

# CONNECTIONS



## A New Season is Upon Us

September sometimes feels like a new start. Kids are starting a new school year and parents are getting back into their routines. North York Harvest is also working hard to ensure that we are supporting our community so that they don't have extra worries added to their day.



## Virtual Food Drive

Our Fall Virtual Food Drive has begun! Come become a Harvest Hero and support NYH and your community.

Create a team or join a team to support those in need of emergency food in our communities. Make it a competition among family, friends and colleagues, whether it is a birthday fundraiser, a paint night, or corporate gathering, nothing could be more meaningful than

helping raise funds for food purchases especially during holiday seasons when children have no access to school programs.

### *Did You Know*

North York Harvest is a part of Will Power. What is Will Power? Visit [Will Power](#) for more information.

Learn more about the Virtual Food Drive and how you can start at [Fall Heroes](#).



## Decent Work Launch

At North York Harvest, we celebrated Labour Day by releasing our commitments to Decent Work! With the aim to support inclusive, healthy, and equitable communities, we are proud to champion decent work policies and advocacy efforts in our organization, sector, and society.

To read our commitments, visit [www.northyorkharvest.com/careers](http://www.northyorkharvest.com/careers)



# One Moment of Change



It doesn't take long for life to change, one moment is all it takes. When the bombs started to land in Ukraine, Kateryna fled.

Kateryna and her family, comprised of her husband, two young children, and her parents, came to Canada, seeking a new life. A trained accountant back in Ukraine, Kateryna and her husband provided a good life for her family, making their arrival in Canada a stark new reality. Now, they are working through getting job permits and training so that they can support their family as they

begin their new lives in Canada.

"Friends tell us that North York Harvest Food Bank is a great place for people to support them and we like to come here and try, so we were happy to find this beautiful place."

Like many of us, Kateryna is working hard to provide for her family and North York Harvest is here to not just give food, but also hope, to the members of our community who need support.

Consider [donating and helping families](#) like Kateryna's today.

## The Links Between Us

Strength and resilience are the words Casey Ramsaran uses to describe North York Harvest. As the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, Casey sees the way the organization, especially the way the Executive Director, cares and supports each and every employee.

Casey has always known she wanted to sit on a Board and give back to the community. She was very deliberate in her choice of which Board, wanting it to align with her thoughts on the community and diversity. "Because now, I have the ability to serve on a Board with something that makes sense to me from a food perspective, from a diversity perspective, and from a community perspective." She took up the role of HR Chair since 2019.

"The way North York Harvest is very intentional about how the organization supports its employees is something that I really admire." Casey believes that HR at North York Harvest has always been about looking after the employees that are there to help serve the community. "From a HR perspective, it's been really wonderful to see the attention in detail that goes into how we can make things better." Casey's concerns are rooted in how to deliver a good employee experience to North York Harvest employees. "How can we do better? How can we provide opportunities for folks to learn and grow?" She stresses that, from a policy perspective, it's important

to ensure there are guidelines in place that work in compliance as well as sets the tone in providing clear information that is relevant and important for employees.

"I don't know what the future holds, I do know it's going to be impactful." To Casey, it is the strength and resilience of everyone at North York Harvest that helped weather these few years. She talks about how she saw the passion and the resilience, the drive and the fight to provide support to the community in everyone at North York Harvest. She laughs as she brings up an old story of the former North York Harvest board chair commuting to the GTA from Hamilton, dressed as a radish, to bring the awareness of food insecurity to the forefront of the population. It is people with this kind of courage that makes North York Harvest the way it is. To end, she wants to applaud every employee at North York Harvest, and thank them for all their hard work and efforts.



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