

Feeding our Future

The Food Sharing Project – Donor Newsletter



Introducing...

As we navigate challenging times of higher food demands at schools and increased food prices, we acknowledge more than ever that we couldn't do what we do without the generosity of our donors.

Besides simply saying Thank you! we want to include our donors in our successes, recognize our supporters, and show how we are impacting students. This donor newsletter, **Feeding Our Future**, is the first attempt. We plan on issuing two newsletters per year, spring and fall.

Please let us know what you think!

In this edition...

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Your impact – notes from the E.D.

With the generous support of donors like you, The Food Sharing Project is able to provide over \$20,000 of food to 88 schools all across our region, and schools are able to serve over 10,000 meals and hearty snacks each week of the school year, to any student who needs nutrition, no questions asked.

Sometimes we get lost in these big numbers, so I would like to share an individual story:

An Adolescent Care Worker (ACW) at a Kingston secondary school is one of several staff who organize “grab-and-go” food stations in the hallways, so students can discreetly grab a healthy snack or sandwich between classes. The ACW also keeps some food from The Food Sharing Project in their office.

One student who was embarrassed to grab food from the hallway stations heard about the private stash and asked the ACW if they could grab an apple one day. The student returned occasionally to ask for a muffin or piece of fruit, slowly building a relationship with the ACW. Eventually, once trust was built, the ACW was able to engage with this shy young person, and discovered they were experiencing some difficulties at home, that impacted access to food, among other things.

The ACW was able to work with and support this student over the course of the school year, while also providing them with the most basic of necessities needed to learn – food. Your donations help provide the thousands of meals every week – and helped this one student build a trusting, helpful relationship.

We are so grateful for your support!

Andy Mills
Executive Director

Jobwell Community Collaborator Award



Jobwell, a program of Providence Care Hospital, provides employment for adults living with mental illness. FSP employs four Jobwell associates in the packing of our food boxes every week – they are a key part of the team effort to get healthy food to schools each and every week. During the height of the pandemic, Jobwell associates not only packed food for families, but also assisted our staff in delivering hundreds of boxes of food to families in our community.

We are honoured to be recognized with the 2022 Community Collaborator Award.

Great Grants support school food programs

In the fall of 2022, we received two generous grants, which supported the growth of school nutrition programs.

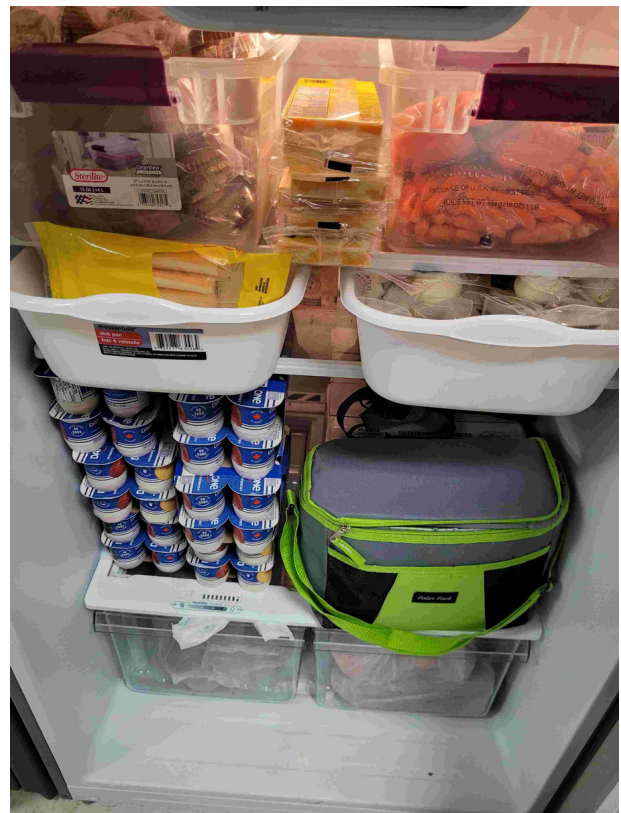
The **Community Foundation for Kingston and Area** awarded \$12,000 for refrigeration equipment. We were able to purchase one commercial cooler, 7 full-size fridges, and 4 compact fridges. This increased safe food storage by 179 cubic feet in total and allowed us to replace a few desperately old fridges (duct tape will only go so far!).



"The compact fridge has been a very important part of promoting independence for all our students ... having the food accessible to students has reduced the stigma associated with receiving food supports at school."



"This new fridge has allowed us to provide hundreds of students with fresh food...Being able to provide students with nutritious meals has positively impacted their learning and overall wellbeing."



"We are having to feed an increasing number of students each day in our North End neighbourhood... Thanks to our new fridge, we are able to provide access to fresh options more days of the week. It may just be one fridge but it feeds many students each day."

The **United Way serving KFL&A** provided a grant of \$10,000 for school programming equipment. With those dollars we were able to purchase a couple more fridges, plus 122 insulated cooler bags with ice packs and thermometers, dozens of plastic classroom food bins, 13 toasters, 7 microwaves, and an assortment of griddles, saucepans, cutlery, and other food prep items. This equipment allows schools to engage youth and expand their nutritious food options.

Support from Labour Unions

Many, many individuals, families and organizations support healthy food at school through their donations – including local labour unions – allowing us to provide much more than if we relied on government funding alone.

Executive Director Andy Mills attended the March 2023 meeting of LiUNA Local 183 to say a few words of appreciation for their generous donation of \$25,000. Thank you LiUNA members!



USW Locals 343 and 2010 presented a donation from the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, but also an additional gift was designated from the members of Local 343. Thank you!

Financial Snapshot

As we near the end of the school year, we are facing a significant deficit due to the increasing demand for food at school (up 60% in 4 years) the skyrocketing prices of food (up 10-20% per item since last year), the elimination of federal pandemic response funding, and no increase in Provincial funding since 2015.

To mitigate this deficit, we are drawing on our reserve funds, asking school boards for funding to support admin costs, reaching out to school councils and parents, and looking at creative fundraising opportunities. We have also been advocating levels of government for increased funding.

FSP In The News!



Our Executive Director, Andy Mills, was a guest on YourTV's Limestone Lens recently, and discussed food insecurity and the work of The Food Sharing Project with host Donna Chambers. You can view the video on our News page by clicking on the image.

Ways to help

Great Canadian Giving Challenge

Throughout the month of June, CanadaHelps.ca is encouraging donations at a time of the year when donations are typically lower. Every \$1 donated acts as an entry for your charity of choice into a draw for \$20,000. Please consider a donation if you are able.

Become a Monthly Donor

We've had an increase in the number of monthly donors over the past six months. Monthly donations are a great way to make a significant impact, and helps charities by providing a reliable monthly stream of revenue.

Volunteer

Ask at a school near you, or where your kids or grandkids attend, if they need volunteers for their school nutrition program. You can also volunteer to pack boxes of food every week or two in our warehouse (We are recruiting a few more folks to add to our volunteer pool for September). Send us an email if you are interested.

THANK A TEACHER

Make a year-end donation to thank a teacher. You can donate online and complete the "In Honour Of" section to send a message directly to your child's teacher. Visit our donation page.

Join us on the farm, August 20th

We are excited to announce that we are the charity partner for the **Back to the Farm Beer & Music Festival** at the MacKinnon Brothers Brewery in Bath, Ontario. This popular event runs on Sunday, August 20th from 11:00am to close, with lots of great live music, food and beverages.



United Way
Member Agency



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area

Thank you to the United Way serving KFL&A for annual and special project funding.

Thank you to the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area for their support.

The Food Sharing Project

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