



**community
share** FOOD BANK

Newsletter - Fall 2023

Established in March 2004, Community Share works in cooperation with community members, local churches, and service organizations. Our mission is to increase access to healthy food for individuals and families through programming and services, building partnerships, and raising awareness on the issue of poverty in our region.

What's new

Food bank usage across Canada has risen dramatically in the past year, due in part to challenging economic times and a flawed safety net for the most vulnerable among our neighbours. The number of families visiting our food bank has in fact doubled since August 2022, which is very alarming indeed. We are now feeding over 1,000 individuals per month.

Cash donations are decreasing

During the pandemic, we experienced solid growth in cash donations enabling us to build a nest egg to tide us over hard times. These uncertain times are heralding a decrease in donations to nearly all charities. Among other initiatives, we will soon be conducting a campaign to sponsor a week of food distribution on Wednesdays. Please remember, we are all fundraisers, so send this newsletter to your families and friends to learn more about us from our website.

If you would like to make a financial donation, please visit our website.
<https://www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/make-a-donation.html>

Introducing our Operations Coordinator



Jiang Chen

Jiang moved to Canada in 2001 from China where he worked as an engineer. He began volunteering at Community Share in 2018. He was hired as our Operations Coordinator in August 2022. In his spare time, Jiang likes staying active and cheering on the Toronto Maple Leafs and Liverpool Football Club. He holds a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering and Master's degree in Management from Tianjin University in Tianjin City, China.

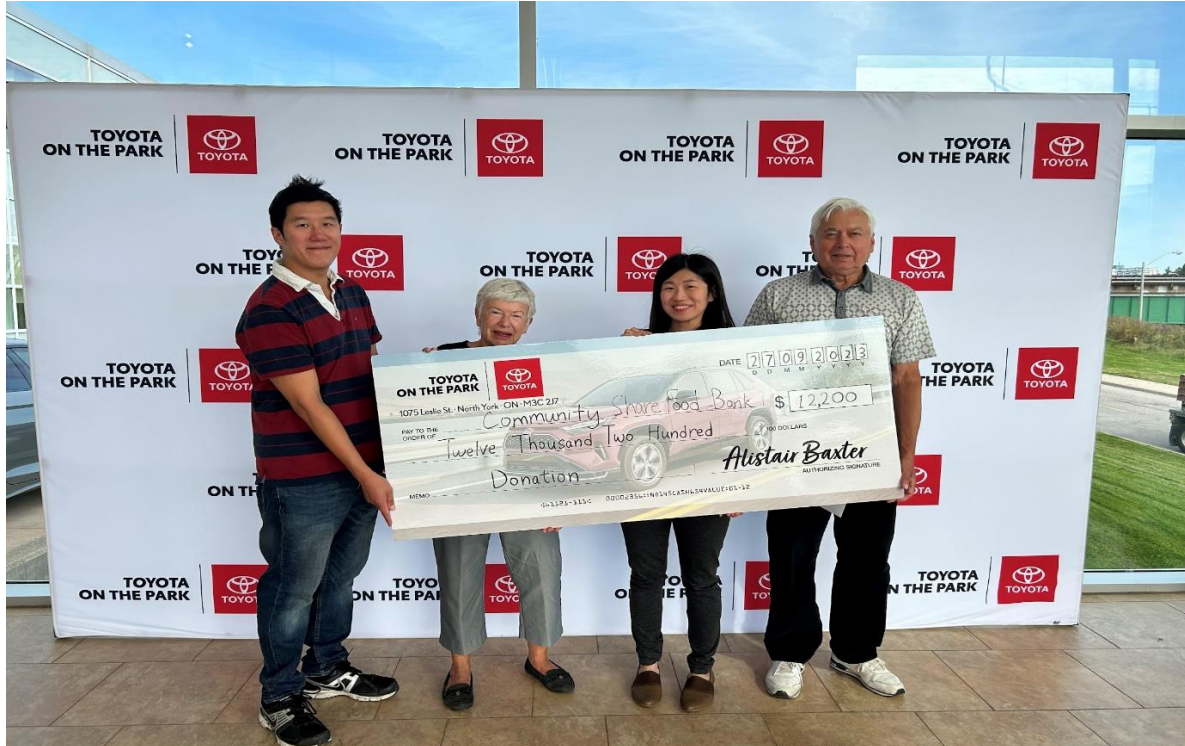
Introducing our partners



NYH is the distribution hub for northern Toronto, picking up and delivering more than two million pounds of food annually. Community Share is one of 38 social service agencies working on the front lines, connecting over 13,000 individuals each month to healthy fresh food.



Second Harvest supports a network of over 3,700 social service organizations across Canada, providing healthy and fresh food for community initiatives – from children’s snacks to meals for seniors and local food banks. It keeps healthy food where it belongs: on plates, not landfill.



Accepting a generous donation from Toyota on the Park.



It's heartening to see that organizations like 33 Division, Toronto Police Service step up to address food insecurity. Their recent Cram-A-Cruiser event at Loblaw's Bayview Village brought in 1,233 lbs of food valued at over \$4,000.

Private food donations are increasing

Although our major source of food comes from North York Harvest and Second Harvest, their deliveries have decreased unfortunately due to higher demand. However, food donations from our community and business partners are also critical to our work. According to Feed Ontario, the average cost of one pound of food is between \$3-\$4 and can provide the equivalent of two meals. Food drives have the positive impact of bringing awareness to the issue of poverty. This year to date, we have received a monthly average of more than 1,000 pounds of food and household items.

A shout-out to all our volunteers

About 60 volunteers help weekly. The jobs include bread pickup and bagging, food truck offloading, food sorting, room setup and takedown, participant greeting, participant intake, and food distribution. In addition, there is organizational work behind the scenes, answering phone calls and emails, and scheduling appointments. We have a volunteer board of directors responsible for strategic planning, operational decision-making, and ensuring our financial standing is healthy. A big thank you to all volunteers for your time and energy.