

MAY & JUN 2019



SUPPORT US THIS SUMMER

For our organization, the summer months are a slow and difficult period. Traditionally, we receive few food and cash donations, which leaves our shelves understocked as a result. The lack of cash donations also means that we are often unable to purchase fresh produce for our community.

There is much work to be done this summer and we need all the help we can get! Please visit our website to [make a donation](#) or to [register your own fund & food drive](#). A successful summer campaign will make a huge difference in the quality of living for many families and children.



North York Harvest Executive Director, Ryan Noble, presents over 1,100 signed petitions to reconsider cuts to public health that were signed by our community, supporters, and staff to MPP Faisal Hassan (center) and Board of Health Chair, Councillor Joe Cressy (left).

NORTH YORK HARVEST SUPPORTS COMMUNITY AS THEY SPEAK OUT AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH CUTS

Back in April, the Ontario provincial government announced their plans to cut \$1 billion to Toronto Public Health over the next 10 years. The proposed cuts would disproportionately impact low-income people, including more than 24,000 people who rely on North York Harvest's food banks.

Although North York Harvest does not receive Public Health funding, many individuals in our community depend on the support from programs affected by the cuts. Student nutrition, health & dental, and immunization programs would all be lost as a result.

The connection between hunger and health has only grown worse over the past year. [In a recent publication from BMC Public Health](#), an inordinate amount of people that called emergency medical services had also reported going hungry during the previous month.

At North York Harvest, we always respond to the needs of our clients first and foremost. The provincial government's proposed Public Health cuts compromised the well-being of thousands of people in our community and we took action to represent their best interests.

We started a petition to the provincial government to reconsider the cuts to public health. What followed was nothing short of an incredible display of unity, solidarity, and people banding together to fight for their basic human rights. Within a week, we rallied our clients, volunteers, and supporters together to collect over 1,100 signatures in support of the petition.

On May 29, our Executive Director, Ryan Noble, presented the signed petitions to MPP Faisal Hassan and Board of Health Chair, Councillor Joe Cressy. The petition was then read aloud at Queen's Park.

Our community's voices were clearly heard as the Ontario provincial government announced they would reverse the retroactive cuts to Public Health. While we consider this a huge victory, there is still much work to be done. North York Harvest's advocacy efforts are an ongoing process where we must stand strong so we can best represent the voices of our community. We urge you, your family and friends to lend us your support and voices so that we can continue to look out for the well-being of everyone in our community.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Become a donor to help us provide immediate food assistance, education, and long-term food support.

Sign up to volunteer to support all of our community members.

Visit our website to learn more!

North York Harvest Food Bank
116 Industry Street, Toronto, ON, M6M 4L8
Tel: 416-635-7771
Web: www.northyorkharvest.com
Registered Charity No. 11906 2495 RR0001

GROWING OUR COMMUNITIES

A HUGE ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!



As a non-funded organization, we depend on the generosity of our supporters to be able to help over 24,000 people in our community meet their food needs. Time and time again, our donors have responded to the need and have made it possible for us to put food on the table for many.

To honour the ongoing support of our donors, we invited them to our inaugural Community Salute on June 1. Donors, food & fund fundraisers from all over Toronto visited us on site to be recognized for their continued excellence and to better understand the impact of their support.

It was wonderful to meet so many of our supporters in person over a nice lunch and show them around our warehouse. Over the past few years, North York Harvest has experienced tremendous growth in order to better meet the unique needs of our community. Through it all, our donors were there every step of the way. On behalf of our community, we cannot thank our supporters enough and hope to see them again in the near future!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MANY THIS SUMMER

The Give 30 campaign was started by Ziyaad Mia, a Toronto lawyer and practicing Muslim. The message behind Give 30 is simple: everyone, regardless of their faith, class, or race donates to a Give 30 partner organization during Ramadan – the time of year when Muslims engage in a physical fast and spiritual contemplation. They voluntarily go without food and drink between dawn and sunset for 30 days to help those in need. The success of the campaign has spread to food banks across the country, and North York Harvest has been a proud partner for many years.

While practicing Muslims can donate the money saved by fasting during the month of Ramadan, there are many things one can do to support Give 30 even if you're not fasting. For example, consider brown-bagging your lunch and abstaining from a morning or afternoon coffee. The money that you saved during the month can be given to people in our community who are unable to meet their food needs.

To some, the amount of money saved in 30 days may seem like pocket change, but it can make a humongous difference for those who are in need. Especially for North York Harvest's clients, who only have \$4.80 per day left to pay for food after non-negotiable expenses, it can be the difference in putting food on the table or having to skip a meal altogether.



GIVE 30: EVEN A MODEST AMOUNT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Ramadan takes place from May 6 to June 3 this year, but Give 30 runs all the way until August 31. The movement has broadened to people of all faiths, and helps to provide good food to people in our city that are struggling with food insecurity.

We encourage you to take part in Give 30 this year. You can learn more about the campaign and support North York Harvest [on our website](#).



CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP THIS SUMMER

With summer approaching, many children in our community will go hungry. Children suffer the hardest during the summer months because they cannot rely on their school meal programs to supply them with healthy meals.

1 in 3 of our food bank clients are children, and they rely on your generosity to be able to meet their food needs. This summer, we ask that you lend us your support so that children in our community can go without hunger.