



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024





**As we reflect on the past year, we are excited to share the progress we've made together, thanks to your generous support of Food4Kids Halton.** With your commitment, we've made significant strides in addressing the growing need for nutritious weekend food for children across Halton, helping them thrive academically and emotionally.

Feedback from schools has highlighted improvements in student well-being, including better attendance, increased focus, and more engaged learners. Teachers have shared inspiring stories of children who once struggled with hunger but are now flourishing, and parents have told us how Food4Kids Halton has positively impacted their children's mental health, academic success, and family stability.

**The 2023/24 year was a time of both progress and transition.** In

December 2023, we thanked former Executive Director Dania Thurman for her leadership and wished her the best as she pursued a new opportunity. Gayle Kabbash stepped in as Interim Executive Director, and we are deeply grateful for her guidance and leadership during this transition. The Food4Kids Halton team—Eva, Jeannie, Stacey, and Wajma—went above and beyond to ensure our programs ran smoothly, and we truly appreciate their dedication. In June, we were thrilled to welcome Jennifer Sully-Ferraro as our new Executive Director. With over 15 years of non-profit leadership experience, Jennifer brings both passion and a deep commitment to supporting children facing food insecurity.



In 2023/24, we experienced a one-time budgetary deficit. **The number of children served by our program each weekend rose by 27%, from 905 in September to 1,151 by June, reflecting the growing demand for our services.** Additionally, we received fewer grants due to the leadership transition and incurred one-time expenses to address staffing shortages and recruitment efforts. However, we are fortunate to have a healthy cash surplus to cover these challenges, and with Jennifer's leadership, we are already back on track to meet our fundraising goals.

Looking ahead, we recognize the challenges posed by rising food prices. We are actively pursuing new partnerships and funding sources to ensure the long-term

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sustainability of Food4Kids Halton, including strengthening existing collaborations and exploring new ones.

Our goal is to continue serving Halton children without a waitlist. **Your support has been crucial to our success, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.** Together, we are not only addressing hunger but also creating lasting change that strengthens our community and builds a brighter future for every child we serve.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working alongside you as we evolve to meet the ever-growing needs of our community.

With sincere appreciation,

*Terri-Lynn Puckerin*  
Board Chair

*Jennifer Sully-Ferraro*  
Executive Director





## MISSION:

To provide packages of healthy food for elementary school students with little or no access to food during the weekend and throughout the summer months.

## VISION:

While we recognize we cannot eliminate poverty or hunger in Halton, we can ensure that any child sustaining entire weekends without food, will be fed.

## MANDATE:

- **We believe** child and youth hunger is a community responsibility and by working together we can provide a solution-based program that addresses and responds to child hunger in our shared community.
- **We believe** that alleviating the effects of poverty and hunger strengthens our community, providing children with opportunities to grow, excel and thrive.
- **We believe** in facilitating programs in a non-stigmatizing, impactful and inclusive manner ensuring dignity of all participants.
- **We believe** in collaborative partnerships with volunteers, community members, schools, businesses and funders to collectively support children and families.
- **We believe** that by maintaining the highest standards, we can ensure positive outcomes for children and their families through leadership, transparency, accountability and diligent stewardship of community resources.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

**PROVIDE** packages of nutritious food for children with little or no access to food during weekend periods or during the summer months.

**FOCUS** on schools located in low-income and marginalized neighbourhoods with poverty rates in excess of 40% to reduce barriers for those most in-need.

**CONDUCT** public education and community-awareness initiatives designed to develop an understanding of child hunger.

**PROVIDE** leadership as the primary resource for weekend and summer food distribution for at-risk children engaging community partners.

**MAINTAIN** a high standard of service through best practices and annual evaluation methods.

**DEVOTE** extensive resources to recruit, train, retain and recognize volunteers to facilitate the program.



## OUR PROGRAMS:

**WEEKENDS WITHOUT HUNGER:** Our program provides weekend food packages to elementary school children with limited or no access to food. Referrals are made by schools that identify families struggling with food insecurity. Each week, volunteers package the food, and another group of volunteers deliver the packages to schools. At the school, staff discreetly place the food bag into the child's backpack. When the child arrives home and opens their backpack, they find a healthy food supply for the weekend waiting for them.

Our 6-week rotational menu includes dietary options to accommodate allergies and cultural needs. **Each child in the home receives their own food package, valued at \$15. In the 2023-2024 program year, 1,151 children were served through this program.**

**SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM:** Hunger doesn't take a break in the summer—and neither do we! At Food4Kids Halton, we remain committed to supporting the children in our program throughout the summer months when schools are closed. In our ongoing effort to ensure no child goes hungry, we provide families registered in our program with grocery gift cards valued at \$15 per child per weekend. **This vital support helps ease the burden on families and ensures kids continue to have access to nutritious meals when school is out.**

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES	2024	2023
Donations	468,447	317,282
Fundraising	354,259	397,163
Grants	162,073	305,264
In-kind donations	91,233	100,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,076,012</b>	<b>\$1,120,026</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative salaries	116,009	133,676
Advertising & promotion	7,733	6,230
Bank charges	8,323	8,453
Depreciation	6,519	5,406
Dues & fees	3,320	3,766
Fundraising	8,280	6,758
In-kind food costs	91,233	100,317
Insurance	6,587	2,258
Occupancy costs	44,908	40,562
Office	16,475	12,665
Professional fees	63,776	12,191
Program costs	799,856	662,385
Travel	7,358	4,942
Utilities	4,438	4,817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,184,815</b>	<b>1,004,426</b>
Excess of revenues over expenditures from operations	(108,803)	115,600
Interest income	12,893	4,125
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(95,910)	119,725
Net assets, beginning of year	585,384	465,659
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$489,474</b>	<b>\$585,384</b>

Fiscal year end August 2024

BECAUSE OF YOU,  
WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO MUCH.

**1,151**

Children supported

**710**

Families supported

**116**

Schools participating

**42,014**

food bags delivered  
valued at \$630,210

**\$170,775**

gift cards delivered

Growth of **27%**  
of children served  
this year





## OUR TEAM

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors:

#### EXECUTIVE

**Terri-Lynn Puckerin** - Chair

**Lindsey Billing** - Vice Chair

**Jennifer Tarnawski** - Treasurer

**Stephanie Harnett** - Secretary

#### MEMBERS

**Geoff Carpenter**

**Tara Dunn**

**Doug Lounsbury**

**Sandeep Sambhi**

**Yasmin Visram**

**Michelle Waite**

#### INTERIM MEMBERS

**Ryan Strang** - December 2023 to June 2024

**Stephen Testa** - December 2023 to June 2024



### Our Staff:

**Jennifer Sully-Ferraro** - Executive Director

**Jeannie Bugiardini** - Program Coordinator Burlington and Oakville

**Stacey Halliday** - Food Procurement and Milton Program Manager

**Eva Podoski** - Program Coordinator Halton Hills

**Wajma Weera** - Administrative Assistant and Social Media Coordinator Halton Hills



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Food4Kids Halton is powered by the generosity of donations and one-time grants, and we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support from individuals, groups, and businesses who trust us with their contributions. Their belief in our mission allows us to make a tangible difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

It is through the collective generosity and commitment of our entire community that we are able to ensure no child goes hungry. **To each and every donor—your support is not just a gift, but a testament to the power of community coming together to support one another.** Thank you for being an essential part of this mission.

## INSPIRATION: \$10,000+

- Bennington Financial Corp.
- Boehringer-Ingelheim
- Dynamic Bodies Fitness Studio
- Food4Kids Ontario
- Ford Canada
- Frank & Janice Lochan Private Foundation
- Head for the Hills Craft Beverage Festival
- Hunt Family Charitable Foundation
- In the Spirit of Giving Foundation
- JTC Heersink Foundation
- J.R.M. Investments
- Oakville Community Foundation's GIVEOakville Campaign
- Oakville Delta Gaming Centre Association
- Oakville Professional Firefighters Association
- Party of Seven
- Rattlesnake Senior Men's Golf League
- Rotary Club of Burlington North
- Tim Hortons Oakville
- Yvon Building Supply

## HOPE: \$5,000+

- Alberici Constructors
- Augy & Anna Carnovale Foundation (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)
- CIBC Miracle Day
- Costco Wholesale Canada
- Knights of Columbus Marian Council #3881
- Masonic Foundation of Ontario
- May Court Club of Oakville
- Milton Toyota
- Oakville Curling Club
- RCO Charitable Fund
- Tim Hortons Georgetown
- Vicwest Building Products Burlington

