



LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



Food Security

7.8 Reclaim quality, usable food from grocery stores and restaurants in a cost-effective way

London Food Coalition / Second Harvest

Throughout Canada and the world, food policy is shifting to ensure that fresh, high-quality food from grocery stores is no longer thrown out, but rather redistributed in meaningful ways that strengthen families and communities. The public at large is increasingly aware of the economic, environmental and ethical injustice of nutritious, costly fresh food going to waste.

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.

Toronto-based Second Harvest made a donation of 20,000 pounds of fresh food to the London Food Coalition in October 2018. This donation marks the second shipment of many to come, as Second Harvest has agreed to continue making shipments biweekly. The food is shipped from Toronto to London using a slate of giving back trucking companies called *Trucks for Change* that have offered to donate their truck space and often the gas.

The London Food Coalition rescues the fresh food and distributes it to over 20 member partners, mainly agencies and church groups. The fresh fruits, vegetables and grains donated by Second Harvest are used to help eradicate hunger in London's school aged populations through the Ontario School and Nutrition Program (ONSP), a program that provides free, healthy snacks and meals to children in schools.

The food donation enhances several achievements for reclaiming quality usable food including the establishment of a food hub at Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre and the purchase of a refrigerated truck.

Over the span of its first year, the coalition has rescued close to 130,000 pounds of fresh food and distributed it to over 20 member agencies. Food partners include Costco, Walmart, Giant Tiger, Western University, Fanshawe College and now Toronto's Second Harvest. The partners donate excess healthy and delicious produce and fresh food that due to minor packaging imperfections or flaws would otherwise end up in the trash bin.

London Food Bank / Community Harvest Program

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.