

Annual Report of the Chair of The Food Sharing Project
2017-2018

The 2017-2018 school year was a busy year for The Food Sharing Project (FSP). By the end of the year, our breakfast, lunch and hearty snack programs fed 15,500 children in 117 programs at 87 elementary and secondary sites in the Limestone District School Board, the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario and the Conseil des Ecoles Catholiques du Centre-Est. As in the past, our program has continued to be generously supported by our many volunteers and by the financial contributions of our community partners.

We are grateful for the strong commitment demonstrated by the two largest school boards for which we provide programs. The Limestone District School Board and Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board continue to contribute to the salaries of our employees. Director Debra Rantz (LDSB) and Director Jody DiRocco (ALCDSB) were strong allies and generously gave their time and the resources available to them to support our work. As well, the trustees, senior management and staff of the Limestone District School Board supported The Food Sharing Project at the Central Office level through the Communications Department, Financial Services and the Distribution Centre.

For the second year in a row, The Food Sharing Project team met significant change as the result of three ALCDSB schools coming together in the new, state-of-the-art St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. Food Sharing staff worked diligently with school administration and staff to ensure the nutritional needs of all students continued to be met in the new environment.

The provincial government continued to support nutrition programs through the Student Nutrition Program administered by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The Food Sharing Project is one of three providers of school nutrition programs in the south-east region of Ontario. In addition to funds from the Ontario government, our partnership with MCYS has helped to direct funding to support food and equipment for our programs from President Choice Children's Charity (formerly Breakfast for Learning) and Breakfast Clubs of Canada. MCYS also contributed to the salary of our Executive Director (Administrator and Community Development Coordinator) and our Assistant Administrator position.

The United Way of KFL&A continued to be a very supportive partner this year and the funding received helped us expand programs and purchase equipment. During the United Way campaign, interested employees of both school boards were encouraged to set up a payroll deduction plan for donations to the United Way and many employees took advantage of this arrangement.

Our partnerships with the Partners in Mission Food Bank, Stock Transportation, First Student Canada and Robert Hogan Bus Lines continued to be integral to our success. The Food Bank supported the work of the Project by providing reasonably priced warehouse and office space, plus access to heavy equipment such as a fork lift. We also took advantage of bulk purchasing opportunities and food exchanges when FSP received food donations that did not meet our nutritional standards. Stock Transportation, First Student Canada and Robert Hogan Bus Lines continued to deliver weekly food orders to our city programs using six school buses and volunteer bus drivers. Without the support of these transportation companies and the kind efforts of their individual drivers, the delivery of food to schools would be very costly.

We are grateful for the guidance and support The Food Sharing Project receives each year from Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health. In addition to providing a dietician as a member of our Board of Directors. KFL&A Public Health provides invaluable guidance in the area of safe food handling, menu planning and in-kind support such as printing.

In March we launched a poster contest which was open to all students in KFL&A with the goal of enhancing awareness of our programs within schools and encouraging healthy eating. Many students in grades 5-12 created beautiful posters and judging was a challenge. The committee selected a first and second

place poster in each grade group: grades 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. The four first place posters were printed, laminated and sent to schools in November 2018. Congratulations to winning students from Archbishop O'Sullivan Catholic School, Saint Martha Catholic School and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School! Thank you to the teachers and all students who participated in the contest. It will be great to see our message proudly on display throughout KFL&A schools!

In April we were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of a long-serving member of our Board of Directors, David Jackson. David was a Board member for 10 years and throughout those years, his contribution was significant. David brought vast experience, common sense, a sense of humour and a strong moral compass to every discussion at our Board table. Over the years his experience, gathered through years of community advocacy work, helped to guide us. As the Food Sharing Project grew, David asked the right questions and help provide the input we needed to make the best decisions. We miss his wisdom, his laugh, his thoughtful remarks, and his quiet passion to do what was right to support the members of our community who needed it most. We will honour David's memory with a David Parry Outstanding Service Award in December 2018.

A number of significant donations were received from community groups and individuals this year. We received a very generous bequest from the estate of a friend of The Food Sharing Project and a committee will be looking carefully into ways to use this gift to enhance the capacity for food preparation in some of our programs, while meeting safe food handling regulations. We received two very large donations from a family who wished to remain anonymous and also received generous donations from individuals who directed funds to Food Sharing in lieu of birthday, Christmas, retirement and bereavement gifts. For the second year, we were the recipients of funds raised by the Kingston Road Runners group during their Twosome Run in February. Various church groups made donations or organized food drives for our programs. We also received a number of donations through the Canada Helps link on our website.

In December 2003, the Kingston community lost one of its well-loved citizens with the sudden passing of Zal Yanovsky. His wife, Rose Richardson, and some of their family and friends created the Zal and Rose School Breakfast Fund to honour his memory. The Community Foundation for Kingston and Area administers this endowment fund and the Food Sharing Project receives a yearly financial gift from the income it creates. The fund was launched at a breakfast on December 13, 2004, the first anniversary of Zal's death. In March 2005, we were further saddened by the death of Rose Richardson.

This year the 14th annual Zal and Rose School Breakfast Fund breakfasts were held in December. Over the course of two days, Kingstonians were treated to delicious breakfasts, as both Chez Piggy and Pan Chancho Bakery opened their doors to celebrate the memory of Zal and Rose. On the mornings of the breakfasts, guests dropped a donation envelope into a basket to add to the fund and thanks to their generosity over the years, we received a cheque representing the interest from the fund as well as a donation directly from the proceeds of the breakfasts. We are very grateful to Zoe Yanovsky, owner of Chez Piggy and Pan Chancho, for her passionate support of our work.

A very special relationship exists between the children of three local elementary schools and the staff of Pan Chancho. Twice a week, the lucky children who attend the breakfast programs are treated to freshly baked focaccia bread and muffins, delivered to their door from the bakery. Zoe Yanovsky, with the generous support of her staff, has continued to provide this wonderful donation of baked goods to our children.

We were fortunate to have the continued support of school communities again this year. Schools made financial contributions with proceeds raised at holiday concerts, cafes, plays, and barbeques. Many school councils also made generous donations to the Food Sharing Project on behalf of the programs which operate in their schools. The success of the Food Sharing Project can be attributed, in a large degree, to the commitment of school board employees and we thank them for their generous support.

Our Board members have always been sensitive to the issue of the closure of our programs at the end

of June. We know that the children who come to our programs during the school year continue to need support in July and August. In honour of the memory of Sandra Davison, our long-time Treasurer, we provided nutritious snacks to children who attended summer literacy and numeracy camps in the Limestone District School Board.

The Food Sharing Project team did a wonderful job once again this year. Our Executive Director, Tim Brown, worked enthusiastically with Dave Mortensen and Bill Miklas to ensure our school programs received their weekly food orders as well as support and encouragement. Our team worked many hours to keep on top of each program and to efficiently manage the needs of all, while meeting numerous deadlines related to our Ministry funding. We are very fortunate to have Tim, Dave and Bill and they are indispensable to The Food Sharing Project. The Board of Directors is truly grateful for their continued dedication and appreciate their teamwork and tireless efforts to meet the needs of our students.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and our over two hundred volunteers for their support, hard work and commitment. On that note, I'd like to thank Board members, Cathy Summers, former ALCDSB Trustee, and David Munday for their many years of dedication to The Food Sharing Project. We will miss David's perspective at our Board table, although I am very pleased that Cathy will be staying on now that her school board representation has ended. As we look to the future, we will continue our work to ensure the universality of our programs while working with our school board partners to enhance the capacity for food preparation in some of our programs and expanding the membership of our Board of Directors.

I believe it takes a community to feed a child; a community of caring individuals and we are fortunate to be supported by a community which is dedicated to feeding children in schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Moore, Chair
December 18, 2018