

GLEANINGS

A Newsletter from Edmonton's Food Bank
Spring 2008

Chair's Message

Welcome to spring! Spring is a time for renewal and change. It is a time for new opportunities to make positive changes in our community.

The face of hunger will surprise you. Edmonton's Food Bank provides services to the working poor, people on fixed incomes, single parent families, and people new to Alberta. Each and every day, there are people, who for a variety of reasons, struggle to make ends meet.

Hunger in Canada can be alleviated. Everyone can play a part in reducing the effects of hunger by supporting Edmonton's Food Bank and by talking to your friends, neighbours, and elected officials about the underlying challenges which are affecting our neighbours in need.

Our work at the Food Bank is accomplished because of our many volunteers and supporters who believe that people should not go hungry in our community. Your kind and generous commitment ensures that we are able to provide food, hope and dignity to people in need. Can by can and dollar by dollar, you have made a difference. **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,

**Jack Little, Chair
Edmonton's Food Bank**



Volunteers make it happen at Edmonton's Food Bank

"Let's Spring Into Action"

National Hunger Awareness Day

Join Edmonton's Food Bank in acknowledging National Hunger Awareness Day which is June 5, 2008. Help send a message and share your thoughts on hunger by emailing a short comment to info@edmontonfoodbank.com by May 19th. Examples of 2007 comments are: Children Should Not Go Hungry, It is because of the Food Bank that I could eat today, I donate to the Food Bank because I believe in the work they do, People learn and work better when they have food. Your comments will become part of our local activities planned for National Hunger Awareness Day.

Plant-A-Row/Grow-A-Row

It's that time of year again when Edmonton gardeners are encouraged to plant an extra row to be donated to Edmonton's Food Bank at harvest. In the fall, gardeners are invited to clean the produce and drop it off directly at the Food Bank, Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. For more information, please contact us at 425-2133.

Newly Refurbished Website

When you have a moment, please feel free to check out Edmonton's Food Bank's new website at www.edmontonfoodbank.com. Special thanks to Lift Interactive Inc. for their creative and technological support (www.liftinteractive.com). Please note that the website address has not changed, but the look has. Please let us know how we can make the website more user friendly by emailing your suggestions to info@edmontonfoodbank.com. If you do not have access to a computer and want more information about Edmonton's Food Bank, please contact Suedelle at 425-2133 and she will coordinate a tour of our operations.

Girl Guides Hike for Plenty

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the Edmonton and area girl guides, brownies, sparks, and pathfinders participated in the annual door-to-door Hike for Plenty in support of Edmonton's Food Bank. This year they raised 10,312 lbs. of food!!



What a wonderful way for Girl Guides to spend some time by helping feed Edmonton's Food Bank!

Food Bank Quick Facts

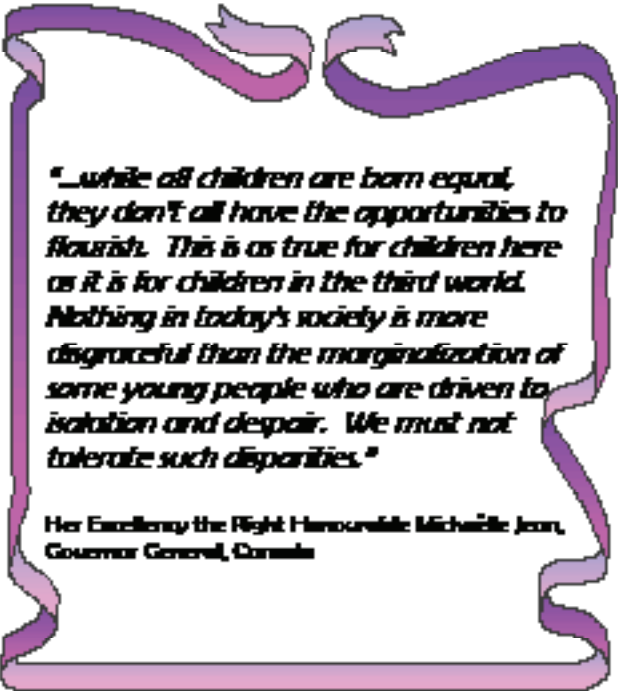
- ✔ **The Edmonton Gleaners Association, more commonly referred to as Edmonton's Food Bank, is a registered charity established in 1961 to provide emergency food relief for Edmontonians in need.**
- ✔ **The Edmonton Gleaners Association was the first food bank in Canada.**
- ✔ **The food bank works collaboratively with more than 160 agencies, churches and food depots throughout Edmonton, such as the Salvation Army, Operation Friendship, and the George Spady Centre.**
- ✔ **Each month, Edmonton's Food Bank provides hampers to 10,000 people, as well as food for 250,000 meals and snacks. The food bank provides these services year-round to Edmontonians.**
- ✔ **Approximately 40% of food bank clients are children under 18 years.**
- ✔ **In 2007, Edmonton's Food Bank collected, sorted, re-packaged, and re-distributed three million kilograms of food.**
- ✔ **Approximately 33,000 volunteer hours were generously given in 2007. If you would like to join our volunteer team, please feel free to contact Judy at 425-2133.**
- ✔ **Food donations can be dropped off at all major grocery stores. In addition, all City of Edmonton fire halls will accept food and monetary donations for the food bank. And don't forget to look for our collection bins at special events throughout the year.**



Thank you for your support!

Just one of the thousands of faces of hunger in our community...

A young man walked into the Food Bank this week. During his intake interview, he talked about the rough times he had encountered over the last two years. He had struggled with drug addiction, was unable to hold down a job, and he was living on and off the streets. When he came to the Food Bank for help, he had managed to stay clean for several months and was renting a room. He had a job lined up for the following week, but not a cent to his name. The Food Bank was able to supply him with an emergency hamper to help him out until he gets his first pay cheque. He was grateful for the assistance and the support in getting his life back on track. In addition to a food hamper, he received information about other community resources, including community meals. Thank you to our donors for helping us change lives.



"...while all children are born equal, they don't all have the opportunities to flourish. This is as true for children here as it is for children in the third world. Nothing in today's society is more disgraceful than the marginalization of some young people who are driven to isolation and despair. We must not tolerate such disparities."

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,
Governor General, Canada



Edmonton's Food Bank gleans, collects, repackages, stores, and redistributes food to over 160 agencies, churches, and food depots.

Gleanings is published three times a year by Edmonton's Food Bank.

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