35 Years Of Food Rescue

We have learned a lot in our 35 years as Canada’s largest food rescue charity.

In 1985, we delivered rescued food out of the trunk of a hatchback and we served a small population with food collected from local restaurants.

Today, we rescue food across Canada utilizing an award-winning app, and we have a fleet of 12 trucks, two vans and one tractor trailer.

The support we’ve received from our incredible partners has helped us grow into a national charity with a clear mission: to grow an efficient food recovery network to fuel people and reduce the environmental impacts of avoidable food waste.
“Thank you for feeding my family... YOU make all the difference!”
“The spread of COVID-19 has precipitated critical shocks throughout the global food system.”

- National Observer
HUNGER CRISIS IN CANADA

5.8M 5.8 Million Canadians report being hungry amid COVID-19 Pandemic.

1.2M 1.2 Million children live in food-insecure households.

70% 70% of our program partners require more food to meet the growing demands.

1/3 Nearly 1/3 of households reliant on social assistance as income are severely food insecure.
Nearly 60% of food produced in Canada is lost or wasted every year. That’s about 35.5 million metric tonnes—or a small city of skyscrapers in weight. Every. Year.

There are 56.5 million metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions annually from food waste in Canada. When food ends up in a landfill, it creates a methane gas that is 25x more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide. Methane emissions have risen by 10% in the last two decades.

Food loss and waste accounts for about 4.4 gigatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per year. To put this in perspective, if food loss and waste were its own country, it would be the world’s third-largest GHG emitter—surpassed only by China and the United States.

Fresh water is one of Earth’s most precious resources, and 70% of it is used for agricultural purposes, including crop irrigation and drinking water for livestock. One apple requires an average of 125 litres of water.
We could have never imagined the growth and transformation we have achieved in the last 12 months. As we look forward to our next year, our key focus will remain on:

**Food Rescue and Delivery**
This fiscal year, Second Harvest will continue to develop key partnerships and grow the food rescue and delivery programs across Canada.

Our new web and mobile app supports our national growth initiatives, giving food donors a simple and fast system to connect directly with local program partners.

**Building our National Headquarters**
Construction on our national headquarters will be breaking ground in Etobicoke in early 2021. With support from our partners, this best-in-class facility will allow us to triple our impact by 2030.
We don’t have a food shortage problem. We have a food loss, recovery, and distribution problem.

The Impact of Food Waste

- **35.5 MILLION METRIC TONNES** of food produced is lost or wasted, that’s 58% of all food produced!
- **$49 BILLION** worth of food is wasted yearly. That’s enough to feed every Canadian for five months.
- **$1,766 PER HOUSEHOLD** is the annual cost of avoidable food waste.
- **+34 MILLION POUNDS** of greenhouse gases due to avoidable food waste.
FOOD RESCUE
Trends of the past four years

- Increased from 1,201 to 2,555 food donors.
- On average, we provide 62,000 meals per day.
- Every Canadian province and territory was supported by our financial and grocery gift card granting program.
- We rescued and redistributed $64 Million dollars worth of food this year.
- In Canada there are over 60,000 not-for-profits who use food as part of their community programs.
- Second Harvest delivers barrier-free support to program partners large and small across Canada!

Pounds of Food Rescued

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RESPONDING TO COVID-19
From a local charity to a national, award-winning, food rescue program

SECOND HARVEST RESCUED ENOUGH FOOD TO SERVE OVER 62,000 MEALS PER DAY TO HUNGRY CANADIANS COAST TO COAST.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated our national growth strategy. It also made us take a closer look at our programs to ensure the food-security of the Canadians we serve.

We pivoted our core programs and responded to the food waste crisis by expanding our food rescue operations. Utilizing our online app, we were quickly and efficiently able to redistribute over $20,000,000 in grocery cards and funding to not-for-profit organizations in communities across Canada.

We supported 294 Indigenous, remote, and fly-in communities with $3.6 million in grocery gift cards and rescued food.

FOOD RESCUE
Our food rescue program expanded nationally and is now active in every province and territory in Canada.

FEEDING OUR FUTURE
We launched Feeding our Future 2020: Prepared Children, Youth & Family resource kits and served 12,385 kits to over 1,600 families.

PREPARED MEAL PROGRAMS
Harvest Kitchens pivoted to a meal preparation program, combined with MLSE’s Bring Toronto Back program, they produced over 1 million meals.

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS
Our training and workshops pivoted to digital programs, seeing 344 e-learning users.
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Types of Programs We Support

152 Before school, after school and Summer programs.
226 Food banks, pantry and hamper programs.
3,219 Meal and Snack Programs.
562 Outreach Programs.
76 Skill Building Programs.
101 Other types of programs.
More Food Donors than Ever!

Canadian farmers, manufacturers, stores and restaurants joined our mission of no hunger, no waste, and they donated excess food to local program partners.

- As of September 1, 2019: 1,201 donors
- As of March 14, 2020: 1,642 donors
- As of August 31, 2020: 2,555 donors
FOOD RECIPIENTS

Increase in demand for food!
Not-for-profits across Canada joined forces with Second Harvest. Our new app facilitated the onboarding of 1,157 new partners this year.

- As of September 1, 2019: 1,080
- As of March 14, 2020: 1,266
- As of August 31, 2020: 2,237
BY THE NUMBERS
September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

1.3 Million
Canadians were served.

$64 Million
Value of food rescued.

6,514
Hours donated by volunteers.

4,336
Program partners across Canada.

$20,081,312.37
Distributed in grocery gift cards and funding across Canada.

1,000,000+
Prepared meals were produced by Harvest Kitchens and MLSE’s Bring Toronto Back Program.

15.3 Billion
We reduced our water food print by 15.3 Billion Liters of water.

75 Million
Pounds of GHGs diverted from entering the atmosphere.
Second Harvest prioritizes rescuing these nutrient-dense perishables because they are often more expensive and harder for our program partners to access, as well they are more harmful greenhouse gas emitters when they wind up in landfill.
YOUR IMPACT

1,316,000+

Thanks to you, we supported over 1.3 million Canadians between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.
Your gift feeds Canadians

Your impact goes far beyond a dollar amount, helping hungry Canadians across the country. By providing rescued food our recipient agencies and individuals can see your impact in action, beyond hunger.

Your support "goes far beyond giving out food. It provides people with nutritious, fresh meals, choices in regard to their dietary needs... it effects not just people's physical but also their emotional well-being. It helps create a positive environment where people feel respected and supported."

- Laura, ON
Your support is helping Joanne, and so many other seniors, from having to choose between medication or groceries.

"Sometimes I have to make a choice – groceries or my medication. In the past I chose groceries, and my disease started growing... the food brings hope and brings fuel. We need food to keep us healthy, aware, and active. It also helps us buy our medication."

- Joanne, ON
Your gift feeds families & children

You are impacting people like Lor, and so many other families and their children. The stress of not knowing if you can provide your children with healthy food, or if they will be nourished enough to thrive, is unimaginable.

"When I handed her a grocery gift card, she took it and with tears in her eyes said, 'No one has ever given me such a wonderful gift before.'"

- Lor, Program Partner, Winnipeg, MB
Your support creates powerful impact in our communities. From helping ease the strain on community programs, to creating a sense of community and gratitude, all thanks to you!

"We've received nearly 12,000 lbs of food to nourish our program participants and this has saved the agency $20,000 annually. Being able to reallocate these funds to programming, curriculum and expanding our services...this generosity has a direct impact."

- Lay-Up Youth Basketball, Toronto, ON
GET INVOLVED!
Make a difference in the lives of millions of Canadians

DONATING
Your donations help keep our trucks on the road, it keeps good food from going to the landfill and it helps us feed millions of hungry Canadians.

WASTE WISE
So much avoidable food waste happens at home! Check out our e-learning courses or follow us on social media to learn how to become #WasteWise.

VOLUNTEERING
From yearly food sorts to helping on a regular basis, Second Harvest has lots of volunteer opportunities for young and old! Call us today to get involved.

UNITED WAY DONATION
By selecting Second Harvest as your charity of choice through United Way, you can help support our food rescue and delivery programs.
Thank You!