

Impact Report

2025 - 2026



**BUILDING HEALTH AND
BELONGING THROUGH FOOD, EDUCATION & BELONGING**

Making a Difference



A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

This past year has shown us just how important accessible food support remains in Cambridge and North Dumfries. Rising grocery and housing costs, transportation barriers, and changing household circumstances are making it harder for many neighbours to make ends meet. At Cambridge Food Bank, we are seeing that need firsthand. This year, we supported 10,926 people across 4,726 households and welcomed 24,293 visits for food support.

These numbers represent more than visits and households. They represent families stretching their budgets, seniors navigating rising costs, and neighbours turning to us during times when making ends meet has become more difficult. They also remind us that food insecurity is about more than food. Access, affordability, dignity, and connection all matter.

Throughout the year, we continued adapting our programs to meet changing needs. From emergency food support and the Mobile Food Market to our 3 new food lockers in local neighbourhoods, wellness programs, food rescue, and community partnerships, we found new ways to bring support closer to home and build a stronger, more connected community.

This year also marked an important step forward with the purchase of our new home at 384 Franklin Boulevard. Our new facility will give us the space to improve food access, strengthen our operations, and expand the programs and services our community relies on.

None of this work happens alone. Our staff and volunteers bring our programs to life every day, while donors, funders, partners, businesses, and community members make it possible for us to continue responding to a growing need. This report reflects what we accomplished together, what we learned from our community, and the work ahead as we continue building a stronger, more food-secure community.



Dianne & Renée
Dianne McLeod - CEO
Renée Darrell - Chair

Our Board

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Executive Committee

Renée Darrell - Chair
Nicole Papke - Vice Chair
Natalie Williamson - Treasurer
Stephen Witteveen - Secretary
Kristen Danson - Past Chair

Directors

Kevin Swayze
Jen Loker
Yasmine Mohammed
Kari Breen

Olivia Reed
Daria O'Reilly
Abiha Syed



Who we are



The Cambridge Food Bank is more than a food bank. We are part of a growing network of staff, volunteers, community partners, 2 satellite locations, 3 food lockers, and several Mobile Food Markets locations, all working together to build a more food-secure Cambridge and North Dumfries. Through this network, we connect neighbours to food, resources, and opportunities, while working collaboratively to alleviate poverty and create greater equity in our community.

Mission

Building health and belonging through food, education & advocacy

Vision

A compassionate, equitable community, where everyone is nourished.

Our Core Values



**HEALTHY
PEOPLE**



**CONNECTED
COMMUNITY**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

Strategic Priorities 2025-2030

People

Foster a healthy organizational culture where a sense of belonging and opportunities for growth and development are felt by all.

Sustainability

Ensure organizational stability to meet the needs of our participants.

Innovate for Impact

Optimize our operations and network of collaborators and partners to maximize our reach.

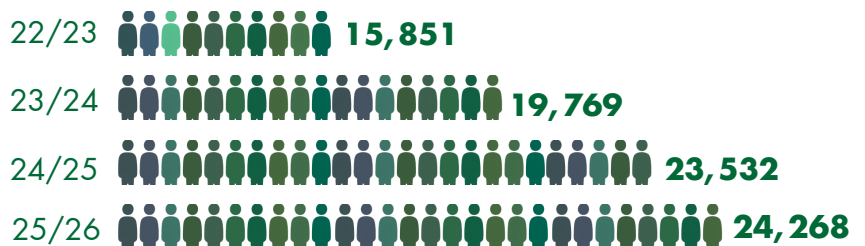
Who We're Serving



10,926

**Community Members
Made 24,293 Visits**
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Over the past four years, we have seen a steady increase in demand, with visits rising from 15,851 in 2022–2023 to 24,268 in 2025–2026, representing a 53% increase and highlighting the growing number of neighbours experiencing food insecurity.



Food insecurity continues to affect communities in all neighbourhoods. Rising costs, housing pressures, and unexpected life changes mean more households are turning to food support.



4,726
Households



2,180
First-time Visitors

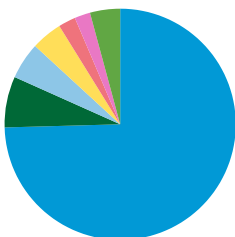


**33% Youth
aged 18 &
below**



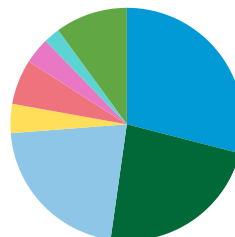
**16% Older
adults
aged 55+**

HOUSING TYPE



- 74.6% Private Rental Housing
- 7.1% Social Rental Housing
- 5.1% With Family & Friends
- 4.3% Own Home
- 2.4% Experiencing Homelessness
- 2.2% Emergency Shelter
- 4.2% Unknown/Other

INCOME SOURCE



- 29% Ontario Works
- 23.2% Employed
- 21.5% Ontario Disability Support Program
- 6.2% Canadian Pension Plan
- 4% No Income
- 3.6% Employment Insurance
- 2.3% Old Age Security
- 10% Unknown/Other

Our Programs

Emergency Food Programs

Our Emergency Food Programs provides reliable access to nutritious food for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity across Cambridge and North Dumfries. With our main location at 54 Ainslie Street and **two satellite locations** at St. John's Anglican Church & St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church, we work to reduce barriers and make support more accessible for neighbours throughout our community. Every visit is met with compassion, dignity, and respect.



1,879,873

lbs of Food Distributed to our Community



24,293

Food hampers distributed



369

Food Deliveries to house bound individuals

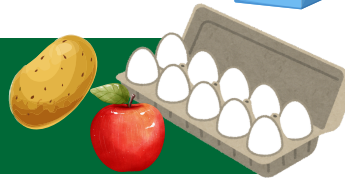
90%

rated their experience as Excellent or Good



95%

reported being treated with dignity and respect



68% of Community Pantry survey respondents identified long wait times as the biggest challenge in accessing emergency food, highlighting the need for a larger, more efficient space as we move to our new facility.

Listening to our Community

In our 2024–2025 Living with Low Income Survey, many respondents identified transportation, mobility, and the cost or convenience of travel as barriers to accessing food support. In response, Cambridge Food Bank launched three food locker locations with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Feed Ontario. Located in Preston Heights Community Centre, Allan Reuter Centre, and W.G. Johnson Centre, the lockers provide a more flexible and convenient way for neighbours to access food hampers. In 2025–26, **175** food locker deliveries were made.



Our Programs

Mobile Food Market



Making fresh, affordable food accessible in our community.

The Mobile Food Market brings fresh, Ontario-grown produce and essential food items directly into neighbourhoods across Cambridge and North Dumfries. With several locations across the city, the program creates convenient access points that help reduce barriers to healthy eating while providing residents with affordable options through a pay-what-you-can model.



21,822
Baskets of fresh
produce sold



866
Markets



36
Locations

In response to participant demand for greater access, the Mobile Food Market expanded to 866 markets across 36 locations from April 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026, a **9.07%** increase in markets and **24.14%** increase in locations from the previous fiscal year.



88%

said the market helps them
access fresh food more regularly

74%

said the market helps them save
money

67%

said they are able to buy more
fruits and vegetables

Thank you to Equitable Foundation
for its generous \$125,000
contribution toward Mobile Food
Market food purchases this year.



“The MFM curated selection each week helps inspire us
to make different recipes. So great to have the food
brought right to our neighbourhood.”

“Thank you for all you do. I would not be able to have fresh
produce if it weren’t for your mobile market.”

Our Programs

Wellness Hub

Food insecurity impacts more than access to food. It can influence health, wellbeing, social connection, and quality of life. The Cambridge Food Bank Wellness Hub creates opportunities for community members to learn, connect, and access free programs that support food literacy, wellness, and belonging.



847

Unique participants



3,217

Program Visits



17

Community Partners



The Wellness Hub welcomed participants of all ages through cooking, nutrition, movement, and wellness programs. This included **473** children and youth participants and **374** adults and seniors participants.



“

Being part of these classes since the beginning has been a wonderful experience for me and my family. I truly appreciate the hands-on approach, which has taught me practical skills that I use every day” - Adult Cooking participant



100%

felt connected to community supports



97%

reported increased health knowledge or skills



85%

made at least one close friendship



49 point

increase in adult nutrition label confidence



25 point

increase in adult nutrition label confidence



95%

of youth participants learned a new cooking skill



97%

Reported feeling welcomed, valued, or a sense of belonging

Results reflect participant-reported outcomes from program surveys, including pre- and post-program measures.

Volunteers

.....

Every day, volunteers contribute their time, skills, and compassion to support Cambridge Food Bank programs and services. From sorting food donations and supporting our Community Pantry and kitchen initiatives to helping at community events and welcoming visitors, volunteers are essential to creating a dignified, welcoming experience for everyone we serve.

Volunteer Impact

13,142
Volunteer Hours

1,718
Volunteers



Volunteer Award of Merit



Taeden began volunteering at Cambridge Food Bank to gain experience, give back to his community, and find a place where he could grow. Since joining our team, he has taken on a variety of roles, including supporting the Community Pantry, Kitchen Rescue, cooking classes, and community events. His willingness to learn, take on new challenges, and help wherever needed has made him a valued member of our volunteer team.

Through volunteering, Taeden has developed valuable hands-on, communication, and social skills while building connections with people across the community. As he prepares to begin the Police Foundations program at Conestoga College, we are proud to recognize his dedication and contributions with our Volunteer Award of Merit.

Abel Anderson Award



Established in 2002 in memory of Abel Anderson, the award recognizes individuals who embody his belief in doing their best and being a good person. Abel was known for his kindness, determination, and desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

This year, we are proud to honour Tommy for his many years of dedicated volunteer service with the Cambridge Food Bank through our partnership with Community Living Cambridge.

Tommy volunteers three days a week with our COBS Bread program, helping sort and package bread and keeping the kitchen clean and ready for the next day. He's also always happy to help new volunteers feel welcome and learn the ropes.

Tommy's reliability, kindness, and positive attitude make him a valued part of our team. We are grateful for all he does and proud to present him with the **2026 Abel Anderson Good Person Award**.



Donor Spotlight

Cambridge Muslim Society



The Cambridge Muslim Society (CMS) is a community organization dedicated to creating a positive impact both within and beyond the Muslim community. Through educational programs, youth initiatives, family events, charitable projects, and community outreach, CMS brings people together to support their neighbours.

CMS believes that community means looking out for one another, especially during challenging times. Through its partnership with Cambridge Food Bank, CMS supports local families and individuals facing barriers to accessing food and encourages others to get involved through donations and volunteering. "When people from different backgrounds unite around a shared purpose, we can accomplish far more than any one organization could achieve alone."

We are grateful to CMS for helping strengthen our community and demonstrating the impact of partnership, compassion, and collective action.



Environmental Impact



By rescuing surplus food and connecting it with neighbours who need it, Cambridge Food Bank helps keep good food out of landfills while supporting food access across our community. Our food rescue efforts bring together local businesses, donors, volunteers, and community partners to turn surplus food into meaningful support.

134,240

Pounds of Food rescued

\$502,637

Value of Food rescued

Food Diversion Efforts

Figures calculated from
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026



116,393 lbs

of perishable food diverted to
local area farms for feed



379,177 lbs

of greenhouse gases saved
from the environment

That's equivalent to:



84,650,900

Liters of water saved



134,240

Meals provided

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals



**End Poverty
in All its
Forms
Everywhere**



**End hunger, achieve
food security and
improved nutrition
and promote
sustainable agriculture**



**Ensure healthy
lives and promote
well-being for
all at all ages**

Launched in **August 2025**, FoodForward brings businesses, organizations, community groups and individuals together to connect and contribute, while learning about food insecurity and the Cambridge Food Bank's food security programs and food rescue and diversion efforts.



541
Participants



45
Group Experiences



5
Individual workshops



FoodForward turns community engagement into impact through hands-on contributions, earned revenue, and additional food and financial donations



\$ 13,273

Experience Revenue

36,414 lbs

Food donated by participants

\$22,732

Financial Donations

4.9/5

Overall satisfaction

"We all left feeling like we played a small part in helping our community."



Capital Campaign

FEEDING THE

FUTURE: TOGETHER

After years of planning, Cambridge Food Bank has purchased a new home at **384 Franklin Boulevard**. Our new facility will double our current footprint and create more space to serve our growing community.



BUILT FOR WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS TODAY

Cambridge Food Bank has operated from our Ainslie Street South location since 2001. As food banking has evolved, so have the needs of our community.

Our new space will give us room to manage more fresh, refrigerated and frozen food while creating better spaces for the programs and services we offer beyond food.

Expanded
Community Pantry

Commercial
Teaching Kitchen

Greenhouse &
Garden Beds

Learning
Commons



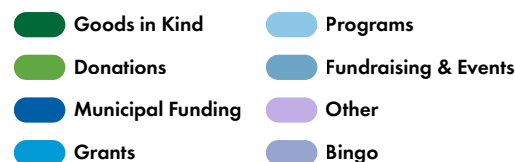
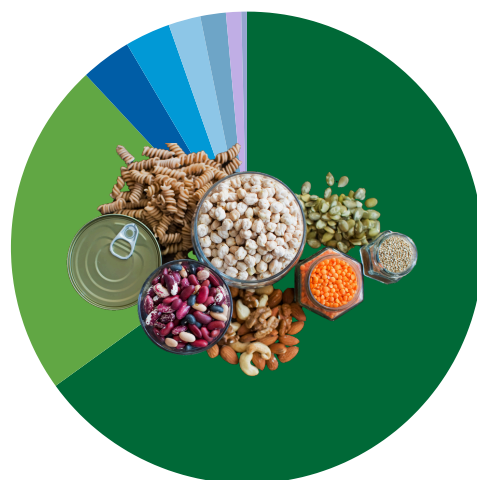
Financials



REVENUE

Goods in Kind	6,141,939.00
Donations	2,172,746.00
Municipal Funding	327,066.00
Grants	293,838.00
Programs (MFM & FoodForward)	207,848.00
Fundraising & Events	164,603.00
Other	98,026.00
Bingo	36,657.00

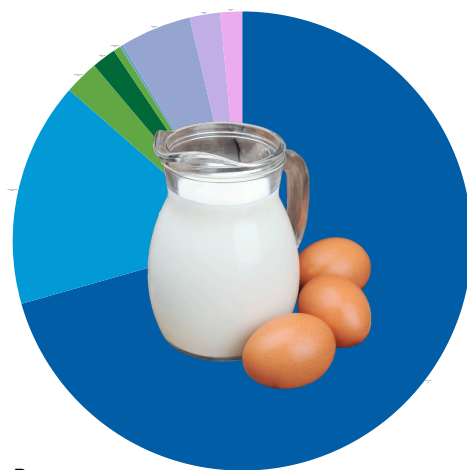
TOTAL **\$9,442,723.00**



EXPENSES

Programs	
Goods in Kind	6,141,939
Emergency Food Assistance	1,377,419.99
Mobile Food Market	210,866.58
Wellness Hub	148,818.11
Food Bank Gardens	44,527.51
Food Rescue	20,083.18
Administration	436,772.94
Fundraising	185,672.69
Amortization	134,688.00

TOTAL **\$8,700,788.00**



Please note: This financial data is extracted from Cambridge Food Bank's audited financial statements and does not contain all of the information included in the financial statements and, as such, is incomplete. The financial statements were audited by Graham Matthew and are available upon request from Cambridge Food Bank by emailing info@cambridgefoodbank.org

Growing Because of You



Thank you to our many funders for your support in making our work possible.



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning



Region of Waterloo



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Get Involved



There's a Place for Everyone at Cambridge Food Bank

Whether you give your time, donate food, make a financial contribution or bring your organization together around a cause, there are many ways to support our community.



Donate: Make a difference in your community today. Your donation helps provide food and support to people in our community.



Host a Food Drive: Bring your workplace, school, community group or organization together to collect food for our community.



Volunteer: Share your time and skills to help make our programs possible.



Partner With Us: Work with Cambridge Food Bank to create meaningful opportunities for your organization and our community.

CONTACT US



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CONNECT



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