



The Food Sharing Project

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How it Works...

The Food Sharing Project (FSP) receives funding from a range of sources, including: Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS), United Way, charitable organizations such as Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Breakfast for Learning Foundations, fundraising through the annual auction, individual & business donations, and the two School Boards (ALCDSB & LDSB). Our current year budget (2016-17) is approximately \$640,000.

The majority of funding (50%) is received from MCYS, through the Ontario Student Nutrition Program, with the objective of “providing nutritious foods and beverages, promoting good health and healthy eating habits in children and youth, and helping them to be ready to learn”. This program also provides the nutritional guidelines for snacks and meals.

Current year funding from MCYS is based on the number of children and the number of meals and snacks served last year.

The Program is entirely reliant on volunteers to help pack, deliver and prepare and serve the food, for any school that wishes to run a program. Coordinators in each school are dedicated volunteers who ensure that the appropriate supplies are ordered, received and prepared each day. These volunteers can be teachers, EAs or parents. Students can even play an important role, to meet the delivery busses when they arrive at schools, and to receive the boxes –drivers are on tight schedules and are not capable of carrying all the boxes into the school.

The Food Sharing Project receives weekly orders from over 95 schools for more than 135 programs. Food orders are required to be submitted before the end of the day, every Monday, in order to meet an aggressive schedule;

FSP combines all the school orders to purchase food and supplies in bulk at considerable savings, from local suppliers. This includes fresh produce, dairy, bakery, wholesale and general grocery suppliers. FSP places most of its orders on Tuesdays, to ensure the food can be packaged and received by local suppliers before the end of the week. FSP receives their supply shipments from Wednesday to Friday.

FSP relies on volunteers to package each school order. More than 250 boxes of custom orders are filled on Monday, each week. The volume is often in excess of six tons each week. Sometimes, due to the volume of food and the number of volunteers, a mistake can be made, but we try our best to ensure all orders are accurately filled.

Volunteer drivers pick up the food and deliver it to all the schools. In most cases, the food is delivered on Tuesday, although some orders are stored overnight in the FSP fridge, and are delivered by FSP staff on Wednesday morning.

And then the cycle begins again....

