



LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



Food Security

7.7 Work with farmers to provide more fresh food to people who need it most

London Food Bank – Community Harvest Program

In August 2018, the London Food Bank reached an important goal. For the first time in its 32-year history, 50% of the food it received was perishable. Here's how it worked.

Eight years ago, the London Food Bank worked with the OAFB to start a province-wide pilot program with area farmers and growers called *Community Harvest*. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of food have come to the food bank through their efforts. Special thanks to the Western Fair Association for their help in reaching out to these growers.

Community Harvest is an innovative new program of the Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB) that will dramatically increase the amount of fresh, healthy, local food acquired and distributed by food banks across the province. Community Harvest builds partnerships with farmers and corporate partners to grow, glean, and donate local fruits and vegetables.

Each growing season there are hundreds of tonnes of fruits and vegetables tilled back under the ground by farmers across the country. While this food is still nutritious, it for any number of reasons has become deemed unsalable. Given this reality of farming, the London Food Bank has developed relationships with many local farmers and has offered them an alternative to discarding the produce that they have worked hard to grow.

In the 2017 growing season, these relationships resulted in nearly 200,000 pounds of fresh, local fruit and vegetables being donated to the London Food Bank by farmers in the London area.

Community Harvest has evolved from its beginnings of a focus on produce directly from the farm to include collecting donations at farmers' markets, accepting fresh vegetables from local gardeners (including through the Plant a Row, Grow a Row initiative), and in

2017 the Community Harvest program began to rescue produce from local grocery stores.

Since the Community Harvest program's inception in 2010, nearly 1.7 million pounds (771 tonnes) of produce has been rescued, with about 38% of those donations being shared with other agencies in the London region and across Ontario. Not only has this rescued food gone to families in need of assistance, it has also avoided nearly 1,500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂-e) by diverting perfectly edible food from becoming landfill.

Good Food Box Program

The London Good Food Box is a neighbourhood-based food distribution system that provides a variety of seasonal delicious and nutritious vegetables and fruits at an affordable price.

The London Good Food Box is committed to creating socially and economically sustainable neighbourhoods by offering affordable, fresh vegetables and fruits through collective purchasing and making them available throughout London.

The Good Food Box Program has grown from 2 to 14 host sites and now distributes over 350 boxes of food monthly. The host sites are:

- Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
- South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Northwest London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Family Centre Westminster
- Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
- Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Glen Cairn Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Good News Christian Reformed Church
- LUSO Community Services
- Family Centre Carling-Thames
- London InterCommunity Health Centre (Dundas St. & Huron St. locations)
- Family Centre Argyle
- Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre

London Food Coalition

The London Food Coalition is a group of more than 20 organizations that work with members of our community who are at risk of poverty and food insecurity. The Coalition is a coordinated food alliance that rescues high-quality fresh food and redistributes it to Londoners in need.

The London Food Coalition is dedicated to creating food prosperity initiatives that assert fresh food as a fundamental right. Fresh food is integral to many different community programs in the city. This initiative provides essential resources for family cooking programs, nutritional and educational programming, camp programs, and healthy meals for children and families. Furthermore, this coalition reduces the costs of food for London organizations.

Urban Roots London

Urban Roots is a non-profit organization that revitalizes underused land in the City of London for agriculture by:

- Producing high-quality, organic vegetables and herbs
- Distributing produce locally, directly to consumers and to private and social enterprises
- Developing agricultural opportunities for the neighbourhood, social enterprises, and community organizations within the City of London
- Growing a self-sustaining, urban agricultural model to germinate to new sites

FoodFund

FoodFund believes that all food deserves plates and all plates deserve food. This is why they source recovered fruit and vegetables from local farmers and deliver it to your doorstep. These fruits and vegetables are just as nutritious, delicious and fresh as all other produce. The FoodFund subscription box is affordable, convenient, customizable, and flavorful.

By subscribing to FoodFund, you help fight food waste. You ensure that local farmers are rewarded for their harvest – perfect or imperfect. You improve access to affordable healthy eating options. You support a local company on a mission to make the community more food secure. Just like people, produce comes in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colours and FoodFund thinks such diversity should be accepted.