



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Each weekend, nearly 1,600 children in Niagara are going home to empty cupboards. For many, the weekend means more than a break from the classroom - it means uncertainty, hunger, and worry about when they will eat again. Rising food prices and escalating housing costs are putting unprecedented pressure on families, stretching already tight budgets beyond their limits and leaving more children vulnerable than ever before.

For too many young people in our community, food insecurity is an ongoing and heartbreaking reality.

Through the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community allies, Food4Kids Niagara is working to change that. The packages of food we send home every weekend don't just offer nourishment to students; they offer stability, dignity, and the reassurance that their community cares.

In September 2024, we began the school year program with 354 returning students. We continued to enroll additional students as needs arose throughout the year, and by June 2025, we were supporting a total of 503 students.

Although we are proud of the number of children we serve, growing demand and rising costs made it clear that long-term impact requires thoughtful planning. To remain strong and sustainable, the program intentionally paused expansion plans to focus on strengthening fundraising efforts and deepening volunteer engagement. By building a solid foundation now, we have positioned ourselves to meet the needs of more children in the years ahead.

Because of this work, and because of the unwavering support of our community, we are ready to move forward with renewed energy, expanded capacity, and a shared commitment to reaching even more children in the year ahead.

Tina Annett
Board Chair

Amber Hughes
Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

To provide packages of healthy food for elementary school students with little or no access to food during the weekend and throughout the summer months.

OUR VISION:

- We believe child and youth hunger is a community responsibility and by working together we can provide a solution-based program that addresses and responds to child hunger in our shared community.
- We believe that alleviating the effects of poverty and hunger strengthens our community, providing children with opportunities to grow, excel and thrive.
- We believe in facilitating programs in a non-stigmatizing, impactful and inclusive manner ensuring dignity of all participants.
- We believe in collaborative partnerships with volunteers, community members, schools, businesses and funders to collectively support children and families.
- We believe that by maintaining the highest standards, we can ensure positive outcomes for children and their families through leadership, transparency, accountability and diligent stewardship of community resources.

OUR TEAM:

2024 – 2025 Board of Directors

Tina Annett – Chair

Jonathan Charron – Treasurer

Sherry Storrey – Secretary

Members at Large – Cathy McCann, Nancie Taylor, Nicole Hawkins

Staff

Amber Hughes – Executive Director

Myles Watson – Program Assistant (Part-time)

Emily Tweney – Program Assistant, Special Projects (Part-time)



WEEKENDS WITHOUT HUNGER

Our program provides weekend food packages to elementary school children with limited or no access to food. Referrals are made by schools that identify families struggling with food insecurity. Each week, volunteers package the food, and another group of volunteers deliver the packages to schools. At the school, staff discreetly place the food bag into the child's backpack. When the child arrives home and opens their backpack, they find a healthy food supply for the weekend waiting for them.

Our 6-week rotational menu includes dietary options to accommodate allergies and cultural requirements.

I never thought that there would be a time when I couldn't afford to feed my children, but it happened, and I'm so happy that there is a program like this to help me get through. My kids love the fresh fruit and bagels that are sent home. It takes a huge amount of stress off of me to know that my kids aren't hungry anymore. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- Parent of Children in Weekend Program

SUMMERS WITHOUT HUNGER

While many children associate summer with trips to the playground and visits to the ice cream store, children that are experiencing food insecurity find it difficult to focus on anything other than their hunger. 8 weeks without the assistance of a school nutrition program can seem like an eternity to a hungry child. To ensure children are continually nourished, we provide families registered in our program with grocery gift cards valued at \$12.50 per child per weekend.

It's nice to have some extra groceries in the house, I can teach my kids how to cook, just like my mom used to teach me. It's been a long time since we were able to be excited about food.

- Parent of Children in Summer Program



Statement of Operations 2024-2025

INCOME

Donations and Fundraising	361,030
In Kind Donations	52,962
Interest Earned	7,555

TOTAL: 421,547

EXPENSE

Food and Program Expenses	162,028
Fundraising	27,077
Insurance	3,372
Internet, Office and Telephone	10,057
Memberships	4,474
Occupancy and Utilities	24,887
Professional Fees	15,228
Wages and Benefits	132,286

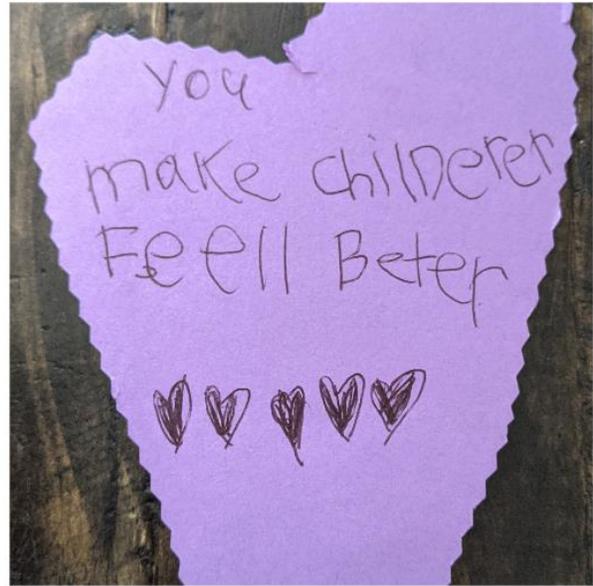
TOTAL: 379,409

Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures 42,138



We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, donors and community partners - those who shared in our vision and vowed to make a difference for the children in our community. Together, we can build a better future for kids. Without you, none of this is possible.

33	Schools facilitating the Weekends Without Hunger program
503	Children supported through the Weekends Without Hunger program at year end
20	Approximate number of volunteers that donate their time every week
319.2%	The percentage rate at which the program has grown since its inception
96%	The percentage of students in the program that reported feeling less hungry during the weekend
72%	The number of families that reported their visits to a food bank have decreased since joining our program



Thank you for an incredible year!