INVEST.
RESPOND.
CONNECT.

Second Harvest’s Response to COVID-19
Hunger hits hard amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. In our 35 years as a food rescue organization, we have never seen a demand for food like this. More Canadians are food insecure than ever before — and it’s only getting worse.
Food Waste During the Pandemic.

Unsold milk and smashed eggs are dumped, and millions of pounds of fresh, nutritious food are being thrown out and destroyed while 5.6 million Canadians struggle to put food on the table. The amount of waste is staggering, and these numbers continue to climb.
5.6 million
Canadians are now struggling to put food on the table. That's an increase of 1.2 million.

Before COVID-19,
1 in 8
Canadian households are food insecure.

Since COVID-19,
1 in 7
Canadians indicated they lived in a household that was food insecure in the past 30 days.
As COVID-19 threatens the health of Canadians, the risk for those who are chronically hungry is even higher.

More than 70% of our agency partners said they need more food.

62% of our program partners are at maximum capacity and cannot accommodate an increase in clients.
Thanks to the incredible support from our donors, sponsors, and community, Second Harvest has been able to respond quickly. We provide two nutritious meals for every $1 donation.
Our Response to COVID-19

Your support has made it possible for Second Harvest to respond quickly to provide solutions and resources to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With our incredible donors by our side, we focused on three important community pillars: invest, respond, and connect.

You helped us **INVEST** to ensure no Canadian was left behind.

You helped us **RESPOND** quickly to the urgent demands for food.

You helped us **CONNECT** Canadians to good, healthy food.

We are eternally grateful for your support during this international pandemic.
FoodRescue.ca Expands Across Canada

Your support has helped us accelerate the national expansion of FoodRescue.ca in three weeks to meet increasing demands, making sure everyone has access to good food. Since the state of emergency was declared in Ontario, more than 600 social service organizations across seven provinces and 251 new communities have joined our mission: No Waste. No Hunger.

Ten Times the Capacity

We were able to open a temporary facility that holds ten times our capacity. This meant we could swiftly rescue and redistribute even more food to our community partners that was at risk of going to waste.

Reducing Food Waste

We invested in another food rescue truck and partnered with transportation and delivery organizations to reach more communities and deliver more fresh, rescued food.
Single-Serving Meal Production
To respond to the crisis, we partnered with MLSE to prepare some 26,000 single-serve meals for weekly distribution to our vulnerable populations and frontline workers.

We have distributed more than 242,000 prepared meals to program partners across Toronto.

Feeding Our Future 2020
To ensure that children aren’t forgotten, we launched the Feeding Our Future 2020: Children, Youth & Family Resource Kits. These kits will be filled with ingredients for healthy lunches, activities, and food education resources.

Thousands of children who rely on meal programs at summer camp will still have access to healthy food.

Growing our Rescue Efforts
We responded to the food waste crisis by expanding our food rescue operations.

From March 15 to June 30, 2020, we rescued 9.8 million pounds of food, that’s a 107% increase from 2019.
The Gift of Groceries

Using our FoodRescue.ca online platform, we were able to redistribute $11.2 million in federal government funding to more than 500 frontline social service organizations across the country, ensuring they have the resources they need to meet the need in their communities. In partnership with Loblaws and the Sprott Foundation, we have also provided $6.3 million in grocery gift cards to our agency partners.

Empowering Indigenous and Remote Communities

We supported 294 indigenous, remote, and fly-in communities with $3.6 million in grocery gift cards and rescued food, thanks to the support of the North West Company and Sprott Foundation.

Protecting Canadian Health

Food insecurity makes it difficult for Canadians to manage existing chronic health problems, such as diabetes and HIV, and it can lead to worsening conditions. Together with our program partners, we have delivered the equivalent of more than 242,000 meals to vulnerable populations across the country.

Launching Our FoodRescue.ca App

We made it even easier to connect good, healthy food with charities in need with our FoodRescue.ca app’s launch.
“Since the state of emergency was declared, more than 5.6 million Canadians reported experiencing food insecurity, but that’s not the only problem, millions of pounds of good, healthy food are being thrown away, and it’s more food than the planet can handle. It takes a lot of land, energy, and water to make our food. By wasting that food, we also lose the resources that went into producing it, putting needless strain on our earth. We must work together — no organization that can do this alone.”

Lori Nikkel, CEO of Second Harvest
9.8 million pounds of food rescued

9.8 million meals provided

91% of food rescued was perishable

45% produce

13% protein

13% dairy and dairy alternative

14% juice, beverages, and condiments

11% bread, grain, snacks, and baked goods

Statistics reported from March 15 to June 30, 2020
$30.9 million value of food rescued and redistributed

566 new food donors

593 new non-profit partnerships

593 new non-profit partnerships

242,000+ meals prepared

75 program partners received prepared meals

251 new communities across Canada

242,000+ meals prepared

$11.2 million distributed in grocery gift cards

41.1 million pounds of greenhouse gases averted

Equivalent to 4,037 vehicles taken off the road
“During times of crisis, food is essential to meeting basic needs. At Covenant House, much of what we do is anchored in providing balanced meals for over 200 people each day. For youth staying in our emergency shelter, the comfort in knowing they can access three meals a day gives them a reason to come through our doors, meet with our caring team and begin a journey to rebuild their lives.”

Covenant House Toronto
“Every day, on my work voicemail, people are thanking us for helping them, often in tears for knowing they are being cared for. Having a gift hamper of food gave them emotional and nutritional support.”

Storefront Humber Inc.
OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO:

Special thanks to our photographers Leah Denbok, Jeff Radbourne, and Erin Riley

Thanks to your incredible support, YOU have helped us in our mission to ensure that no Canadian is left behind.
THANK YOU.
Charitable Registration Number
13386 5477 RR0001

LOCATION
1450 Lodestar Road, Unit 18
Toronto, ON M3J 3C1

PHONE NUMBER
416.408.2594

WEBSITE
secondharvest.ca