

THE SHARING PLACE FOOD CENTRE



THE FEED

October - December 2022 Newsletter

Message from Chris Peacock Executive Director



I hope this newsletter has arrived at a time when you are able to relax and read the information that we have put together for you, sent just before Thanksgiving in the hopes that it will inspire some conversations with family and friends. It is a time where many gather around the dinner table to enjoy a harvest feast and share stories of thankfulness. I hope each of you can take some time to reflect on not only what you are thankful for now but also

how we can help create more opportunities to be thankful in the coming months. We need these moments more than ever these days.

Here at The Sharing Place, we are thankful for having an exceptional community of members, volunteers, staff, donors, and funders that allow us to continue to grow our impact. We are thankful for the partnerships we have developed and the collective impact they are creating to improve the lives of many people throughout our region. The partnership that I want to highlight in this newsletter is our collaboration with the Simcoe County Food Council. I am now going to attempt to pivot from thanksgiving and family time to municipal politics. Here goes nothing.

We have a municipal election coming up and with this comes an opportunity to elect a group of individuals who will help steer our community in the right direction. You will find a link below to the Municipal Election Toolkit that has been developed by the Simcoe County Food Council. I encourage you to click on the link and review some of the policy suggestions and topics you can discuss with local candidates. To quote Desmond Tutu, "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." The policy suggestions outlined in this document will help people avoid falling into the river of poverty. We at The Sharing Place will continue to pull people out and do so with dignity and hard work but we will also continue to advocate for changes that will create long term systematic improvements for those living in poverty. When we move the needle on any one of these policy suggestions, we will truly have something for which to be thankful for.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the information in this newsletter or about any of our programs. Have a wonderful long weekend and we look forward to seeing many of you throughout the holiday season.

Kind Regards,

Chris



MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOOLKIT

2022

[Download the Toolkit](#)



Healthy Holiday



DONATION DRIVE

The Sharing Place needs your support this holiday season to provide access to healthy food to over 12% of our community who experience food insecurity.

Host a Donation Drive
Donate Healthy Food

Donate Funds
Volunteer Your Time

Find out how:

sharingplaceorillia.org/how-to-help-2/

Running **October** through **December**

Host a Donation Drive

GIVING
TUESDAY Nov 29

Jim Wilson Chevrolet Buick GMC is Matching Your Donation



Every dollar donated to the Sharing Place Food Centre during the week leading up to #GivingTuesday will be doubled, thanks to Jim Wilson Chevrolet Buick GMC.

The dealership has been a proud supporter of The Sharing Place Food Centre for many years, and this year is no exception as they champion a local charity that has significant impact in our community.

Donate between

Wednesday, November 23rd and #GivingTuesday on Tuesday, November 29th
and Jim Wilson Chevrolet Buick GMC will match all donations received up to \$10,000.

Kick off your holiday season giving and double your donation!

Jul/Aug/Sept 2022 Impact

How 'bout them apples?



Lbs. of food recovered from grocery stores:

123,200



Premade meals prepared and distributed:

5168



Children & youth that accessed healthy food:

81,717

Volunteer Highlight Bisma

"I wish people knew that they don't have to be hesitant if they need to come for groceries. They will be treated with dignity, and it is completely confidential. I think it's very brave when someone walks in."



Bismah spends two or three days a week volunteering in The Sharing Place Distribution or Intake areas. When she isn't volunteering, she runs a small food service business with her family, cooks, travels, supports various causes that are important to her and makes art, including beautiful, beaded bracelets that you may see on the wrists of some of our volunteers and employees.

Q: Tell me how you first got involved with The Sharing Place Food Centre?

A: *I had applied for a volunteer position after seeing an article in Orillia Matters. I brought in a food donation and chatted with one of the staff and told her I was interested. The next day she called me, and I started right away.*

Q: Was there someone or something that influenced your decision to investigate volunteering here?

A: *I was new to Orillia and then the pandemic lockdowns began, and we were in lockdown for so long. I had no social connections here and I wanted to get out, meet people and do something good in the community. I had done volunteer work in the past in a lot of different places, and I knew it was something that I enjoyed doing. However, volunteering at the Sharing Place is a different experience. I really like it here. I like the people; I like the community that I meet. I love what we do. Food security is so important*

Q: What was your first stand-out memory of The Sharing Place Food Centre?

A: *My first stand out memory was how community members were treated with such dignity. How nice all the employees and volunteers are to people who come in to receive a grocery order. No one looks down on anyone. I was also impressed with the amount of food in each grocery order.*

Q: What's it like to be a volunteer here?

A: *I love being a volunteer here. I feel appreciated. People come in and thank me for my service and it surprises me. I've never seen myself as that type of person who could be thanked for anything. I also don't do this to be thanked. I do it for my own mental and social health. I do it for myself. I get so much back while doing something good in my community.*

Q: What do you wish other people knew about The Sharing Place Food Centre?

A: *I wish people knew that they don't have to be hesitant if they need to come for groceries. They will be treated with dignity, and it is completely confidential. I think it's very brave when someone walks in. I haven't had that experience, and I can imagine how hard it is the first time. I respect that.*

Q: Why do you continue to volunteer at The Sharing Place Food Centre?

A: *I like to meet new people and stay active. Stay active physically, mentally and emotionally.*

Q: Tell me about some of the people you've met while working at The Sharing Place Food Centre?

A: *I have made new friends in Orillia through The Sharing Place. I have found comfort with a group of ladies here who have each become someone I can turn to when needed. We go grab lunch together, go shopping together, basically spend time together.*

Q: What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

A: *I would tell them to give it a try and see how satisfying it is.*

Total Hours Contributed by the Volunteer Team July/Aug/Sept 2022

3748

In The Spotlight Food Bank Program



The Food Bank program provides dignified access to emergency supplies of food. We respect people's preferences and offer quality food, with accommodations for dietary and cultural requests when available. The Sharing Place Food Centre is accessible to all, providing healthy food in a welcoming environment. The volunteers who help to run the Food Bank program are an understanding, dedicated group who work together to address food insecurity, poverty, and stigma in Orillia.

How the Food Bank Program Works

Food for the Food Bank program is derived from community food donations, from our Food Recovery program, and purchased with funds received from community donations and grants.

Community members who need groceries may visit during hours of operation to receive a six-day supply of groceries, each month, and can receive 2 additional emergency orders each year.

Each visitor need only show a piece of valid identification for themselves and each family member for whom they are requesting food. There is no means-testing, meaning that anyone who is hungry need not answer any further questions about their needs and resources. Food Bank volunteers provide Dignity First assistance while maintaining full confidentiality and can also link visitors with available community resources if requested.

Visitors will fill out a grocery order form and a volunteer will help put together each grocery order based on completed grocery order forms, and visitors have the option of choosing bonus items and additional produce.

The Sharing Place Food Centre volunteers and staff work hard to ensure that dignity, respect, and autonomy are always offered to community members who shop at the Food Bank program.

Food Bank Program in Our Community

- People may access a six-day emergency supply of food, up to 14 times a year
- An average of 1700 people visit the Food Bank program each month
- The Sharing Place has seen a 30% increase in Food Bank visitors over the same period last year, and an increase of 70% first-time visitors
- More than 50% of each order is comprised of fresh food such as meat, dairy, eggs and produce
- 50% of visitors cite inability to pay for housing and utilities as the reason for food bank usage

We Are Recruiting Volunteers!



The Sharing Place Food Centre is recruiting volunteers for multiple positions. Come join a team of friendly, helpful, high-energy people all working together to help Orillia area residents who experience food insecurity.

Warehouse Position

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

- Ability to lift 40 - 50 lbs., repeatedly
- Comfortable in a warehouse setting
- Forklift Operator Certification an asset
- Ability to work cooperatively, in a team environment
- A positive, sociable attitude and a willingness to help in the community

Distribution Position

Friday
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- Ability to lift 40 - 50 lbs., repeatedly
- Customer service experience an asset
- Commitment to and comfortable with working with people struggling with low income, as well as diverse cultural groups
- Ability to work cooperatively, in a team environment
- A positive, sociable attitude and a willingness to help in the community

If you would like to support our vision of a healthy community through access to nutritious food, please think about joining our team of volunteers.

Volunteer Application

The Impact - 2021/2022

Our 2021/2022 Impact Report was released in July and highlights the positive impact community support has helped us to create over the past fiscal year.

Click on the report to learn more about the work we do in the community and the need for us to maintain and improve the programs and services we provide.



Recipe of the Season

Autumn Carrot and Sweet Potato Soup



INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 medium yellow onions, chopped
1 tablespoon curry powder, plus a bit more for serving
1 pound carrots, peeled and chopped into 1-inch pieces
1½ pounds sweet potatoes (about 2 small), peeled and chopped into 1-inch pieces
8 cups chicken broth, best quality such as Swanson
1¾ teaspoons salt
1 tart yet sweet apple (such as Honeycrisp or Fuji), peeled and chopped
2 tablespoons honey
Freshly ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, until soft and translucent, about 10 minutes. Do not brown. Add the curry powder and cook a minute more.

Add the carrots, sweet potatoes, chicken broth and salt and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer over low heat until vegetables are very tender, about 25 minutes. Stir in the apples and honey. Using a stick blender, puree the soup until smooth and creamy. (Alternatively, cool the soup slightly, then puree in a blender in batches. Be sure to leave the hole in the lid open, and cover with a kitchen towel, to allow the steam to escape.) Season to taste with salt, pepper and more honey if necessary. Ladle soup into bowls and sprinkle with more curry powder if desired. (Note: As the soup sits, it will thicken up so you may need to add a bit of water to thin it out.)

The soup can be frozen for up to 3 months.

[DONATE](#)

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

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