

Eden Community Food Bank Food for Thought November 2010

Executive Director's Message



Bill Crawford,
Executive Director

Thanks to everyone both at Eden Community Food Bank (ECFB) and in the community who warmly welcomed me into my new role as Executive Director!

In my first few months in the job, I have seen the incredible dedication of our volunteers to serve our clients well. I am humbled by the care and concern of this dedicated group of people for the needs of the hungry in our community. ECFB would be unable to meet the needs of our clients without the weekly contributions of this large group of people. I have met with both food and financial donors many of whom have been giving to the food bank for years. While I thanked them for their support, they expressed their appreciation for the work of the food bank and the need it fills in the community. I have talked with clients who don't know what they would do if the food bank was not there to help them. One woman told me that she feared coming to the food bank for help, but came when her need to feed her children outweighed her fear. I spoke to some who were surprised and relieved when they were warmly welcomed by our volunteers as part of the family. They not only got the food they needed, but made a connection with a caring volunteer as well.

Unfortunately, the need for a food bank in western Mississauga is greater now than ever before in our twenty year history. Food bank usage went up by 32% in 2009 over the year before. In 2010, usage is continuing to increase with many new people coming to the food bank for the first time after they have lost jobs (51%) or only after hearing that we exist (30%).

As a food bank, we are all about providing food to hungry people in our community. Our commitment moving forward is to ensure greater access to quality food for more people. We will work to get the word out so that the hungry in our service area know about the food bank and feel comfortable to come for help. We will work with the community to get the quality and quantity of food donated that will provide our families with healthy, nutritious meal options for themselves and their children. We will help the greater community better understand the issues of hunger and poverty in our area so they may better respond to their needs. We will do this by developing the food bank to meet the need and working together as a team to be as effective and efficient as possible.

It is a lofty vision, but, like any great journey, the destination is worth the effort to get there.

MAYOR'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS EDEN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Bill Crawford, Executive Director

Our thanks go out to the Mayor and other members of the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament committee for supporting Eden Community Food Bank with a \$5,000 contribution.

At their golf tournament in September, Bill Crawford was presented with a cheque by the Mayor and committee members. The Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, now in its 28th year, has a long history of supporting the work of charities in Mississauga. These funds will cover almost a month's worth of facility expenses at our Unity Client Centre and Warehouse ensuring that hungry people in our community will have greater access to quality food when it's needed.



From left to right: Ron Lenyk, Ron Starr, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Bill Crawford, Peter McCallion & Gerry Townsend

WHY I VOLUNTEER

Stephen Reist, Volunteer

In kindergarten we were taught to share. I first started volunteering at Eden Community Food Bank because I had extra time to share with my neighbours. I soon discovered how much fun it is to share the work with the other terrific volunteers and staff who also like to share.

Sharing can feel good, especially when so many of the people we share the food with are repeatedly thanking us.

But, for a few people, it seems that their pain and the embarrassment of being dependant on a food bank makes it hard to show their gratitude. I understand that. And sometimes the work at the food bank is hard and tiring. After a couple of years, the constant and growing need, with no sign of let up can be discouraging. So why would I keep sharing cheerfully?

I have been challenged by the idea that showing compassion to my neighbours also means that I also share in their troubles and cares. In that sharing I have seen a less pleasant side of our community but I have also discovered stories of great courage, love, resilience, and resourcefulness. I am grateful that my church has chosen to support me and share my time with the food bank because I have been changed in sharing struggles and joys as well as time and food.

Stephen started volunteering at the food bank in 2008. He is the pastor of the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship. His congregation has commissioned him to spend time in the community and part of that is his commitment to ECFB.

JOIN US ONLINE

Become a part of the growing on-line community in support of Eden Community Food Bank. Go to the food bank's Facebook community page and "Like" it to stay on top of news and events as they happen! Also, follow us on Twitter.

 www.facebook.com/edencommunityfoodbank

 www.twitter.com/edenfoodbank

 www.edenfoodbank.org

ADVOCACY — ONTARIO SUPPORTS RENT BANKS

Beth Barnes, Board Member and Volunteer Advocate

Ontario established the rent bank in 2004 as a means to help low-income residents avoid eviction. Since then, 33.8 mm has prevented more than 22,700 low-income households from being evicted due to a missed rent payment. In Peel Region, the rent bank program has prevented 701 evictions since 2004.

A tenant facing eviction for non-payment of rent can apply to the local rent bank to receive financial assistance. If the tenant's application is approved, the outstanding rent is paid directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.

A tenant can apply for assistance no more than once in 2 years and may receive a maximum assistance of two month's rental arrears.

This year, increased funding of \$377,355 for the Peel Region rent bank will ensure we can continue to help low-income tenants avoid eviction for non-payment of rent due to an unforeseen crisis.

CONSIDERING AN END-OF-YEAR DONATION?

Bill Crawford, Executive Director

Many of the families who come to the food bank have additional challenges leading up to Christmas. Parents want to give gifts to their children, but their concern is not about being able to afford the latest toy or gadget. Their concern is for whether or not they will still have a roof over their heads and if there will be any food on the table for their children to eat. These are the families we help. This holiday season, these are also the families that **you** can help.

In December, up to 500 families in need will access the food bank for food and advocacy support. Each family is provided with food for a week based on their family size. In addition to canned goods and other non-perishable items like rice and pasta, families are given fresh bread, milk, fruit, vegetables and meat. While much of the food is donated, the food bank still has to buy some items like milk and fresh produce, especially during the winter months.

As a supporter of Eden Community Food Bank, we are turning to you to help us brighten the future for those families in our community who otherwise have very little hope. Your generous gift at the end of the year, when needs are great, allows us to not only provide food for the whole family during the holiday season, but ensures that we will be there when they need us through the year.

To make an end-of-year donation to Eden Community Food Bank, please fill out a donation card and mail it in, donate on-line or contact us by phone at 905-785-3651 or by e-mail at donate@edenfoodbank.org.



OUR STATISTICS: STILL ON THE RISE

Linda Schleihauf, Volunteer Advocate

Our client base, and the number of clients served every month, is on a continuous upward trend. Of course, as with any trend, there are ‘blips’ in the graph, but in general, we always seem to be helping more people than ever. With the holiday season just around the corner we’re welcoming even greater numbers of new families. Here’s hoping for a downward trend and a better outlook for all of our clients in 2011.

Served	July 2009	July 2010	Aug 2009	Aug 2010	Sept 2009	Sept 2010
Families	364	391	342	410	330	404
People	1082	1191	1054	1263	994	1201
New	43	56	58	50	40	41
Lbs. Food	22,576	28,432	23,249	30,269	21,532	26,278

2010 FOOD & FUNDRAISING GOALS

Food collected is at 85% of our 2010 goal. After Thanksgiving, our food supply gets low. Food items needed right now are Kraft Dinner, protein beans, canned fruits & vegetables and canned meats. A food drive focusing on one or a couple of those items would be a great help over the next few weeks! Call us if you can help.

Fundraising is at 73% of our 2010 goal. With only two months to go before the end of the year and our fiscal year-end, we still need to bring in much of the funds needed to operate the food bank. We know a lot of donations will come in at the end of the year, so we are hopeful that we will reach our goal.

ADOPT THE FOOD BANK!

Have you seen the signs on the highway where a community group or a local business adopts a kilometre of highway and then takes on some of the responsibility to care of that stretch of road?

We would like to do the same kind of thing for the food bank. We are encouraging businesses and community groups to adopt the Eden Community Food Bank for a month by helping us cover the month’s facility expenses for our Unity Client Centre and Warehouse. During their month, the employees of the company or the members of the community group can come to the food bank to volunteer by helping to weigh, inspect, sort and pack food in the warehouse or setting up for a shift in the client centre. This not only provides much-needed funds

for the operation of the food bank, but it also engages people on a personal level as they experience first hand what’s involved in running the food bank.

If your company or community group is interested in “adopting” the food bank for a month, please speak to Bill Crawford for more information.

“AN EVENING IN MONTE CARLO”

It was an entertaining night of great music, great food and drinks, great friends and, of course, a great fun around the gaming tables. The 175 people who attended the event on Saturday, October 23rd were pleasantly surprised when they realized they weren’t going to a stuffy fundraiser at the local community centre but to a fun party. A varied playlist of 80’s music provided by a live band called “the Kitchen” kept the place hopping. The pub-style food and drinks were enjoyed by all throughout the night. An impressive selection of items at the silent auction tables kept people bidding right up to the close of the auction. There was a constant buzz around the gaming tables as guests enjoyed playing Blackjack and Wheel of Chance. Even losing was fun because you knew it was all in support of a great cause. As the night came to an end, many guests could imagine they had just spent an evening in Monte Carlo...

Executive Director Bill Crawford (left) along with Vice President Karen Skyba and board member Bill Waddell. Photo courtesy of the Mississauga News.



When all was said and done, the event raised \$11,000 for the food bank!

Thanks to all the volunteers who planned the event and everyone who helped out during the night. A special thank you goes to Board member Karen Skyba for taking the lead and coordinating the event. Thanks as well to all of our sponsors and auction item donors!

- Venue Sponsor: Ward 9 Councillor Pat Saito
- Entertainment Sponsor: The Mississauga Food Bank
- Beer Sponsor: Cameron’s Brewing Company
- Wine Sponsor: Joseph’s Estate Wines
- Gaming Sponsor: Lucy’s Seafood Kitchen
- Food Sponsor: Erin Mills Development Corp.
- Restaurant Partners: Patti’s Good Food & Lionheart British Pub & Restaurant

Because putting food on your table shouldn’t be a game of chance!



Thank You for Food & Funds

- **Streetsville Rotary Club** presented a \$2,000 cheque to Bill Crawford after he spoke at one of their meetings about the work of the food bank in the community.
- 20 children aged 3-14 from the Credit Mills area organized a Thanksgiving Food Drive and collected 1,231 pounds of food to help the Eden Community Food Bank.
- **Investor's Group** recently held a Comedy Night at the Living Arts Centre for their clients in support of ECFB. The Investor's Group and their clients donated \$3,580 and collected 400 pounds of food.
- **Meadowvale Toyota** hosted community events over the summer raising \$1,100 for ECFB. They are also running a food drive and an on-line effort to raise funds through social networking.
- The farmers at the **Square One Farmer's Market** (organized by the Mississauga Central Lions Club) generously donated over 20,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to ECFB over this past growing season.
- The recent Cram-a-Cruiser event, organized by the **Police Community Liaison Committee**, collected food at the Argentia Superstore on



Saturday, October 2nd. They collected 3,060 pounds of food.

- The **Meadowvale Rotary Club** organized a food drive at the Sobey's on 10th Line on Saturday, October 2nd. They collected 1,288 pounds of food and raised \$363 in donations.
- Celebrate a birthday - Feed the hungry! **Nan Hoogsteen** encouraged the guests at her recent birthday party to bring food for the food bank instead of gifts for her. She and her family dropped off 451.5 pounds of non-perishables and \$50 in gift cards.
- **Harry Frost** recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Instead of gifts he wanted his friends and family to make a donation to Eden Community Food Bank. He collected over \$350 in cash and gift cards and 508 pounds of food.
- The **Bentall Management Office** hosted Pilates and Bootcamp exercise classes over the summer for their tenants at the Meadowvale North Business Park. Participants were asked to make a \$5 donation for each class. They raised a total of \$1,205 which they donated to ECFB! At another event, Bentall's tenants donated 1,789 pounds of food for the food bank.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Food Drives – We certainly appreciate the many community, school and corporate food drives that bring in much-needed food at the end of the year. Thanks in advance to everyone helping to collect food for hungry families in our community during the holiday season. We try to help as best we can by providing times for pick up and drop off of your collected food. Here is our Christmas Food Drive schedule for pick-ups and drop-offs.

Food Pick-ups:

Wednesday, December 15th
Thursday, December 16th
Friday, December 17th

Pick-ups are available on a limited basis. If you would like to arrange a pick up, please contact us in advance to make a pick-up appointment.

Food Drop-offs:

Unity Warehouse

Wednesday, December 15th, 10am to 4pm
Thursday, December 16th, 9am to 4pm
Friday, December 17th, 9am to 3pm
Tuesday, December 21st, 10am to 7pm

Battleford Client Centre

Monday, December 20th, 10am to 7pm

Contact Us

905.785.3651
info@edenfoodbank.org

Mailing Address - Unity Client Centre & Warehouse:
2-3185 Unity Drive, Mississauga, ON L5L 4L5

Battleford Client Centre:
3051 Battleford Road, Mississauga, ON

www.edenfoodbank.org



ECFB is a registered charitable organization.
Registered Charity Number 86440 7259 RR0001
ECFB is a partner of The Mississauga Food Bank

