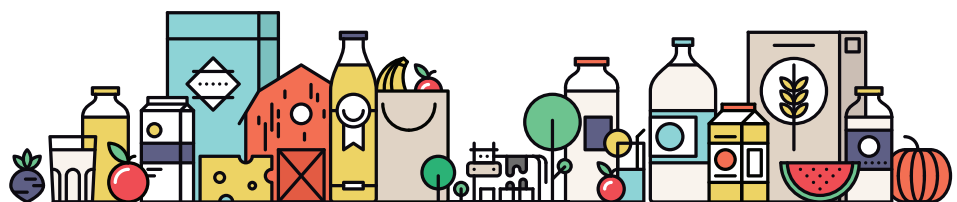


THE
SHARING
PLACE
FOOD CENTRE

*A healthy community through access
to nutritious foods.*

2022-2023
IMPACT REPORT



The Sharing Place Food Centre is a not-for-profit, grassroots, community-based organization who strives on combating food insecurity and poverty in Orillia and surrounding areas. With our diverse range of programs, we empower individuals and families and work towards building a resilient community together. With support from our donors, volunteers, community partners and staff we reduce food insecurity through education, community partnerships and advocating for food security.

A Message from Chris



Well today is the day where I try to cram 365 days of successes, failures, stress, happiness, pain and a bunch of hard work and experiences into a short letter. I struggle for the best way to articulate the efforts of over 110 volunteers and staff that have helped so many of our community members access food in a dignified way. I think of the impact they have all created and the camaraderie they share. I then think of our members, those struggling to afford healthy food for themselves and for their family. The touching stories they have shared of how we have helped and the painful stories and challenges they are faced with daily.

We are fortunate at The Sharing Place to be surrounded by amazing people; both those who help us run our programs and those who access them. Being surrounded by awesome people makes the tough days go smoother and the good days' worth celebrating. There is a sense of family that is shared between our four walls, and we are so fortunate to have that in our lives. The ability to have a team working together and not for themselves but for others is an incredible thing. It is the pulse of our impact and cannot be understated.

In the following pages you will read about the programs our team runs and the positive impact they make. We have worked hard and smart to adapt each program to improve how it helps our community and how we can maximize the return on our donor's social investment. We focus on collaborative partnerships with amazing organizations that help us grow our collective impact and leverage the capacity of many agencies vs. just one. These programs and partnerships are essential and becoming more crucial as people struggle to afford life's necessities.

For a growing number of our community members, being able to afford housing, transportation costs and food have become unattainable. There is simply not enough household income to afford the bare necessities. What makes matters worse is these issues are completely out of control for those on a low income. They are just the collateral damage of the decisions being made to slow down the economy and control inflation. We, as a community, need to come together to make sure we can do our part to support those who are struggling. It becomes the responsibility of those who are fortunate enough to have the means to help those who are not as fortunate. We can make financial donations, volunteer time, talk to politicians or just lend an ear or a smile to those who need it most.

I hope that as we navigate these uncertain times, that we do it with kindness and compassion. We think of others and act towards improving our community. We have lots going on at The Sharing Place to do our part. With many new projects on the horizon and a new kitchen that will drive home more impact than we have ever achieved. We look forward to sharing our progress with you via our social channels and quarterly newsletters. I hope that you enjoy the next few pages of our report and please do not be a stranger, pop by our facility at 95 Dufferin St. to say hi to our amazing team and check out our programs in action.

Kind Regards,

*Chris Peacock, Executive Director
The Sharing Place Food Centre*

The Reason for the Need



1 in 4

people that are food insecure access a food bank.

(Elaine Power, Queen's University)

Low Income

21%



of households in Simcoe Muskoka experienced food insecurity in 2022

SMDHU, health stats

Minimum wage is \$16.55 an hour in Ontario and the living wage is \$20.70 an hour

In Simcoe County – Ontario Living Wage Network



From 2021 to 2022

Food insecurity in children under the age of 18



increased from 20.6% to 24.6% across Simcoe Muskoka

SMDHU, health stats

Inflation

With higher housing and food costs coupled with stagnant wages, low-income Canadians are facing the perfect economic storm.

A typical grocery bill rose by 70%

between 2000 and 2020

Agri-Food Analytics Lab, Canada's Food Price Report 2022



34%



increase in food bank visits

compared to pre-pandemic levels

Sharing Place Food Centre – 2018-2022

Cost of Housing

60%

of renters

in Ontario have had to cut back on food to afford their bills

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario - EKOS Public opinion poll



Our Programs

School Fuel

The School Fuel program has become the cornerstone of our efforts since its launch in 2020. We work with 23 local schools in the Orillia area, making sure that healthy snacks are available to keep our children and youth well fed and energized. Currently over 4500 kids **a day** use this program. When schools are closed, and throughout the summer, we work with local agencies to provide healthy snack bags for children and youth in the Orillia area. Only one in four households that experience food insecurity use a food bank. The School Fuel program reaches food insecure households that do not access our Food Bank program.

“

A HUGE thank you for all that you provide to our schools. We most certainly have filled bellies this year and brought smiles to our students faces.”

Monsignor Lee Catholic School

2022/23 School Fuel Impact

- ✓ 4,500 students have access to healthy breakfast foods and snacks each school day
- ✓ Food is safely delivered to 23 school partners and several agency partners
- ✓ 819,185 healthy servings distributed in 2022/23



GOAL FOR 2023/24

- Increase the amount of healthy food options for students
- Create our own School Fuel ecommerce platform
- Advocate for a National School Nutritious Meal Program



In 2022, **1 in 4** children lived in a food-insecure household.



69% of these children, (1.2 million children), were in moderately or severely food-insecure households.

Source: University of Toronto



Food Bank

The Food Bank program at The Sharing Place Food Centre provides a 7-day emergency supply of food, 14 times a year. Our primary focus is to ensure that our community members can access nutritious food with dignity and respect. We strive to meet the dietary requirements, cultural needs and personal choices of our members. Due to the increases in homelessness in our region, we also accommodate those members living in tents, motels or their vehicles, by providing shelf stable and ready to eat foods which do not require cooking or refrigeration.



I never thought I would be in this situation. I had my own business and was doing okay. Covid put a strain on my relationship which ended in divorce. I lost my home and business. I live out of my car now, until I can get back on my feet. Last winter I was lucky to get a better sleeping bag, so it wasn't as cold. The Sharing Place has been a lifeline for me. They even gave me a can opener and little packs of salt and pepper in my order. I know it may not mean much to anyone, but when you live in car, every little thing helps."

Marc Rennie – Member



2022/23 Food Bank Impact

- ✓ 24,396 food bank member visits
- ✓ 18,128 volunteer hours
- ✓ 1,420 new members served



GOAL FOR 2023/24

- Increase food bank referrals from the healthcare and education sectors by 30%
- Expand emergency food access points throughout our region with our meals-4-change freezer network
- Increase the amount of fresh food distributed by 10%
- Advocate for improved income, affordable housing and mental health and addictions support services



A huge thank you to our lead sponsor Orillia Mazda for their support of our 1st annual HARVEST HOEDOWN at ODAS Park.

It was so much fun, we are planning the next one!



Orillia Mazda

Meals 4 Change



Our Meals 4 Change program produces meals that are healthy and ready to heat and serve. To date we have prepared over **70,000** meals since the inception in 2019. These meals cost us a fraction of what store-bought meals would cost thanks to our Food Recovery programs and amazing community partners. Our new commercial kitchen is complete, and the capacity that this facility will provide our community is significant. We will be launching new food programming in 2024 and increasing our meal production by over 300%. There will be new volunteer opportunities for seniors and vulnerable community members to come together, hang out in our kitchen and help us fuel our community with healthy food. Get ready to hear a lot more about the impact that our new kitchen will be providing our community.

“
The Meals 4 Change program has shown me that as a team we are capable of anything we set our minds to. My experience while working in the Meals 4 Change kitchen, cooking over 500 meals weekly, has been nothing short of incredible. I am honoured to be a part of a program that has been such a benefit to our community.
 Kolton D. – Summer Student

2022/23 Meals-4-Change Impact

- ✔ 25,693 Meals prepared & distributed in 2022/23
- ✔ .73 cents is the Average food and container costs per meal



GOAL FOR 2023/24

- Prepare over 2,000 meals a week
- Expand food programming with 4 new strategic partners
- Increase volunteer hours by 500%

Food Recovery



Through our food recovery program, we partner with grocery stores, local farmers and food service providers to rescue surplus food. This food is carefully collected, sorted, prepared and stored ensuring all safe food handling procedures are followed. With this food, we are able to provide our members with fresh wholesome options as well as share with our community partners across the Orillia and lake Country region. With these strategic partnerships, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families. Every effort is made to minimize waste, surplus items are transported to local farms for composting or animal feed. This holistic approach creates a balanced and sustainable circular food economy.

“
*The fresh produce cart at The Sharing Place allows my family to choose fruits and veggies that we would not be able to afford otherwise. I like that the volunteers are so friendly and offer advice on how to prepare veggies too. It gives us a chance to try new foods. My kids love avocados and mangoes now. Thank you to the amazing volunteers at The Sharing Place for all you do.”
 Becca J. – Member*

2022/23 Food Recovery Impact

- ✔ 463,100 Lbs of fresh, healthy food recovered from grocery stores and farms
- ✔ 27,752 Lbs diverted from waste to local farmers



GOAL FOR 2023/24

- Increase the amount of food recovered to 500,000 Lbs.
- Add 2 new food recovery partners
- Increase food shared with community partners by 20%

Our Plans for the Future

Areas of Focus

- › **Bridging the Gap**
 - Reaching under served areas
- › **Support Rural Areas**
- › **Social Isolation**
- › **Healthy Food Access**

Community Gaps

- › Income gaps leading to limited resources for basic needs
- › Insufficient affordable housing causing increased financial strain on families and individuals.
- › Stigma and shame associated with seeking assistance from a food bank.
- › Limited availability of stores and fresh food options in certain areas hindering access to nutritious food
- › Inadequate transportation options making travel to a food bank challenging
- › Limited social assistance programs leaving individuals with limited financial support

Solutions

- › **Enhancing Food Accessibility:** Collaborate with community partners to establish a strategically located network of freezers with our frozen meals-4-change products.
- › **Improved Food Bank Referral Program:** Educate and promote our food bank referral program with health care providers and school administrators and teachers. Reaching individuals who make up the 75% of food insecure people that do not access a food bank.
- › **Strengthen social connection and reduce social isolation:** Expand our volunteer team to include more individuals with lived experience in poverty. Focusing on socially isolated seniors, single individuals and newcomers.
- › **Addressing stigma and promoting dignity:** Advocate for other community organizations to combat stigma associated with poverty and create inclusive spaces that promote dignity and respect for all. Train volunteers and staff on how to improve the services they provide to ensure a dignified and welcoming experience.

Here's How You Can Help

Donate

sharingplaceorillia.org

Become a recurring donor and donate weekly, monthly, quarterly, or on an annual basis.

Volunteer

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

Like and Follow Us



@sharingplaceorillia



facebook.com/sharingplaceorillia

Partner

bisma@sharingplaceorillia.org

Partner with us to raise funds, collect food, or help deliver programs and services.

Sign up for our newsletter, The Feed

sharingplaceorillia.org/thefeed/

Invite our Executive Director, Chris Peacock to speak at your event

chris@sharingplaceorillia.org

The Sharing Place Community

Throughout the 2022/2023 year, the dedicated volunteers, staff and board of directors at The Sharing Place Food Centre have wholeheartedly committed themselves to creating a safe and dignified space where individuals facing food insecurity can access healthy food. We extend our deepest gratitude to our extraordinary community members, donors, partners, and residents of Orillia and surrounding areas for their unwavering support. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and build a stronger community.

“

I believe in the power of community and the importance of supporting one another. I have witnessed the incredible work The Sharing Place Food Centre does to address food insecurity. It has truly touched my heart. Knowing that my contribution can bring a firsthand impact to help those in need. I am happy to be a part of their mission to create an end to hunger.”

Rick Thelan - Donor

“

I really feel that volunteering at The Sharing Place has made me challenge some of my mental health struggles and my anxiety. Helped me to build my confidence. See and feel like I am a capable young adult contributing to this community. I had forgotten that I was capable. I am thankful for the opportunity to volunteer here and everything The Sharing Place has offered me.”

Sarah - Volunteer

CONTACT US

To help or learn more, please contact us.

Website: sharingplaceorillia.org

Location: 95 Dufferin Street,
Orillia, ON L3V 5S9

Telephone: 705-327-4273

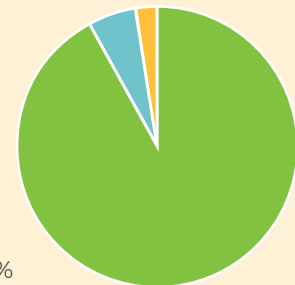
Mailing Address: Box 743 Orillia,
ON L3V 6K7

 @sharingplaceorillia

 facebook.com/sharingplaceorillia

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

- Sourcing, managing and distributing food 92.2%
- Fundraising 5.5%
- Management and Administration 2.3%



Source: Audited Financial Statements
for the year ended June 30, 2022

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