

MAR & APR 2020

COLLABORATION

A Willingness to Share

Collaboration is one of our core values and with it we are dedicated to understanding, learning from, and forging key partnerships with other organizations to drive change.

As part of the York Lions Club's 95th anniversary, they gave our organization a generous gift, while challenging others to lend their support to help people in need.

"We are issuing this challenge in hopes that other service groups will step forward to support North York Harvest in this great time of need," said Mike Stacey, Treasurer at York Lion's Club.

Together, we can help protect the health and safety of our community.

This edition of our newsletter is generously sponsored by:



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make A Donation

Drop off your food donation at our warehouse (the east side of the complex as the front entrance may not be opened) on weekdays from **9am - 3pm**. Our most needed items include: pasta/rice/grains, canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, canned fish and cooking oil.

Support our community in one of these ways to help us provide emergency food assistance to families who need help most during these times.

Visit our website to learn more!



A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Across the globe, everyone is feeling the effects of COVID-19. For North York Harvest and our clients, the impact has been far greater than one can imagine.

With the closure of community centres, schools, and places of worship, we have lost most of our network and ability to distribute food to those who need it most. In addition, many of our fundraising endeavours and food collection drives have been postponed.

The current situation is evolving at a moment's notice and has placed considerable strain on many vulnerable families in our community who can't afford to stock up during this time. An uptick in layoffs and the closing of all non-essential businesses has left many hourly workers without means of feeding their families; as we speak, thousands are going hungry.

While we are doing everything we can to provide emergency food assistance, our resources are considerably strained. Thankfully, many of our donors are responding to the urgent need. In particular, the York Lions Club donated an incredible \$25,000, challenging other community organizations to step forward and lend their support. Regardless of the amount, everything counts.

The global nature of this terrible pandemic is a humbling reminder of our common humanity and vulnerability. Our work continues as we strive to support families who cannot afford to stock up during this crisis.

Please support our work by making a donation today at:
northyorkharvest.com/urgent-support

CONTINUING OUR SERVICE DURING COVID-19

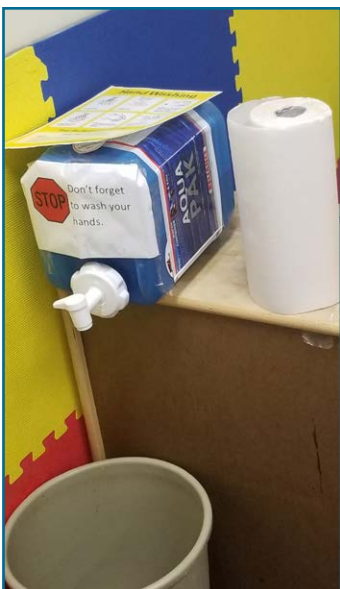
Over the past few weeks, our organization has had to run on reduced operations due to closures. We have suspended all volunteer activities to minimize interactions. As well, many schools, community centres, and places of worship have also shut down and this has affected our ability to distribute food.

With that said, we are doing everything that we can to keep some of our food spaces open. We are pre-packing food hampers to make the process easier for our food bank clients. We are also gradually re-opening key sites by working with partners such as the City of Toronto.



To ensure that our food bank clients are able to adhere to physical distancing best practices, we are having them line up at least 6 feet from each other while picking up their food.

Our staff work tirelessly to assemble pre-packaged food hampers for our community. Keeping our emergency food services open during this time of crisis is our top priority.



Hand-washing stations are provided to all our clients and visitors. We appreciate the support from companies such as Hain Celestial to create a safe environment for our clients, volunteers, and staff.

Due to the closures, we had to be creative to ensure our clients could be served. By working with the City of Toronto, we were able to bring food from our closed facility and setup a temporary distribution centre.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The loss of most of our food bank network and the cancellation of our Spring Food Drive has diminished our ability to deliver food to people. Now, more than ever, our community needs your support to face this unprecedented challenge.

Your donation is vital to ensure everyone has access to food. Monetary donations will allow us to purchase food in large quantities directly from manufacturers, reduce physical contact and quickly re-distribute to those in need.

Please make a donation on our website today: northyorkharvest.com/urgent-support