



THE
FOOD SHARING
PROJECT

2024-2025 Annual Report

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THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What a year we've had! I couldn't be prouder of our incredible staff team and more grateful to our donors, community partners, the National School Food Program and local organizations such as the United Way, the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area and the Anna and Edward C. Churchill Foundation for making dreams a reality.

The Food Sharing Project has always been very responsive to the nutritional needs of students so when we learned that in 2023, 1 in 3 households experienced food insecurity, we knew the challenge before us was immense. 1 in 3 households meant that hunger was everywhere, in every school and there was no telling which child or youth was impacted. For the first time, we asked ourselves, is it possible to meet the need?

The encouragement we needed to try came from the implementation of the National School Food Program which was a \$1 billion commitment over five years as part of the 2024 federal budget. With the promise of that funding, we hired a volunteer coordinator and started to dream about a program where students could have access to a hearty lunch, prepared in a commercial kitchen and delivered to their school. When our funding arrived in January 2025, a team of staff and Board members, led by our Executive Director, put in countless hours to develop Lunch is Ready! Le déjeuner est prêt!, a pilot project in which seven elementary schools received freshly prepared lunches consisting of a protein-filled main with fruit and milk on the side. We hired a chef to create nutritious, kid-friendly items such as a chicken ranch wrap, a Greek bento box and chicken pasta salad and trained volunteers to assist in the kitchen and with distribution of lunches in schools. We created a webstore where families ordered lunches and our office administrator jumped in to manage weekly updates and orders and a mountain of questions.

Success was immediate! Students loved the meals and school staff breathed a sigh of relief because they knew that on at least one day a week, no child was hungry. Between March and June 2025, we served 12,000 lunches! Those meals were on top of the food, worth an average of \$25,000, that our warehouse and delivery team sent to all 88 elementary and secondary schools across KFL&A, every week.

We proved that it is possible to meet the need, despite the unrelenting affordability crisis. The funding from the National School Food Program was the catalyst the Board of Directors needed to create a bold new vision. **In five years, every student in KFL&A will have the best opportunity to reach their full potential by ensuring no child experiences hunger at school.**

Turning the dream of no child experiencing hunger at school into a reality will take the work of all of us. Currently, 13 elementary schools receive full lunches or our hybrid meals through the Lunch is Ready! program and in January 2026, we will open an unused high school cafeteria to prepare lunches for the students at that school and two elementary schools. Whether it's your talent, your treasure or your time, please consider joining us. I know that when this community comes together, great things happen and wouldn't the greatest thing be if every child in KFL&A had access to the nutritious food they needed to thrive and reach their full potential?



Brenda Moore

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I take a moment to reflect, I find it hard to believe we managed to do so much in only one year! The highlight, of course, was the launch of the National School Food Program, with funding beginning to flow in early 2025.

Our team of volunteers and staff put in a lot of extra hours and time to develop and eventually launch our Lunch is Ready! prepared meal program. We opened our first kitchen hub thanks to our new relationships with the Labourers International Union of North America (LIUNA), providing thousands of healthy meals to students at seven initial schools over just a few months.

Other highlights of the year included:

- Developing and wrapping up our fund development project, thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, resulting in tools to grow our third-party and legacy fundraising
- Meeting with Student Nutrition colleagues from across the Province at the “Visions” Conference in October – the first in-person conference since the 2020 pandemic
- Continuing to host groups of volunteers packing food boxes, including 1 Wing CFB Kingston and the Kingston Area Real Estate Association
- Welcoming a dozen classes from schools across the region for our popular warehouse field trips
- Continuing to support the annual United Way campaign as part of the speakers’ bureau
- Contributing the keynote presentation to the Queen’s Conference on Education
- Electric vans, summer programs, adding staff hours ... and so much more!

And all this happened, while we continued to provide 10 tons of food to 88 schools, every single week of the school year, making sure every child in KFL&A had access to nutritious food at their school. And we are grateful to all our funders, supporters, donors and volunteers – **we could never do all of this without all of you!**



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

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, Southeast Health Unit
Representative

Judith Brown, LDSB Representative

Kathy Turkington, ALCDSB Representative

Shawn Murphy, ALCDSB Representative

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

STAFF



Brian Cassidy
Warehouse Manager



Carissa Bird
Administrative Assistant



Robert O'Brien
Delivery Driver



Noor-Ul-Huda
Student Nutrition Program
Coordinator



Emma Cox
Kitchen Lead

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2024–2025 year was one of growth, new connections and continued change for The Food Sharing Project. As demand for student nutrition programs continued to grow across KFL&A, the organization strengthened its team, built new partnerships and took important steps to support the long-term sustainability of its work.

Strengthening Our Foundation

The Food Sharing Project's team grew during the year with the addition of 2 new staff members. Noor Ul-Huda joined part-time in October as the Student Nutrition Program Coordinator and Emma Cox joined in March as Kitchen Lead.

In 2025, The Food Sharing Project also completed a contract with Penny Banks, who guided the development of a new third-party fundraising plan. This work will support efforts to reach new donors and partners and strengthen the organization's sustainability in the years ahead.

Community Connection

The organization also created opportunities to collaborate locally and regionally. In November 2024, The Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation, Food for Learning and Food for Thought came together at The Food Sharing Project to discuss shared goals and strategies for nourishing students. In January, Breakfast Club of Canada visited the warehouse to connect and discuss student nutrition. MPP Ted Hsu visited to celebrate The Food Sharing Project's Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, MP Mark Gerretsen's office participated in the Great Big Crunch and local businesses and community organizations continued to raise funds and awareness in support of student nutrition.

City of Kingston Declares a Food Insecurity Emergency

On January 14, 2025, Kingston City Council declared a food insecurity emergency in the city. This growing need was also being felt at The Food Sharing Project, with food orders from schools continuing to increase throughout the year.

Milestone Fundraising

Over the last four years, COBS Bread raised \$100,000 on behalf of The Food Sharing Project. The Zal and Rose Yanovsky Breakfast Fund held at the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area supporting The Food Sharing Project, has reached a significant milestone by surpassing \$500,000 in endowments.



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

BY THE NUMBERS

88 SCHOOLS
across 4 school boards
received access to
nutritious foods

OVER 1 MILLION
meals and snacks served to students
across KFL&A

\$25,000
in food delivered weekly

10 TONNES
of food delivered
weekly

2560 HOURS
of volunteer time in the
warehouse and for
deliveries

15 FIELD TRIPS
giving students an inside look at
how food makes its journey from
the warehouse to their school

700 KILOMETRES
driven every week bringing
nutritious food to students

40+ YEARS
providing nutritious foods to
students across KFL&A

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

NEW INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In April, Ted Hsu, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, visited The Food Sharing Project to celebrate an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant supporting the development of a fund development strategy and tools.

FSP Board Chair Brenda Moore also introduced a new pop-up fundraising display, which can be borrowed by groups raising funds on behalf of The Food Sharing Project to support nutritious food for students across KFL&A.



The **Great Big Crunch** is an annual Canada-wide event that brings students, educators and community members together to take a simultaneous bite of an apple or other crunchy fruit or vegetable, celebrating student nutrition and raising awareness of universal school food programs.



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES CONTINUED



Throughout the year, The Food Sharing Project welcomed **15 classes** to its warehouse for interactive field trips.

Students learned how food moves from the warehouse to schools across KFL&A and gained a behind-the-scenes look at the work involved in supporting student nutrition programs.

Instant Pot Program

Through a grant from the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, The Food Sharing Project provided 11 local schools with Instant Pots and ingredients to prepare warm, nutritious lunches. To support schools with limited staffing capacity, the program expanded to include vacuum-sealed, frozen meal kits that could be easily prepared with minimal effort.

Together, the meal kits and school-prepared meals provided approximately **2,000** meals to students during the school year.



Rice Meals Kits

In May, 70 volunteers packed **14,680** rice meal kits for distribution across KFL&A. The event was organized by Kids Against Hunger in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kingston, Limestone District School Board, Lionhearts and The Food Sharing Project.



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

LUNCH IS READY!

In March 2025, The Food Sharing Project launched Lunch is Ready! (LIR!), a new prepared-meal program made possible through the Federal Government's National School Food Program.

The program was developed to provide students with free, nutritious lunches delivered directly to their schools. With access to LiUNA Local 183's commercial kitchen and partnerships with Jobwell Enterprises and Otter Creek Kitchen, The Food Sharing Project expanded its capacity to prepare and distribute meals across KFL&A.

Each meal included a main course, complete with milk and fruit. Vegetarian options were available. An online registration system was also developed, allowing parents and guardians to register their students for the program. Following a successful trial during March Break at the Boys and Girls Club, Lunch is Ready! launched in schools, serving hundreds of students each week.

12,000
meals served to KFL&A students

7 SCHOOLS
piloted the Lunch is Ready! program

By June, preparations were underway to expand Lunch is Ready! for 2025-2026.

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

This year, volunteers gave more than 2,560 hours in our warehouse and deliveries, packed food boxes, and joined our new kitchen team to help prepare and serve Lunch is Ready! meals. In October, The Food Sharing Project welcomed its Student Nutrition Program Coordinator, who took on volunteer recruitment and coordination and has helped this incredible group grow.

To every person who gave their time this year: thank you!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Anna & Edward C. Churchill Foundation

LiUNA Local 183

Anonymous

Britton Smith Foundation

Homestead Land Holdings Ltd.

Storrington Lions Club

COBS Bread RioCan Kingston

Spin to Win Napanee

TD Bank Group

House of Angelis

Maida Williams

KellyDelaney

Concurrent Education Students Association

ETFO Limestone Local

Isabel Spratt

Adam & Esther Young

Colleen Earle & John Sutton

Kiwanis Club of Kingston

Neighbourhood Sharing Centre

Antique and Classic Car Club of Canada, Upper Canada Region

Delma & Kevin Gaffney

Steelworkers Humanity Fund

B'Nai Brith Lodge 1191 Kingston

G. Ross & Judith Walker

Ontario Nurses' Association Local 99

Sophie Pepin

Lucie Moussu

United Steelworkers of America - Local 343

Joshua Penslar

David & Alberta Saunders

Kim Dressel

Leslie Rose

Momentum Pilates Inc.

Shirley Hicks

Alliance Security & Answering Service

Barry Riddell

Bill Priestman

Clark Day

Collins Bay Insitution - Correctional Officers

CUPE Local 1480

Harmesen Construction Inc.

Ian Carmichael's Auto Service

Janet Oullahan

Jason Taylor

Knights of Colombus, St Joseph's 11670

Lawrence Vandermeer

And many more!

THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

FUNDING AND SERVICE PARTNERS



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

Third-party fundraisers play an important role in supporting The Food Sharing Project. Throughout the year, local businesses, organizations and community members hosted events and campaigns, raising funds and awareness to help nourish students across KFL&A.



THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

SCHOOL BOARD PARTNERS



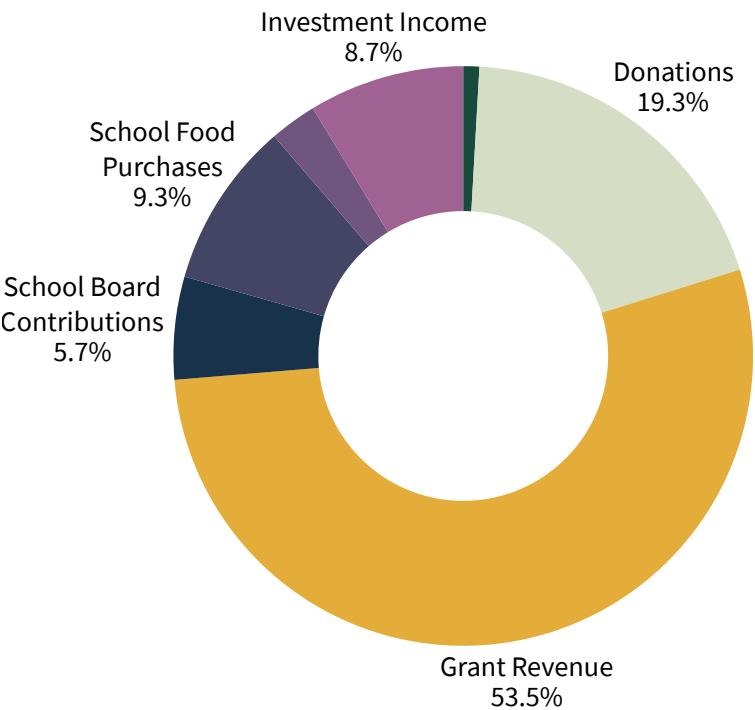
THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

FINANCIALS

The most significant financial event of 2024-2025 was the addition of over \$200,000 in revenue with the launch of the National School Food Program.

This additional revenue allowed The Food Sharing Project to expand food delivery and was the impetus for the launch of the new Lunch is Ready! Prepared meal initiative.

Statement of Operations		
Revenue		
	Amortization of Deferred Contributions	\$14,285
	Donations	\$309,058
	Grant Revenue	\$857,098
	School Board Contributions	\$91,791
	School Food Purchases	\$148,533
	Special Events	\$42,081
	Investment Income	\$139,143
		\$1,601,989

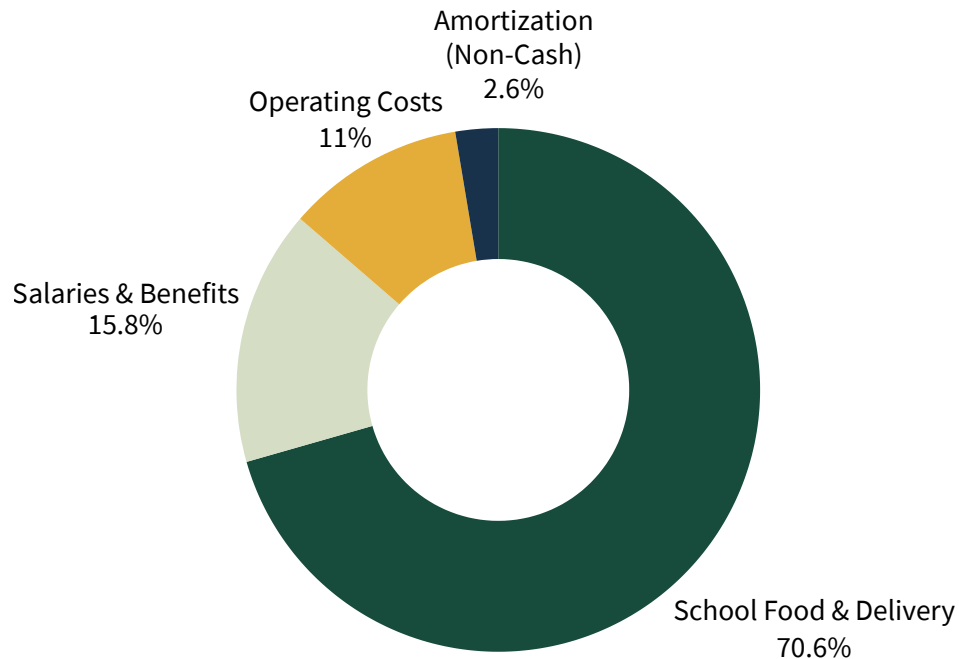


THE FOOD SHARING PROJECT

FINANCIALS

Expenses increased with more food being prepared, packed and provided to schools, and operating expenses increasing with additional staff and resources to ensure all students have access to the nutritious food they need.

The full audited financial statement is available on our website.



Statement of Operations

Expenses

	Food	\$811,942
	Milk	\$114,335
	Paper Products	\$42,119
	Amortization	\$37,805
	Board Expenses	\$196
	Fundraising and Special Events	\$38
	Insurance	\$6,219
	Office and Administration	\$31,487
	Professional Fees	\$25,432
	Rent	\$37,645
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$24,438
	Salaries and Benefits	\$226,386
	Special Projects	\$25,647
	Telephone	\$1,387
	Travel	\$895
	Utilities	\$4,798
	Vehicle and Travel	\$15,319
	Summer Program	\$28,968
		\$1,435,056