

Loblaw Companies Ltd
Toronto Professional Firefighters' Association

50,000–99,999 lbs

Canstruction Toronto
Metro Inc

25,000–49,999 lbs

Purolator
Sobeys

10,000–24,999 lbs

BAPS Charities Inc
Foresters Financial
Junction Residents Association
Markland Wood Homeowners Association

Champion Volunteers

1,000+ hours

Augustina Michael
Jessica Unuakhalu

500–999 hours

Agostino Comello
Bill Desborough
Carolyn Windsor
Cathy Halvorson
Christine Palmer
Cody Hunt
Elizabeth Holloway
Leo Martins
Michelle Verhaeven
Shelley Mallett

300–499 hours

Abimbola Animashaun
Adenike Folorunsho
Alberta Chiarcossi
Alexandra Chernysh
Andrew Internicola
Ayisat Olore
Ayomiposi Adetuwo
Christopher Harding
Cole Matthews
Dana Beatson
Diane Pawlowsky
Elizabeth Talaga
Evans Yorke
Giselle Evans
James Moran
Joe Park
Jonathan Essiaw
Karen Harris
Kat Malone
Kim Pardy
Lucy Darzs
Lynda Sullivan
Michael Chancey
Michelle Albert
Mourtouz Mourtouzaliev
Nancy Linley
Paul Gurza
Raissa Moustapha
Roisin Stewart
Sabrina McCluskey
Shay Edwards
Sonam Ngodup
Stephan Baker
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Tyler Fitger
Wendy Deacon
Yankuba Drammeh

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Food Banks Canada
Food Banks Mississauga
Food for Life Canada
FoodRecovery.Org
Highland Creek Community Association
Moisson Montreal
Next Plumbing
Polaris
Second Harvest
Support & Feed
Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc

External recognition

Charity Intelligence Canada

Daily Bread Food Bank is a Charity Intelligence A-rated, five-star charity. Charity Intelligence's overall ratings are based on an assessment of five objective aspects: donor reporting, financial transparency, funding need, cents to the cause, demonstrated impact.

View on their website

We also earned a spot on the list of:

Top 100 Charities in Canada

View on their website

Top 5 Impact Charities in Toronto

View on their website

Top 10 Canadian Impact Charities

View on their website

Great Place to Work Certification

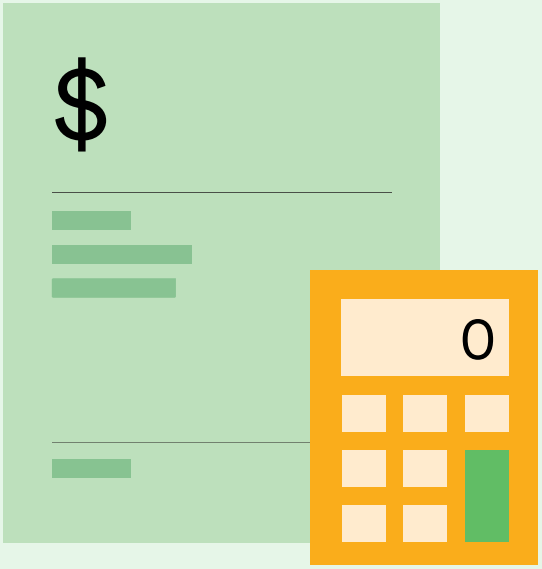
In 2025, Daily Bread Food Bank received the Great Place To Work Certification, an accreditation backed by a data-driven methodology that recognizes organizations that foster high-trust cultures driving performance, innovation, and retention. This certification demonstrates we are an employer of choice and underscores our dedication to building a culture where employees feel valued, connected, and inspired.

View on our website

Living Wage Employer

Daily Bread Food Bank is an Ontario Living Wage Employer as certified by the Ontario Living Wage Network, a group that champions living wage initiatives in Ontario. The living wage reflects what people need to earn to cover the actual costs of living in their community. Living wage employers voluntarily decide to pay a living wage and maintain their certification as new rates are calculated for their area.

View on their website

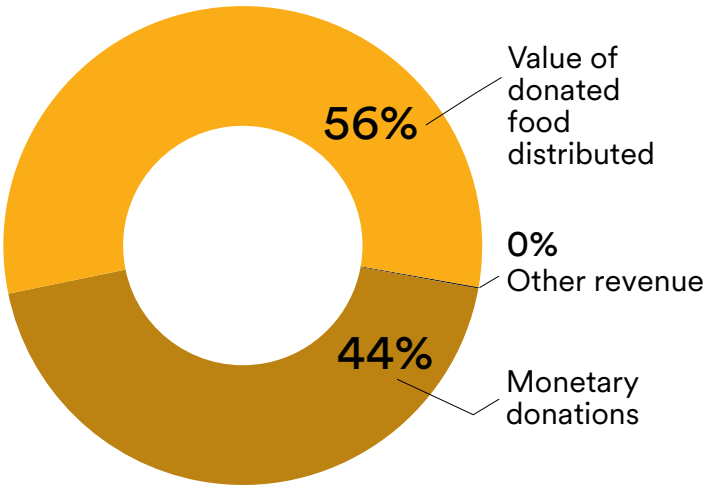


Financials

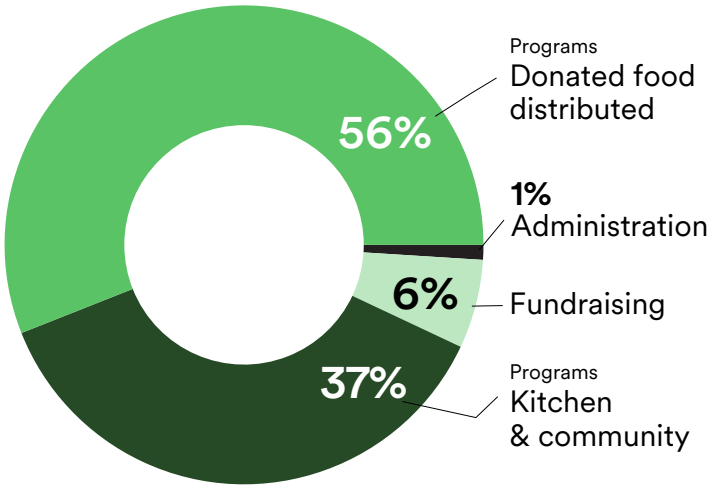
Financials

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Revenue
$99,654,839



Expenses
$98,962,616



Detailed revenue breakdown

Value of donated food distributed	$55,569,003	56%
Monetary donations	$43,528,028	44%
Other revenue	$557,808	0%

Detailed expenses breakdown

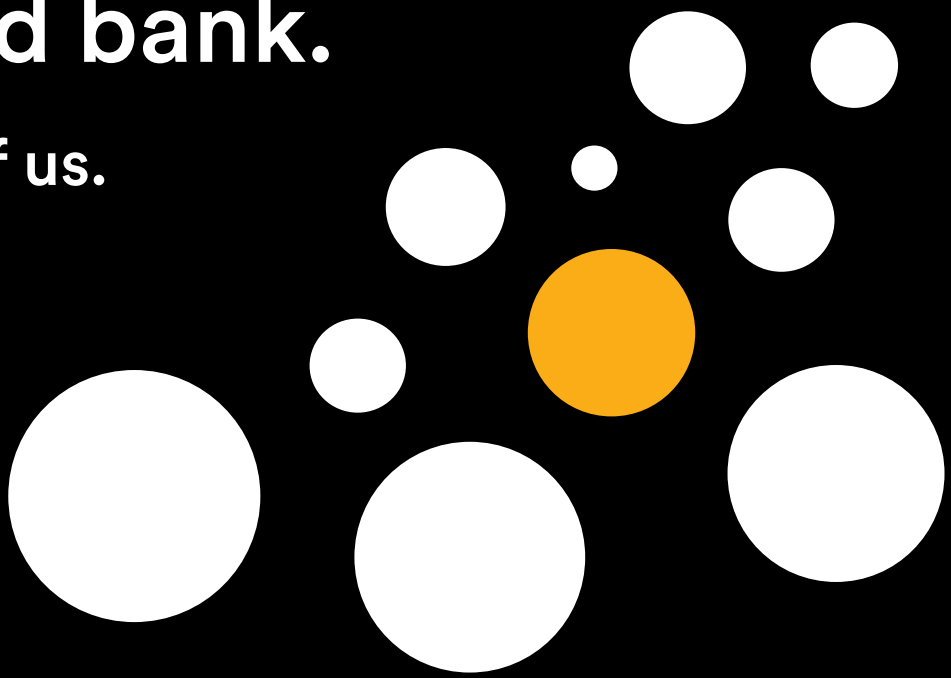
Programs Donated food distributed	$55,569,003	56%
Programs Kitchen & community	$36,428,511	37%
Fundraising	$5,650,780	6%
Administration	$1,314,322	1%

Review full audited financial statements **on our website**

If you would like to request a print copy or to have a discussion about the organization's financials, please call 416-203-0050.

Note: Revenue and Expenses illustrated before Other Items, which includes investment income of $1.4M and an unrealized fair value loss on long term investments of $0.2M.

Daily Bread Food Bank

1 in 10 Torontonians use a food bank.

1 in 10 is one of us.