

HAMILTON FOOD SHARE  
**ANNUAL**  
IMPACT REPORT

*April 2022 - March 2023*

[www.hamiltonfoodshare.org](http://www.hamiltonfoodshare.org)



# Our Mission

Working together toward a hunger-free community.

Grew Hamilton Food Share  
from 6 original members to  
23 hunger-relief programs



33 years of fighting  
hunger in Hamilton



Over 62 million pounds  
of food raised



Thank you,  
Joanne!



**Joe Mercanti**  
Board Chair

## Message From Our Board Chair

As we reflect on the last three decades, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support our community has shown Hamilton Food Share. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors, tireless volunteers, steadfast community partners, and dedicated staff who have been the pillars of our mission. Thank you for continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve and working with us toward a hunger-free community. And it is with immense gratitude that we highlight the exceptional journey of our former CEO, Joanne Santucci, and her remarkable contributions to Hamilton Food Share. Joanne championed initiatives that have expanded our reach, strengthened our impact, and turned challenges into opportunities. Her tireless efforts have ensured that no neighbour visiting a food bank in Hamilton is going to bed hungry, and for that we can't thank her enough. Even as we bid farewell to Joanne, we know her influence will continue to guide the organization thanks to the solid foundation she has built.

# A Farewell Message

## From Our Chief Executive Officer

It is with mixed emotions I bid farewell to an organization that has been an integral part of my life for 33 years. From the very first day I founded Hamilton Food Share, I knew I had embarked on a remarkable mission to alleviate hunger and make a meaningful impact in our community. Over the years, I have witnessed the tremendous dedication and unwavering commitment of an entire city, and it has been my honour to work alongside each and every one of you.

Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones. We have expanded our programs, increased the capacity of our food acquisition and distribution programs, and established vital partnerships with local food partners and community organizations. These accomplishments are a testament to the hard work, compassion and collaborative spirit of every staff member, volunteer, and supporter associated with Hamilton Food Share.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our community, the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the trust placed in us by every individual who touched this organization. You have been instrumental in our success. Hamilton Food Share has a clear mission of Working Together Toward a Hunger-Free Community, and it is your belief in our mission that has enabled us to grow, evolve and continue in our fight against hunger.

As I step down from my role as CEO, I am confident that Hamilton Food Share will continue to thrive. The values and principles that have guided us throughout the years will remain the foundation of this organization, inspiring future endeavors and fostering positive change in the lives of those we serve.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation to every member of the Hamilton Food Share team. Your dedication, passion and unwavering commitment have touched my heart, and left an indelible mark on my life. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside you all.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for your support, trust, and collaboration throughout my tenure as CEO of Hamilton Food Share. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this organization and our community. I look forward to witnessing the continued success and growth of Hamilton Food Share from the sidelines and remaining a lifelong advocate for those experiencing hunger in Hamilton.

With heartfelt appreciation,



**Joanne Santucci**  
Founder, Retired Chief Executive Officer

# Working Together to #FeedtheHammer

## Ancaster Community Food Drive

The Ancaster Community Food Drive has been engaging Ancaster residents and collecting non-perishable food donations for local food banks for over 30 years! After two years of COVID challenges, the food drive returned to in-person for their 30th + 1 year anniversary. Over 72,000 lbs of food were collected bringing their three-decade total to 1,970,500 lbs of food. We know they're going to surpass 2 million pounds next year and we can't wait to celebrate with them!



## Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train

The 24th Annual CP Holiday Train finally returned to Hamilton on November 29, 2022 after being a virtual display for multiple years during the pandemic. In partnership with Hamilton Food Share, the CP Holiday Train asked the public to bring cash donations and healthy, non-perishable food donations to the Gage Park event. An amazing group of over 50 volunteers were onsite collecting donations. Over 7,480 lbs of food were collected and over \$15,000 raised. That's the holiday spirit!



## Purolator Tackle Hunger

Purolator and the CFL worked together once again on the month-long Purolator Tackle Hunger program to raise awareness around the issue of hunger. For the month leading up to the Purolator Game Day Food Drive Competition, Hamilton Ticats players greeted shoppers at local grocery stores to help encourage food donations from the community and then the community showed up big time on game day. With more than 170,000 lbs of food collected locally last year and \$10,763.81 raised, the Ticats easily won the nation-wide Tackle Hunger competition. Since 2003, Hamilton Ticats fans have helped raise more than 2 million pounds of food for Hamilton-area families in need. Touchdown!



## Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign

In September 2022, Tim Hortons ran their week-long campaign selling hand decorated Smile Cookies to support local charities. In Hamilton, almost 250,000 Smile Cookies were sold across the city and an impressive \$369,210.10 was raised to support Hamilton Food Share and Food4Kids Hamilton! Over the past 5 years, the Smile Cookie Campaign has raised over \$650,000 for Hamilton Food Share, which supports food banks and meal programs in every corner of the city. Now that's something to smile about!



# Food Acquisition & Distribution Program

Food Is Procured From Food Systems Operating...



## HAMILTON FOOD SHARE EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK

### Hamilton Food Share Memberships

Food Banks Canada  
Feed Ontario  
Southern Regional Distribution Hub

### Hunger Relief Member Agencies

De Mazenod Door Outreach  
East Hamilton Food Centre (Mission Services)  
Flamborough Food Bank  
Good Shepherd Centre  
Hamilton Jewish Family Services  
Living Rock Ministries  
Mission Services of Hamilton  
Native Women's Centre  
Neighbour to Neighbour Centre  
Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg  
Salvation Army Hamilton & Dundas

Stoney Creek Community Food Bank  
Welcome Inn  
Wesley Urban Ministries

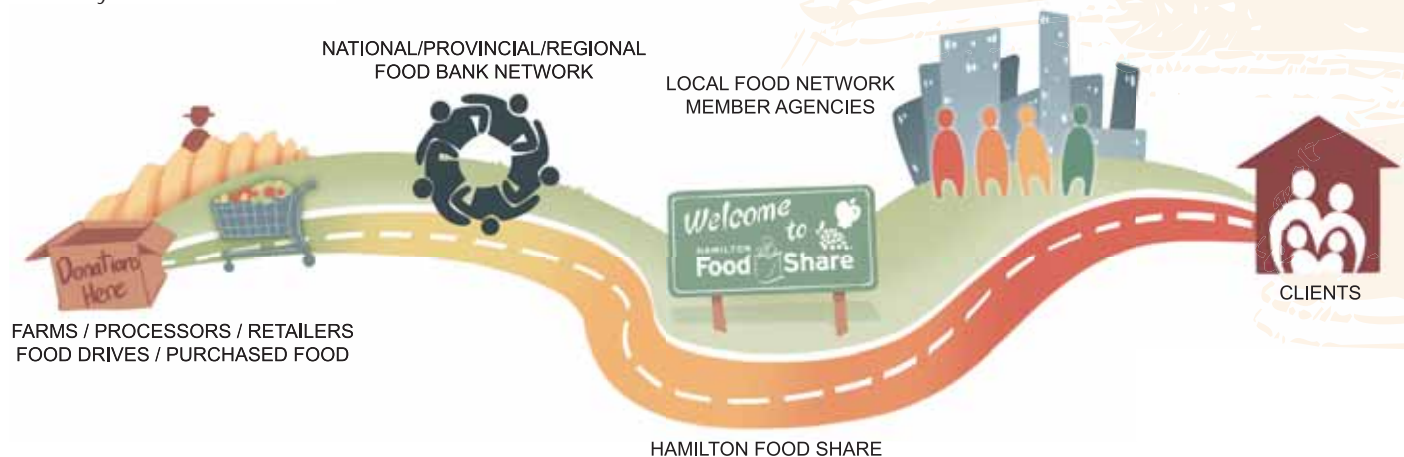
### Hunger Relief Supported Agencies

Ancaster Community Services  
Essential Aid & Family Services of Ontario  
Eva Rothwell Centre  
Food for Life  
Mishka Social Services, Barakah Box  
North Hamilton Community Centre

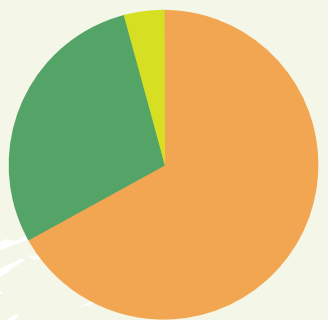
### Niagara Regional Hub Members

Beamsville-Community Care of West Niagara  
Benevolent Society of Grimsby & District  
The Burlington Food Bank  
Caledonia & District Food Bank

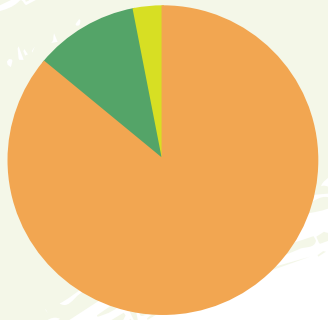
Cayuga Food Bank  
Community Care, St. Catharines & Thorold  
Community Outreach Services, Fort Erie  
Dunnville Salvation Army  
Food Bank of Waterloo Region  
The Food with Grace Waterdown Food Bank  
Fort Erie Salvation Army  
Hagersville Food Bank  
The Hope Centre, Welland  
Jarvis Caring Cupboard Food Bank  
Pelham Cares in Fonthill  
Port Colborne Food Centre  
Project SHARE, Niagara Falls  
West Lincoln Community Care



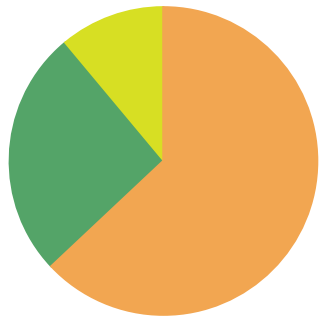
### Where our food comes from 3,872,827 total lbs



### Where our food goes 3,567,420 total lbs



### Food in by type 3,872,827 total lbs



3,872,827  
pounds of food raised

74% or 2,854,831  
pounds were fresh or frozen

\$13,632,351  
estimated value of food

361,800  
public meals served this year

114,668  
visits logged at local food banks

76,000  
pounds of food distributed weekly

16,519  
households accessed menstrual products

11,480  
Christmas hampers distributed

23  
local hunger relief programs supported

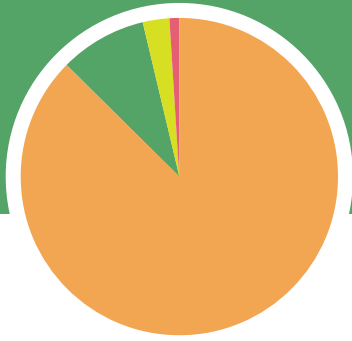
We gratefully acknowledge our major donors, the City of Hamilton and the following supporters who gave so generously throughout the year.



Karen & Peter Turkstra Family Foundation  
Meredith Family Fund  
The Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund  
The Martin Foundation Fund  
W.L. Carpenter Memorial Fund



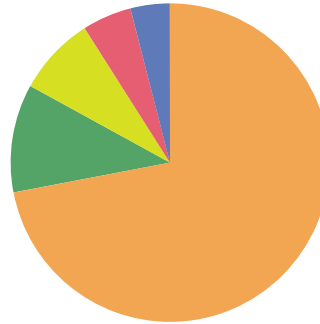
# Financials



## Where our funds come from \$3,340,448 total revenue

- 87.6% Donations  
(\$2,924,942)
- 8.9% Grants  
(\$298,214)
- 2.7% Interest & Amortization  
(\$91,292)
- 0.8% Membership Dues  
(\$26,000)

Audited financial statements available  
at [hamiltonfoodshare.org](http://hamiltonfoodshare.org)



## How we use our resources \$3,067,419 total expenses

- 72% Food Acquisition & Distribution  
(\$2,205,897)
- 11% Administrative  
(\$348,240)
- 8% Resource Development  
(\$248,924)
- 5% Amortization of Assets  
(\$139,315)
- 4% Community Development  
& Public Education  
(\$125,043)

We are deeply grateful to the individuals in the media who report on poverty issues and encourage donations. We could not do this work without your steadfast commitment to shine a light on tough issues, like hunger in our community.

THE BAY OBSERVER

'80s '90s & '00s  
**BOUNCE**  
RADIO

**HamiltonNews.com**

 **Hamilton**

**CABLE-14**

Global News  **RADIO**  
**900 CHML**

**CHCH**

**energy**  
**95.3**

**KX94.7**  
New Country **FM**

**BNN**  
**Bloomberg**  
RADIO 1410

**THE**  
**HAMILTON SPECTATOR**

**Y108**  
Hamilton's Rock

  
**MEDIA CITY**

# Hunger & Homelessness

## in Hamilton

In late 2020<sup>1</sup> to early 2021<sup>2</sup>, **Hamilton Food Share** joined forces with researchers at **McMaster University** to better understand the relationship between local emergency food banks and homelessness. The study, which was released in the fall of 2022, set out to understand the role that local emergency food programs play, if any, in food bank users' ability to retain their housing, and the impact food banks have on overall household and family stability.



The findings were eye-opening. Without food banks, participants said they would have to go hungry, rehome pets, move, put a partner in long-term care, or end up homeless.

46% of service users surveyed indicated that they would lose their housing if they had to purchase the food obtained from the food bank.

For most food bank users involved in the study, the need for food assistance started as a temporary measure. However, in the absence of adequate public policies, their need for support from food banks has extended long-term. Today food assistance is much more than occasionally helping someone make ends meet, but rather the service that regularly helps them meet basic needs.

The study concluded that beyond a shadow of a doubt, emergency food banks are the lifeline of many Hamiltonians, by providing a resource that allows households to pay their rent and their utilities, keeping families in their homes and off the streets.

**"The significance of food banks goes beyond providing food, they serve as a crucial support system in preventing homelessness. If even 1% of the households dependent on hunger-relief programs were to lose their housing, there is nowhere for them to go."** – Karen Randell, Senior Manager, Operations.

When food bank service users were asked what basic needs food assistance helped them meet, 94% indicated either the payment of rent or utilities.

Thanks to the amazing donors, funders, and community partners at Hamilton Food Share, we can continue to play a vital role in not only feeding people in our city, but in enabling them to stay in their homes.

<sup>1</sup>Impact Analysis of Food Bank Supports on Households Experiencing Food Insecurity. Wahoush et al (2020). Available from wahoush@mcmaster.ca

<sup>2</sup>Dooley, M., Bokma, R. and Yin, M. (2021). The Poorest of the Poor available from <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/december-2021/the-poorest-of-the-poor-use-hamilton-food-banks/>. More information available from mdooley1947@gmail.com

# Thank You Joanne

"No one I know has done more to provide food and resources to those in need than Joanne Santucci. Her dedication and commitment to the cause was total and complete. Thank you for your amazing service Joanne!"

Fred Eisenberger  
(Former) Mayor of Hamilton.

"Joanne is literally an angel. What she has done for the Hamilton community when it comes to not letting anymore go hungry is immeasurable. Beyond the work she has done in all her years with HFS, it's the attitude and passion she brought to this job. Nothing better than getting a hug from Joanne, because it means you have done something positive and are getting closer to the ultimate goal of becoming Hunger Free. Happy Retirement Joanne!"

Tim Bolen, CHCH Morning Live.

"Joanne Santucci is an incredible advocate for food security and poverty reduction; her passion for social justice is contagious. She has been an active member of the Feed Ontario network since its inception and always supported the important collaborative work of the provincial network.

She will be missed!"

Carolyn Stewart-Stockwell, CEO Feed Ontario.

"Joanne has been a dedicated, passionate and energetic leader across Greater Hamilton for many years. Her infectious charisma has inspired all of us at Cable 14 to embrace her and Hamilton Food Share as one of our key community partners. We have always shared Joanne's passion for making Hamilton the absolute best community it can be, and we wish Joanne much happiness in her retirement."

Bill Custers, Senior Manager, Broadcast & Strategy Cable 14.

"Joanne Santucci is, and always has been, a force of nature. With a heart of gold and a lifelong commitment to equity and justice for all - her advocacy, passion, and compassion have guided her tireless pursuit of resources and connections in order to feed Hamiltonians in need. Her work has saved lives and lifted people up, and for that our City is forever grateful."

Mayor Andrea Horwath.

"Thank you, Joanne, for your tireless leadership and commitment to our work. Your passion, always in service and defense of those who use food banks, is a legacy that will be felt by the food bank network for years to come. We'll keep up your fight until we are no longer needed!"

Kirstin Beardsley, CEO, Food Banks Canada.

# Board of Directors & Staff

## Board of Directors

Joe Mercanti	Chair	Moi Vienneau	Secretary
Don Forbes	Vice-Chair	Jennifer Paulino	Director
Sheean Patel	Second Vice-Chair	Vince Raso	Director

## 2022 - 2023 Staff

Joanne Santucci	Chief Executive Officer
Deborah Walsh	Sr. Manager, Business
Karen Randell	Sr. Manager, Operations
Moris Rosa	Warehouse Manager
Justin Destro	Warehouse Coordinator
Chayda Adora	Executive Assistant
Michael Sun	Administrative Assistant
*Sheba Khan	Administrative Coordinator
*Bailee Hunter	Administrative Support
*Elisabeth Damiani	Administrator
*Kristina De Marzio	Community Relations Coordinator
Gary McCarthy	Driver/Warehouse Worker
Jimmie Bussey	Warehouse Worker/Driver
*Doug Clarkson	Warehouse Worker/Driver

*\*Denotes partial year*

*Cover art designed by Bailee Hunter*