



2016 Annual Report



Our Message

Without our community's belief in what we do, we would not have been able to provide 78,708 food baskets this past year, on behalf of 215,893 children, vulnerable citizens, seniors, and working families.

We honour you, our friends, champions, innovators and collaborators.

Because you understand the importance of growing good food, our garden offers a beautiful space for community members to learn these important skills and give back to our community.

Because you believe that everyone should have the opportunity to contribute to our economy, your support contributed to dozens of people graduating from our workforce development program, and finding work that contributes to a sense of purpose, confidence and hope.

Because you care about literacy, your contributions supported adult learners to reconnect to a love of learning and pursue brighter futures. Because you are invested in good health, families can offer their children fresh milk and vegetables, lentils, and oatmeal, and other nutritious food that builds strong minds and healthy bodies.

As we look toward the future, we know that the work that lies before us will have an even deeper impact, and a broader scope. We hope you will continue to work closely with us during the exciting times ahead. As we carry out our mission, we will continue to nourish the unlimited potential in our community.

You are the reason why we are able to do what we do.

Thank you for sharing our belief that everyone deserves a seat at the table.

Nour-ish

/nəriSH/

VERB

1. provide with the food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition.
2. To cause (something) to develop or grow stronger.

Highlights of the Year



Tree of Plenty Campaign & the CP Holiday Train

The CP Holiday Train brought together over 10,000 people one beautiful winter evening. This event and many others make up the Tree of Plenty Campaign, which in total raised nearly \$488,000 and 354,208 lbs of food to help nourish our community!



PotashCorp Holiday Match Campaign

For a 6th straight year, PotashCorp generously supported food banks across the province during the holiday season, matching \$1,000,000 donated by the people of Saskatchewan.

City Wide Food Drive

Over 400 volunteers collected more than 62,000 lbs of food from the door steps of our Saskatoon community!



Cameco Kids Need Milk

As children went back to school, our friends at Cameco contributed to kid's health by donating 17,999L of milk and encouraging others to do the same as part of September's Cameco Kids Need Milk Campaign!



Construction

The continued support from Hatch and Market Mall brought together teams from Saskatoon's building and design industry to compete and build unique structures using our most needed canned foods. All 11,880 lbs of the structures came back to the food bank, bringing the 4 year grand total to 100,000 lbs!



Canadian Tire Golf Classic

During the 13th Annual Canadian Tire Golf Classic over \$167,000 was raised with the help of numerous supporters.

WE Scare Hunger and WE Day

Sponsored by Free the Children and PotashCorp, We Scare Hunger and We Day aim to empower Saskatoon youth to think about social justice, locally and abroad. The two events brought in over 45,000 lbs of food raised entirely by our next generation of change makers.



Nourishing Initiatives



Garden Patch

Healthy Yards:

The year was marked by an important formalized partnership between the University of Saskatchewan and City of Saskatoon, through the Healthy Yards YXE Demonstration Garden. The Garden Patch became the official demonstration garden of the City of Saskatoon Healthy Yards program, which shares how-to knowledge related to food production, composting methods, low-pesticide use gardening, rain-water catchment, and low-water use gardening to Saskatoon residents. This included assisting with content brochures published by the City of Saskatoon and U of S, including New Gardener How-To, Small Space Gardening, and Growing Food.

A few other highlights:

We partnered with several organizations to deliver educational programming, including Global Gathering Place, Community Mental Health, Agriculture in the Classroom, and Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council. This included the Summer Gardening Program, a drop-in children's camp hosted by Agriculture in the Classroom, as well as a partnership with Global Gathering Place, in which vegetables were grown and harvested by participants for preparation in their collective kitchen program.

The 2015 Garden Patch season saw the installation of many exciting initiatives, including: solar PV technology and a rainwater catchment demonstration on the garden office shed, an outdoor classroom to help facilitate workshops on site, an indigenous plant and pollinator garden, and a composting demonstration garden showcasing various at-home composting methods.



Volunteer Program

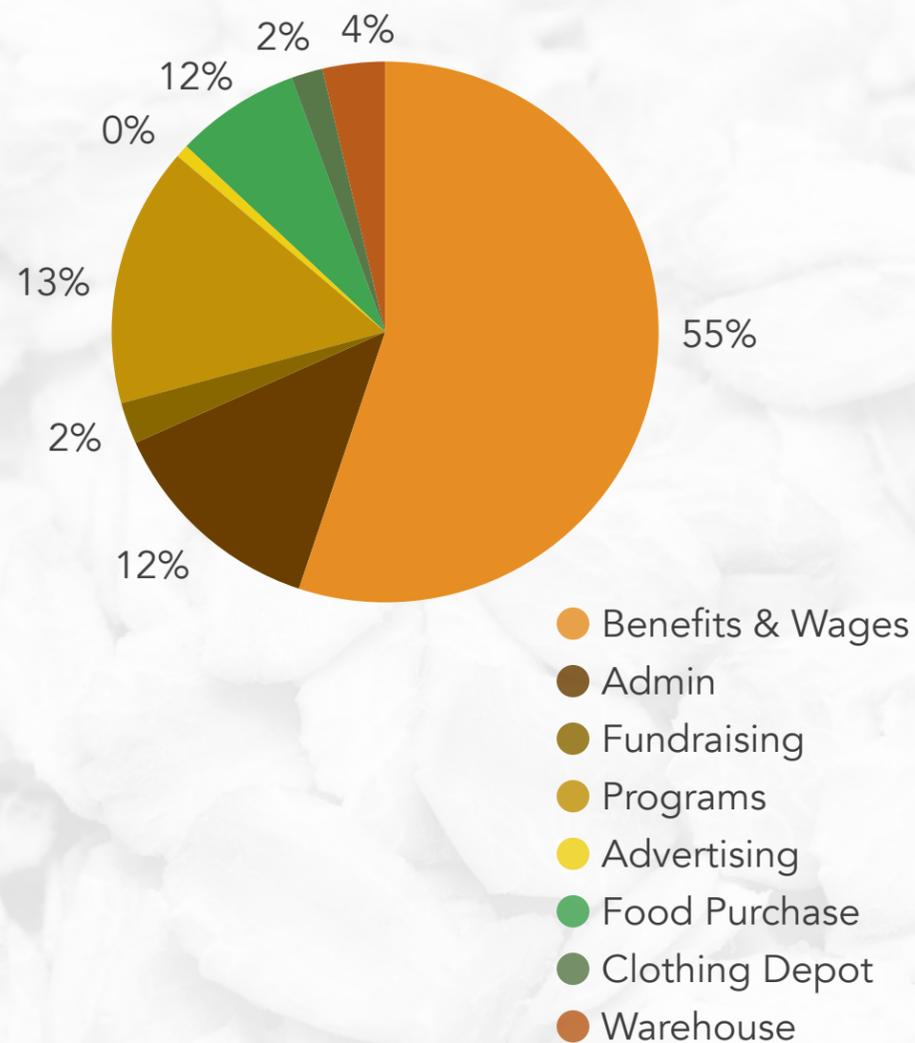
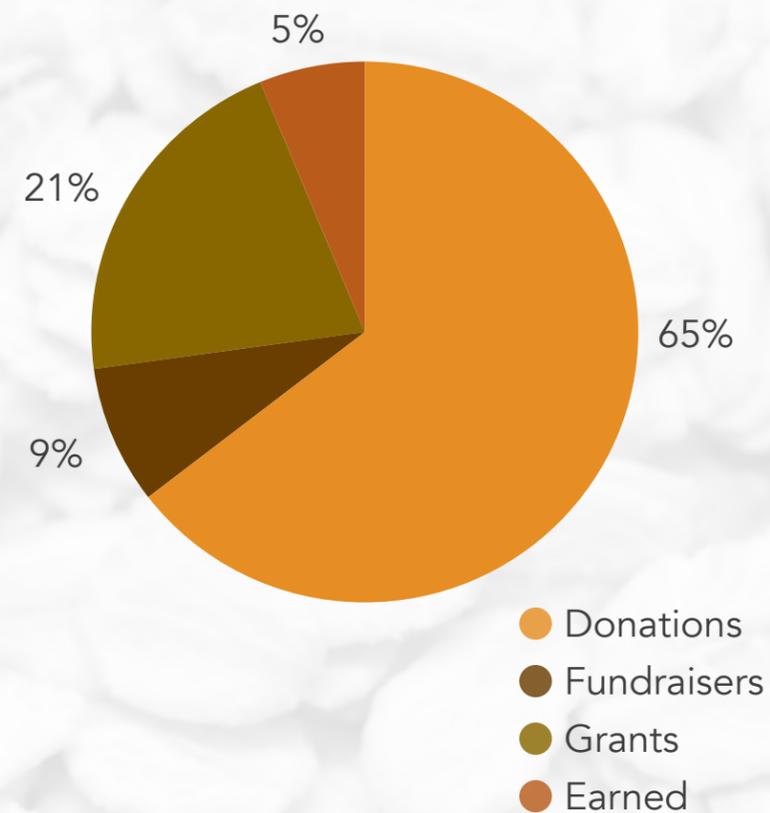
Johnson Majok is one of our hardest-working, most dedicated volunteers in the Warehouse. He has been a volunteer at the SFBLC since fall of 2015, and comes in each and every weekday morning to contribute to our operations. With his friendly demeanor, positive attitude, and ever-present smile, he is a joy to work with. When asked why he liked volunteering with us, he described a desire to get work experience, interact socially with our volunteers and staff, and improve his English language skills. Johnson doesn't like to be idle – rather he prefers to keep busy, and volunteering with the SFBLC lets him do this while contributing to the community.

In Johnson's own words, "I feel that I am in a family here. Employees ask how I am doing in the morning when I come in, and they call when I haven't come, to see if I am sick or not doing well. I have met a lot of people I like from the University and many other places. I've made a lot of friendships with people I see around the downtown and the city." We can't possibly state how much we appreciate Johnson's contributions to our work here. He is a pleasure to see every morning, and helps cultivate the positive atmosphere we pride ourselves on for our volunteers.

Fun Fact:

The SFBLC Garden Patch was the recipient of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Saskatchewan (RCE Saskatchewan) Recognition award. This award provides recognition to innovative projects, research, and other activities promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the prairie region.

Financials & Stats



Number of hampers over the course of the year:
78,710



18,000 volunteer hours – an average of **1500** hours each month were contributed to the community



Kgs of food received:
1,343,340



Number of individuals helped over the course of the year:
215,895



More than **600** no-cost counselling sessions were provided on-site through our ongoing partnership with Catholic Family Services



The Creating Opportunities Program directly supported **62** individuals facing significant barriers to education and employment, including:

- > **19** participants who accessed career related higher education through the Creating Opportunities Literacy Program
- > **18** individuals who were able to obtain stable employment through the Workplace Experience Program



32 volunteers assisted **5003** clients to file their income tax claims through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, resulting in **\$9.1 million** of revenue being returned back to the community and into the local economy through various credits, benefits, and refunds



30 teams, representing businesses, community groups and students groups participated in our Adopt-A-Plot program

Over **20,000 lbs** of vegetables were harvested and distributed to the community

The Garden Patch had over **5000** visitors, including **47** community groups, **11** corporate giving groups, 22 school class groups, and **1500** volunteers



Looking Forward

Community Needs Assessment

The needs assessment allows us to identify service delivery gaps in the broader community, and within in our organization, providing valuable community feedback for moving forward with our programs and services. One third of respondents agreed they were 'too focused on day-to- day survival to plan for the future'. The largest perceived causes of food insecurity were a lack of living wage and adequate social assistance programs, and notably not an absence of knowledge about healthy food or lack of programming. As one respondent commented, "the cost of everything is going up faster than income."

Community Greenhouse Feasibility Study

As food security organizations around the world continue to evolve and operate programs that take a more systemic approach to addressing hunger, the challenge lies in ensuring these programs are not in isolation to key programs, such as food distribution, or become add-ons. For the past year, the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre has been exploring the feasibility of developing a community greenhouse centre to achieve its goal of improving food security. The facility would consist of a year-round greenhouse, seasonal gardens, classrooms, a food preparation and processing kitchen, and a social enterprise space, developed with an eye towards applied sustainability and renewable energy. This model provides a venue for integration and cross-pollination of mutually re-enforcing programs and activities, while providing increased opportunities for applied learning. The focus of operations is engagement, education, food production and applied sustainability, working to increase skills, knowledge and behaviors around healthy food.

Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy

Following a commitment made by the Provincial Government in the 2014 Speech from the Throne to develop a provincial poverty reduction plan following the successful Poverty Costs campaign, the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre was honoured to have an employee co-chair the provincial Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction, as appointed by the Minister of Social Services. The Advisory Group was tasked to review the work of the Government of Saskatchewan towards addressing poverty in the province as well as identify gaps where further work is needed. Consisting of community members and Government representatives, the Advisory Group hosted a number of public consultations and conversations with community groups and organisations, representatives of various levels of Government, and persons with experience living in poverty in order to develop a comprehensive list of recommendations for the Government. The AGPR released its 2015 report, Recommendations for a Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, which identified six areas of initial focus: Income Security, Housing and Homelessness, Early Childhood Development, Education and Training, Employment, and Health and Food Security.



Nourishing the Next Generation



Our community's future is bright when our donors are people like 6 year old Mason. Mason asked party goers for non-perishables rather than presents for his 6th birthday bash!



2 years ago when Kallie got braces she had the bright idea to "trick-or-treat" for the food bank rather than for candy she couldn't eat. Each year she sets her sights higher, trying to get even more food than the last year!

#kidsthesedays



6 year old Alice and her 2 year old brother Teddy jump for joy because they now know that the crate of food they brought in will help other boys and girls. Both recently had a birthday and instead of asking for presents, they asked for non-perishables from their guests. What a beautiful gift from Alice and Teddy!



Creating Opportunities Program

The Creating Opportunities Strategy is targeted to low-income individuals with multiple barriers to employment. The program offers a 15-week Workplace Literacy program (literacy, numeracy, life-skills, hands-on workplace training) or a 26-week Workplace Experience Program (job placement to acquire hands-on workplace skills), in order to gain competitive employment or transition to additional education. The program has a 'triple bottom line', with benefits to: program participants (who enjoy high-quality and accessible expertise from trained community workers), the community as a whole (which profits from overall net economic benefits arising from reduced unemployment), and the SFBLC itself (which can increase operational efficiencies to better achieve its mandate).

In the words of some of our participants –

"Sometimes I go home and I can't wait to go back to work" –Marie, 2016

"I enjoy making new friends, and seeing old friends at the Depot. I enjoy learning new skills and helping people. I'm building self-esteem and becoming more confident in my ability to work with the public. This program offers lots of on-site learning experiences. The staff are awesome and caring; they go over and above and I appreciate their sincerity." –Bonnie, 2016

"This program helps with everything. When I started I felt confused about finding a job, but after the program I am able to get work without a problem. I learn many things and gained work experience. I felt comfortable and built my confidence. Everyone is friendly. This program made me feel I can do it." –Dola, 2015



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

This program provides free income tax filling for low income individuals and families, helping people maintain access to vital financial resources such as the housing rental supplement, child tax benefit, GST rebate, and the Saskatchewan low income tax credit. During the 2015 income tax season, 32 volunteers filed 5,003 income tax returns for clients, which saw \$9.1 million revenue put back into the economy through tax refunds, credits, and other benefits. Our income tax program could not be successful without the numerous dedicated volunteers, including a few long-time volunteers who mentor and help train new volunteers, such as...

Dennis Ewanus, 9 years. When unusual or unfamiliar situations come up at the tax program you can often here the term "let's go ask Dennis!" Dennis always has the ability to figure out a solution. Dennis commented this year that he feels like some of the university students he helped train are like his 'adopted income tax family members'.

Jim Howlett , 11 years. Some of the reasons Jim volunteers include wanting to give something back to the community, wanting to stimulate his brain, and enjoying being around and helping other people. Jim's outgoing personality helps to keep positive energy flowing while the numbers are being crunched!

Abe Loewen, 28 years. Abe was with the program when they filed paper returns by hand and used calculators to add up numbers. Abe has a gentle personality, and many clients will come to the program each year and specifically request Abe because of his incredible ability to show compassion and kindness to each individual client regardless of their personal circumstances.

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