



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2022-2023 school year was unprecedented for The Food Sharing Project. In 2019, prior to the onset of COVID-19, we sent food with a value of \$12,000 to schools each week and in 2022-2023, that amount skyrocketed to \$21,000 per week. Due to the perfect storm of the rising cost of food and increased demand from more students needing nutritional support, we faced a significant

budget shortfall. Our Board and staff worked closely to adjust our operations and fund development plan in an effort to fill the need, but school coordinators frequently called to say they had to increase their order from the amount we sent the week before because, “The kids are so hungry!” As diligently as we worked behind the scenes, we know it was a very challenging year for school communities as so many students were coming to school hungry and at times, there just wasn’t enough to go around.



We decided it was time to ask for help. We asked for more volunteers to cover a second shift for packing school food boxes, and we threw open our doors and invited everyone to learn more about our operation and its impact on students across KFL&A. We increased community awareness through tours and discussions with School Board Trustees, City Councillors, MPs and MPPs. We invited workplaces to help with packing school food boxes and had the pleasure of participating in the Kingston and Sydenham Santa Claus parades. We told school councils, donors and our school board partners about the desperate need faced by so many families, and we were beyond grateful when they all stepped up and their contributions allowed us to bring the deficit down and get closer to filling every hungry tummy.

As Board Chair, I feel very blessed to sit at table with Board members who care deeply about the health and well-being of students and have the courage to make hard fiscal decisions when necessary. The Board is grateful for our staff team, Executive Director Andy Mills and Warehouse staff, Dave Mortensen (who celebrated 20 years of service in 2023) and Brian Cassidy, who managed the perfect storm by adjusting delivery routes almost weekly to accommodate the relentlessly increasing number of food boxes being crammed into our vans. Our staff team marveled at the capacity of our dedicated volunteers who never said a word when their shifts extended to three or four hours as they attempted to pack the mountain of food boxes.

You have heard me say, “It takes a community to feed a child” for many years but never was that phrase more true than in 2022-2023. This community, where one in nine families live with food insecurity, came together and made it possible for The Food Sharing Project to continue its work. With just a few months of the 2023-2024 school year under our belts, the cost of living continues to rise, and we anticipate there will be even more families looking to schools to provide the nutritious food their children need to thrive. I can assure you that with the help of our amazing donors and supporters, our Board, staff and tireless partners in KFL&A schools are unwavering in their dedication to providing the food students need so they can take advantage of everything that school offers them. Success starts with good food.

Warmly,

*Brenda Moore*

## **In 2022-2023...**

300,000 breakfasts and lunches were served.

700,000 hearty snacks were provided.

88 schools in 4 school boards received food weekly.

1150 volunteer hours packing school food deliveries.

200 school volunteers prepared student meals.

## 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Warehouse Manager Dave Mortensen celebrated 20 years working with The Food Sharing Project.

FSP participated in Santa Claus Parades in Kingston and Sydenham - November 2022.

\$31,000 in grants received from Community Foundation and United Way towards warehouse equipment, school kitchen equipment and fridges.

Kim Major hired as Administrative Assistant Jan to June 2023 thanks to grant from Churchill Foundation.

E.D. Andy Mills attended Student Nutrition Ontario's VISIONS Conference in Ottawa in early March 2023

The *Care 2 Share* fundraising campaign ran in March 2023 as part of Nutrition Month, in partnership with local restaurants.

The Kingston Frontenacs hosted "Food Sharing Project Night" at a hockey game in March 2023.

FSP leadership team met with Federal Ministers, MPs and MPPs to advocate for a National School Food Program.

COBS Bread Kingston raised the most of any COBS in Canada during Hot Cross bun campaign, in support of FSP.

FSP said goodbye to part-time delivery driver Garrett Cole in June 2023.

FSP named Charity of Choice for MacKinnon Bros. *Back to the Farm* music, beer and food festival in August 2023.



FSP van in Santa parade



New fridges for schools



Kim Major



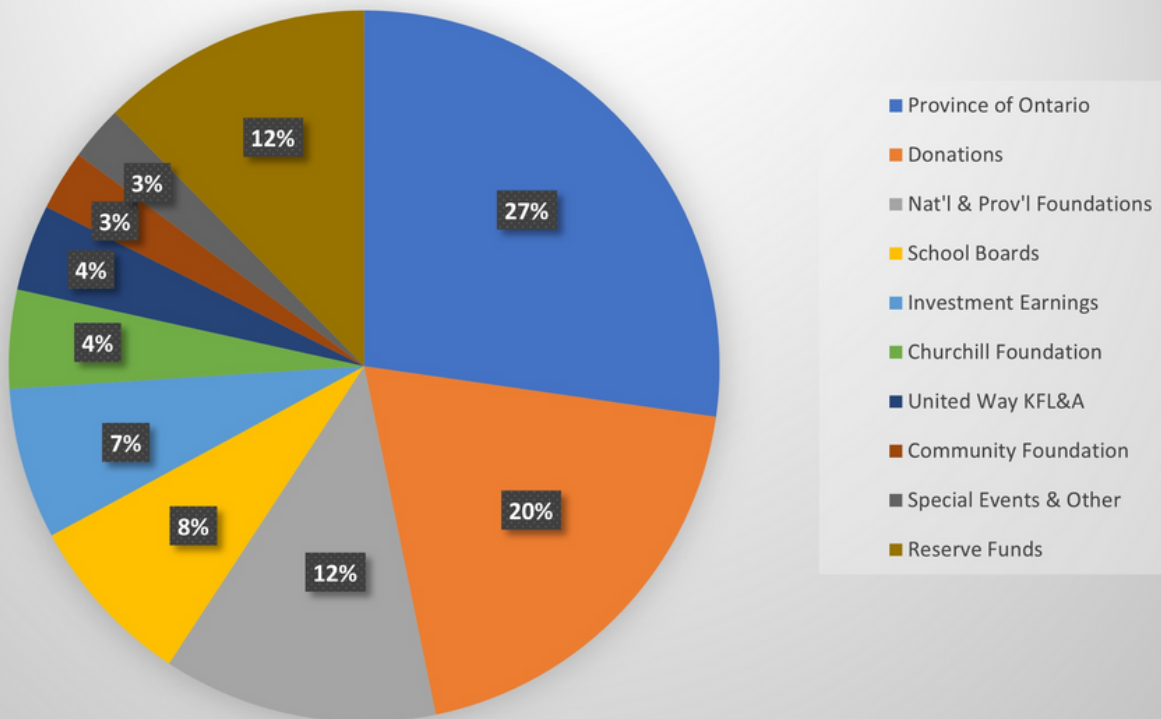
MP Mark Gerretsen and son packing food boxes

# Financial Report

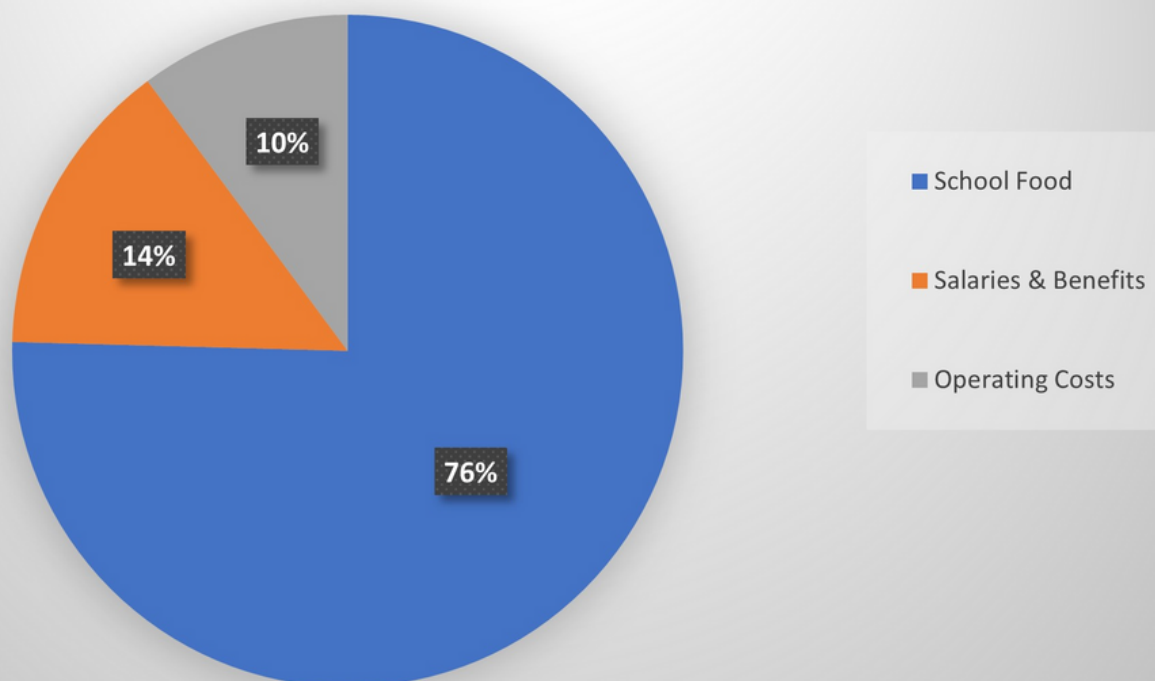
Audited Financial Statements are available on our website:

[www.foodsharingproject.org/corporate-info/](http://www.foodsharingproject.org/corporate-info/)

## 2022-2023 Revenue \$1,170,760



## 2022-2023 Expenses \$1,170,760





# What some of our school coordinators are saying...



*We have several children who come to school with little in their lunch boxes. Thanks to your program, they are able to eat some healthy food with their friends and be more focused for the rest of the day.*

*We are noticing more and more that students are coming with not enough in their lunches. Students finish all that is packed by them or parents and are still hungry. This program offers that extra that is so greatly needed at our school.*

*The students at our school know that they will always have food available for them to eat while at school without judgement or bias. Students that forget a lunch, have food scarcity at home or can provide some food but not enough, can access The Food Sharing Project daily or as needed.*

*Many students come to school having not eaten breakfast. We offer cereal and milk to them so they can start their day with full tummies. Many students pack lunches but once finished are still hungry, we supplement their lunches, or they don't bring many healthy choices (fruit/veg) and are thrilled to have this offering.*

*We have many families here struggling right now. Our food program is a huge help in making sure these students get the nutrition they need. We have quite a few kids that enjoy some cereal and milk or a bagel when they get here to help set them off on the right foot and many students who often need some extra snacks in their lunch to get them through the day.*

*We have some students with dire food insecurity at home. Our program nourishes these students so that they may focus and learn like their peers. It gives them a fighting chance to succeed.*

## Donations make the difference...

Given the increase in need for healthy food at school along with increased food prices, we rely on donations and fundraising to make up the shortfall of Government and Foundation funding.

### *Thanks to:*

COBS Bread Riocan Kingston

LiUNA Local 183

Robert & Wendy Reid

Community Response to Neighbourhood Concerns

100+ Women Who Care Napanee

Newburgh-Camden Lions Club

Kingston Frontenacs

CIBC Wood Gundy

Sophie Pepin

Doug Strahan

Tegan Reynolds

Neighbourhood Sharing Centre

Enbridge



COBS BREAD Riocan Kingston

Implant Recycling / James Reid Funeral Home

Francis & Laura Semenuk and family

Adam & Esther Young

Spin to Win Napanee

Sisters of St Vincent de Paul

Maida Williams

Storrington Lions Club

Steelworkers Humanity Fund

Pasta Genova



LiUNA local 183

*...and to the many more  
donors who helped us  
get food to kids at  
school this year!*



Newburgh Camden Lions Club



# THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

## Staff

Andy Mills, Executive Director

Dave Mortensen, Operations Manager

Brian Cassidy, Warehouse Assistant

Kim Major, Administrative Assistant

Garrett Cole, Delivery Driver

Gillian Moss, CPA, Accountant

## Board of Directors

Brenda Moore, Chair

Tom Gingrich, Vice-Chair

Cathy Summers, Secretary

Michael Murphy, Treasurer

Janice Ezard

Laurie French

Sy Golosky

Michael Higginson

Krista Johnson

Jessica Hrgetic, Health Unit Rep

Judith Brown, LDSB Rep

Kathy Turkington, ALCDSB Rep

Shawn Murphy, ALCDSB Rep

## School Board Partners



Conseil des  
écoles publiques  
de l'Est de l'Ontario



Écoles  
catholiques  
Centre-Est



Algonquin & Lakeshore  
Catholic District School Board

### The Food Sharing Project

37 Rigney Street, Unit 4  
Kingston, ON, K7K 6Z3

613-530-3514

[info@foodsharingproject.org](mailto:info@foodsharingproject.org)

[www.foodsharingproject.org](http://www.foodsharingproject.org)