



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020







## OUR VISION

A community where all members are able to meet their food needs.

## OUR MISSION

To engage our community in meeting the food needs of northern Toronto by providing dignified food assistance, education, focused advocacy, and long-term food solutions.

## OUR VALUES

### **Access and Inclusion**

We strive to ensure that diverse members of our community have full, fair and unbiased access to our services and are included in decision making.

### **Collaboration**

We are dedicated to understanding, learning from, and working cooperatively with community members.

### **Integrity**

We recognize the importance of being accountable and transparent in our actions and decision making processes.

### **Excellence**

We strive for the highest quality in all our work and for the most effective use of our resources.





# THE LESSONS WE LEARNED

March 16, 2020 was one of the hardest days we have faced at North York Harvest. Over 70 percent of North York Harvest’s network was forced to abruptly close, as so many of our operations were located in public venues and maintained by suddenly at-risk volunteers. We were now facing a global pandemic and our ability to deliver food had been dramatically reduced.

The challenge was daunting but we were determined.

In addition to the traditional “hub and spoke” distribution model practiced by many food banks across Canada with a network of agencies, North York Harvest also operates our own food spaces. The experience, knowledge and resources that we have developed in providing direct service proved invaluable when addressing the rapidly evolving pandemic.

Our priority was to sustain our services, now limited by the closures, while protecting our community members and staff, especially those working even harder on the frontline as demand for food surged. We made immediate changes to our operations, suspending volunteer activities while hiring additional relief staff to fill critical roles. We created pre-packed food hampers to minimize physical traffic, and we implemented additional safety measures like organizing our warehouse team into cohorts and limiting drivers’ contact with other staff members. Our staff were remarkable — adapting to new protocols while efficiently integrating relief staff as our agencies opened longer hours to accommodate closures within our network. Our generous donors also continued to sustain our work during this year of unprecedented challenges.

North York Harvest has long relied on partnerships and collaboration to do the work that we do. The partnerships we have built during the pandemic have proved vital. We shared resources and best practices with other food banks while our work with the City of Toronto’s Emergency Operation Centre allowed us to distribute food from City facilities. Three of our busiest food spaces are now housed in community centres and an empty hockey arena is our temporary sort room. A new and innovative partnership was formed with the Toronto Public Library, as we operated pop-up food banks at multiple closed library branches. Two of them are still ongoing.

COVID has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our city, if that was not already obvious, particularly the linkages between race, geography, income and poverty. The connection between race and food insecurity is also undeniable with individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, Middle Eastern or Latin being vastly overrepresented at food banks in Toronto compared to the overall population. Prior to this new crisis, North York Harvest was already experiencing a year-over-year increase in food bank usage. Coupled with a chronic underinvestment in the social service infrastructure and affordable housing, the pandemic was merely accelerating that upward trend.

Providing food is a necessary emergency support but it is not a long-term solution to the food insecurity crisis. Last year, North York Harvest added focused advocacy to our mission statement, a recognition that in order to best serve our communities, we must educate the broader public about the root causes of food insecurity and effect systemic change to eradicate poverty.

This past year has been fraught and terrible for so many, yet matched by the courage and hard work of our staff and donors and advocates. As we look with hope to a better year ahead, we will carry on our work and build on these lessons we have been taught.



Jordan Hill  
Chair



Ryan Noble  
Executive Director

# OUR MORAL OWNERSHIP

North York Harvest has an ongoing duty to the communities we serve. Just as a for-profit corporation is responsible to its shareholders and other stakeholders, North York Harvest is responsible to our member agencies, the end users of food banks and all those who share our vision. We refer to these stakeholders collectively as our “moral ownership” and our responsibility is to amplify the voice of our moral ownership and place it at the centre of all that we do.

Prior to 2020, the need for food banks was already rising. Social assistance had not kept pace with the cost of living, Toronto’s affordable housing crisis continued, and a decrease in full-time jobs with benefits was creating an ever-growing segment of the working poor, whose income barely covered rent, transportation and phone costs. 64% of those using food banks were private-market renters, 56% had a

disability or a long-term health condition, and 61% received at least half their food from food banks. 43% reported going hungry at least once a week, even as they fulfilled critical roles like working in grocery stores, on farms, or in processing facilities.

The pandemic sent all these disturbing trends into overdrive. Many of the neighbourhoods in our catchment area that experience the highest rates of food insecurity are also those with the highest proportion of Black residents. These are the same neighbourhoods that have been left most vulnerable and hardest hit by the pandemic, highlighting the clear intersection of race, income, poverty and health. Moreover, for those with insufficient income, protective measures prescribed by public health authorities have proven most elusive. Not everyone has the luxury of working from home,



shopping infrequently or paying extra to have their groceries delivered.

Food insecurity costs all of us—in increased healthcare costs, in lost productivity at school or at work, in the loss of human potential. It’s a social issue, an economic issue, and North York Harvest’s moral ownership means we have the obligation to not only feed our communities but to increase our advocacy on their behalf, to strengthen our partnerships with other anti-poverty organizations, and to grow our role as a community wealth builder.

We will continue to advocate for an end to food insecurity, working with various levels of governments to reduce poverty, protect workers’ rights, and increase access to affordable housing. We committed to promoting and making room for voices of those marginalized in our society, and to work with other organizations to address the impacts of racism and inequality. In 2019 we mobilized our network against proposed provincial government health cuts, collecting 1,200 signatures within a week for a petition presented at Queen’s Park. These pre-pandemic protests to protect public health now seem quite prescient and affirm our need to listen carefully to our moral owners and affirms the path we are embarking on to amplify our community’s voice.

We will continue to strengthen our network of partnerships, sharing resources and best practices with our member agencies and working with

other anti-poverty organizations to create more wrap-around services for the community. The COVID-19 pandemic saw us innovating even faster, as with our partnership with other food banks and the Toronto Public Library that saw nine library branches used as pop-up food banks across the city at the height of last spring’s first wave of the pandemic. We are now working with the branches at Albion and Jane & Sheppard to develop these into long-term sites and offering joint programming for both food bank and library users.

We will also continue our role as a community wealth builder, supporting non-profit organizations in greater Toronto with our FoodReach purchasing portal that lowers their costs while creating revenue for our own food bank operations. This kind of win-win scenario can also be seen in our job training programs for those on social assistance, providing a labour pool for us while developing their career prospects. We are doing far more than just providing emergency food because that is what our communities tell us is needed if we are ever to realize our vision of a community where all members are able to meet their food needs.

Describing these times as “difficult,” “uncertain” or “unprecedented” was certainly heard a lot this past year but always apt, with North York Harvest rising to meet these new challenges and increased need, our focus is sharper than ever on how we can effect change in our communities.



A team of North York Harvest supporters was among the 1,200 participants who took part in the annual Global Energy Race. The event brought close to 1,000 loaves of bread donation from Dempster's and the team also raised more than \$5,000.



Executive Director Ryan Noble was part of an expert panel discussing the impact of poverty and food insecurity in Toronto. The enlightening symposium was well received by the community and the media.

The last graduating group from the Leadership In Logistics program before the pandemic. Funded by the Metcalf Foundation, the program enhances job prospects of social assistance recipients while performing key functions for North York Harvest. The program will resume after the pandemic.

September

November

January

October

December

February

The annual Who's Hungry report was published. In collaboration with Daily Bread Food Bank and The Mississauga Food Bank, the collective data demonstrated the right to food remained an elusive goal.



With the theme 'Reach for a Million', the winter drive successfully reached its goal by raising a combined total value of \$1 million in food and funds donations thanks to the generosity of the community.

'Focused Advocacy' was formally adopted as part of our mission statement at the AGM. As informed by the community we serve, we are determined to amplify their voices and advocate for systemic change to eradicate poverty.



On March 16, close to 70% of our network was forced to close due to the pandemic. Our resilience was put to the test as we tried to meet the rising demand with much reduced capacity to deliver services.



March

April

Partnership with Toronto Public Library, along with our member agencies Society for the Living, Thistletown and Community Share, enabled us to open pop-up food banks in areas with great needs. Two locations remained in our catchment to date.



We began to receive food hampers from Feed Ontario.

May

June



Government support through Food Banks Canada and Feed Ontario was used in three areas: food purchase, grocery store gift card purchase, grants to member agencies to sustain their service.



The number of clients continued to climb. At our Bathurst-Finch Food Space, now operated outdoor at a community centre set a North York Harvest single-day record of providing food for 760 households in less-than 8 hours.

July

August

We experienced a 75% increase in demand during the summer months compared to the previous year.

Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,463,270	426,746
Short-term investments	200,000	100,000
Receivables	155,655	116,128
Prepaid expenses	34,643	33,569
	1,853,568	676,443
<b>Capital Assets</b>	467,143	327,566
	2,320,711	1,004,009
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	985,859	165,999
Deferred revenue	475,770	252,957
Current portion of obligations under capital leases	17,531	16,678
	1,479,160	435,634
<b>Obligations under capital leases</b>	75,597	93,128
<b>Deferred capital contributions</b>	311,794	193,891
	1,866,551	722,653
<b>Net Assets - Unrestricted</b>	454,160	281,356
	2,320,711	1,004,009

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

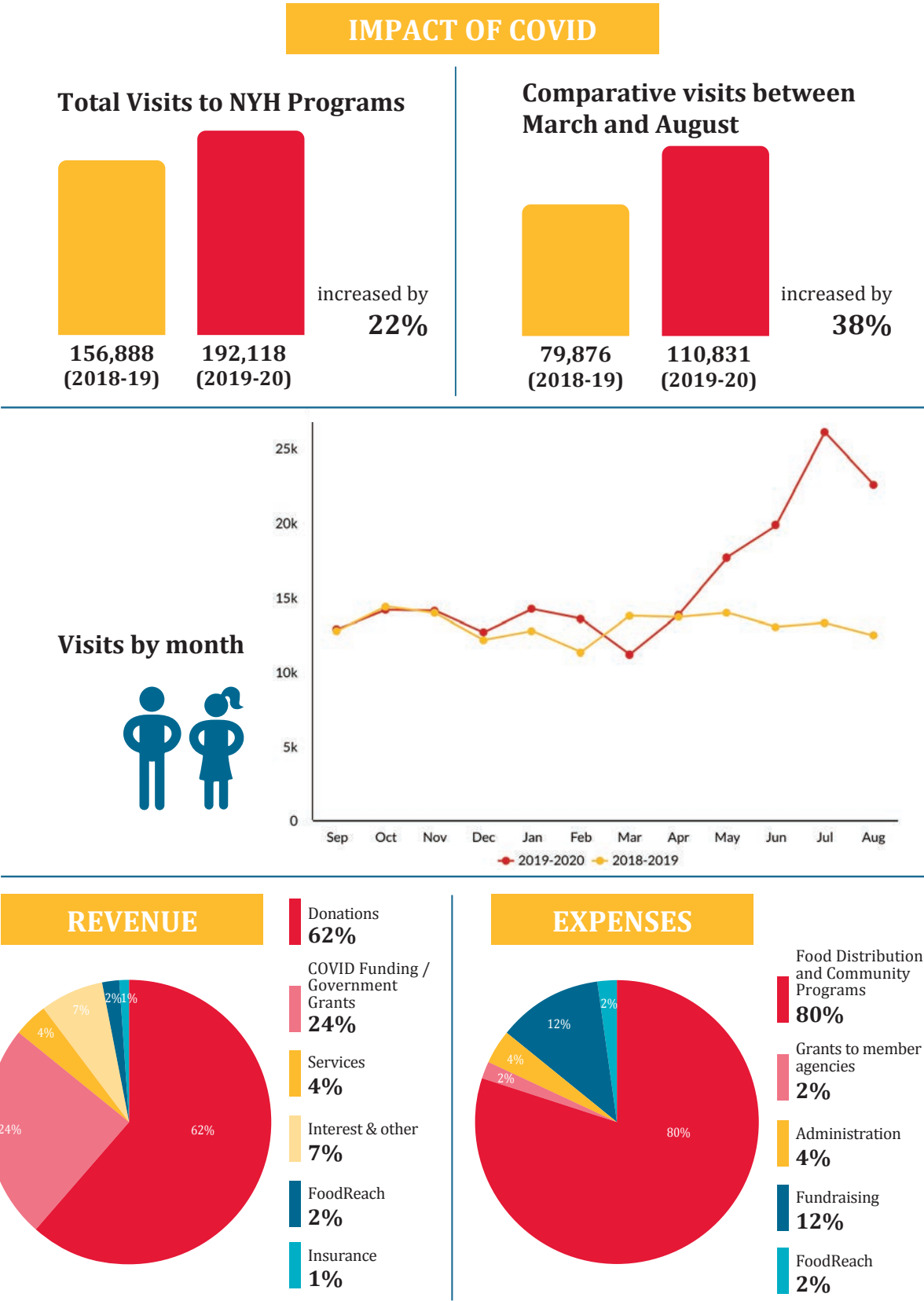
	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>	\$	\$
Individual donations	1,094,002	657,802
Foundation donations	864,794	640,693
COVID-19 funding from Food Banks Canada and Feed Ontario	566,498	-
Government grants	475,318	353,705
Corporate donations	302,439	153,484
Community donations	298,178	170,128
Services	175,330	268,342
Discount on gift card purchases	140,625	-
Interest & other income	127,299	81,033
FoodReach	84,985	192,719
Special event donations	69,732	108,456
Insurance proceeds	60,506	-
Funding for food purchases	21,947	34,871
	4,281,653	2,661,233
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Food distribution operation	1,188,233	1,038,025
Food distribution - food and gift card purchases	1,299,637	243,564
Community food banks and programs	826,870	661,679
Grants to member agencies	92,171	-
Administration	154,753	132,536
Fundraising	473,416	394,474
FoodReach	73,769	184,621
	4,108,849	2,654,899
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures</b>	172,804	6,334
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	281,356	275,022
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	454,160	281,356

2019 - 2020  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
Year ended August 31, 2020

Statement of Cash Flows

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Cash was provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	172,804	6,334
Adjustments required to reconcile excess of revenue over expenditures with net cash provided by operating activities		
Amortization of capital assets	74,343	60,010
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(55,652)	(45,585)
<b>Changes in non-cash working capital balances</b>		
Receivables	(39,527)	(83,497)
Prepaid expenses	(1,074)	945
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	819,860	21,714
Deferred revenue	222,813	97,877
	1,193,567	57,798
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(213,920)	(8,342)
Purchase of short-term investments	(100,000)	-
	(313,920)	(8,342)
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Capital contributions received	173,555	-
Payments of obligations under capital leases	(16,678)	(11,851)
	156,877	(11,851)
<b>Increase in cash during the year</b>	1,036,524	37,605
<b>Cash - beginning of year</b>	426,746	389,141
<b>Cash - end of year</b>	1,463,270	426,746
<b>Non-cash transactions</b>		
Purchase of capital assets under capital lease	-	103,801

BY THE NUMBERS



# OUR PARTNERS

Our sincere gratitude to all our donors especially during these most challenging times. This is a partial listing of those who have contributed \$1,000 or more at the time of printing.

## Foundations

Arnold & Winnie Palmer Foundation Inc	Moez & Marissa Kassam Foundation
Bear Family Foundation	Nathan and Lily Silver Family Foundation
Carol Sharyn Tanenbaum Family Foundation	Ontario Realtors Care Foundation
Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation	Ontario Trillium Foundation
CHUM Charitable Foundation	Salden Foundation
Clark Family Foundation	The Azrieli Foundation
Community Foundations of Canada	The Hylcan Foundation
Enterprise Rent A Car Canada Foundation	The Klein-Panneton Foundation
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	The Sam Sorbara Charitable Foundation
George Lunan Foundation	The Schulich Foundation
Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation	The Schumacher Family Foundation
La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso	Tippet Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation	Toronto Foundation
Mazon Canada	Ward Family Foundation

## Individuals

Anonymous	Dina Constantinou
Estate of Allan Jack Freedman	Doron Dekel
Estate of Marilyn Silverman	Jean Desgagne
Jessica Armstrong	Mark and Keltie Ellwood
Nancy Bardecki	Melinda Fox
Bonnie Bereskin	Donald and Wendy Fraser
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Melissa MacNamara	Dr. Paul Zalan
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## Organizations

Anonymous	Consolidated Credit Counselling Services of Canada Inc
Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church (ALW)	Context Creative
Aircraft Technologies Group (Aviation Network)	Coolmark Mechanical Ltd
Barrday Inc.	Co-operators General Insurance Co
Cadillac Fairview Corporation Ltd	Crosslinx Transit Solutions - Constructors
Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation	Daily Bread Food Bank
Canada Goose Inc.	Dell Technologies
Canada Lands Company CLC Ltd	Dillon Consulting Limited
Caplan's Appliances	Eckler Ltd.
CCL Industries Inc	Eli Lilly Canada Inc
Central Glass & Mirror Ltd	Enterprise Holdings
Charles Tennant & Company Canada Ltd	Fat Bastard Burrito (Weston / 401)
Chronicle Insurance Ltd	Ferrero Canada Ltd
Community Share Food Bank Inc	Forest Hill Lions Club
	Frank J Seger Holdings



- Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.

G4S Canada

Green Shield Canada

Honda Canada Inc

IATSE Local 873

Impact 4 Good, LLC

Industrial Alliance Insurance & Financial Services Inc

Ivari

J. S. Cheng & Partners Inc.

Kahai insurance & Investments Inc.

Knights of Columbus- Blessed Trinity Council 11681

Knights of Columbus -Ontario State Council

Lansing Gospel Hall

Lincoln Mushroom Farm Ltd (1975)

Loblaw Inc

Mackenzie Financial Corporation

Magnotta Winery Estate Ltd

Manulife Financial Corporation (Retiree Fund)

MaxSold Inc.

National Money Mart

Nature House Design Inc

Noor Cultural Centre

North York Christian Community Church

North York Chrysler

Northcrest Developments

Novotel Hotel & Resorts (North York)

Onex Corporation

Ontario Aoyuan Property Limited

Orlando Corp

Oulahen Team Realty Inc

Oxyn Fire Protection Services

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PepsiCo

Plus1
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Qualcomm Canada Inc.

Ram Iron and Metal Inc

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Toronto-Dominion Bank

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Woodbridge Investments Corporation

Working Women Community Centre

Wynn Fitness

York Lions Club

Yorkdale Toyota

\* North York Harvest is a proud member of Food Banks Canada and Feed Ontario.

# North York Harvest Members

## Member Agencies

- ANIDA

(All Nations International Development Agency)

Apostles Continuation Church of Canada

Canadian Red Cross

Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples

Community Share Food Bank, Inc.

Delta Family Resource Centre

Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women

Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter

Eva’s Initiatives

Fallstaff Food Club

Sick Kids Centre for Mental Health

Horizons for Youth

Jane Finch Community Ministry

Jane/Finch Community & Family Centre

Lansing United Church

Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church

North York Community House

Rexdale Women’s Centre

Seneca Student Federation Incorporated

Society for the Living Food Bank

St. Alban’s Boys and Girls Club

St. Stephen’s Anglican Church

St. Vincent de Paul, St. Thomas Aquinas Conference

Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre

The Triumphant Church of God

Thistletown Food Bank

Trethewey Tenant Group

- Unison Health and Community Services

Weston Area Emergency Support

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centre Satellite site)

Westway United Church

York Federation of Students

York Memorial Presbyterian Church

York University-Glendon Women and Trans Centre

Yorktown Child and Family Centre

Youth Without Shelter

## North York Harvest Community Food Spaces

- Bathurst-Finch Community Food Space

Lawrence Heights Community Food Space

Oriole Community Food Space

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Habon Ali (Vice Chair)

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