

CONNECTIONS



Life After LIL: Meet Moses

Moses was looking for a job everywhere. Like many newcomers, he was facing a common barrier: The job postings said he needed previous work experience in Canada.

Moses emigrated from Uganda in September, 2023, where he worked as a driver, doing pick-ups and deliveries as well as driving colleagues to different parts of the country. He felt that in order to find employment in Canada, he would need training first. During an internet search he stumbled upon North York Harvest’s Leadership in Logistics (LIL) program.

The LIL program is a four-week course offered at our warehouse where students can learn about warehousing and logistics, while being paid for their time. At the end of the course, students graduate with a forklift license and an immediate full-time job offer (with benefits) with Canadian Tire.

“This was unique to me, that a food bank can prepare people, train them and give back more to the community.”

The program aims to remove barriers to employment so individuals can access the tools they need to empower themselves, as well as lessen the reliance on food banks in our community.

“What I had in my mind about food banks, was people go there only for food,” Moses says.

“This was unique to me, that a food bank can prepare people, train them and give back more to the community.”

At first, Moses admits he found the forklift challenging, but thanks to his experience as a driver it became much easier after two days. “Once I got used to it I loved the process on the forklift,” he says.

And staff in the warehouse were always ready and happy to help, no matter how big or small the challenge, he adds.

Four weeks later, Moses attended a graduation ceremony to celebrate with

his fellow students and North York Harvest staff. Thanks to his hard work, Moses left the program feeling prepared for the next step: A full-time job at a Canadian Tire warehouse in Brampton.

“The program has impacted my life so well,” Moses says.

“I had nowhere to start from, I was new here and had no hope - I didn’t know what is next. Even some people I met when I came here, they have not yet found work, so for me I got so lucky with the program and I feel so blessed.”





Another Wonderful CNOY!

On February 24, North York Harvest participated in our third annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) event, a fundraising walk in support of our neighbours facing food insecurity.

This year we welcomed over 120 participants at Oriole Community Centre for a beautiful day of community and togetherness.

The day delivered what the event name promised – it was definitely a chilly day for a walk. Yet all around there were smiling faces and laughter as everyone walked together in solidarity.

Together, we raised more than \$24,000! These funds will have a direct impact for 25,000 clients who access North York Harvest's network every month.

This year we had some truly ambitious fundraisers who went above and beyond, including our long-time

volunteer Aviva. Aviva has been fundraising for CNOY all three years, pushing herself to reach new goals every time. Last year she raised \$875.00, and this year she raised \$1,699.50!

"I tried it the first year and I had fun with it so every year I got a little more creative with what I did to motivate more people to donate," Aviva says.

"I usually tell people that NYH is a small food bank with a big impact and a big heart. The staff and volunteers are all working towards the same goal: to eradicate poverty and food insecurity," she says.

Thank you to everyone for making the event such a success, from our volunteers and staff, to our walkers and donors.

Save the date for 2025!



Finding Hope During A Challenging Year

For the first time in three years, North York Harvest was able to hold an in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Dozens of attendees, including board members, member agencies and staff, joined us at 116 Industry Street on Tuesday, February 20. It was a wonderful evening where we were able to present our annual report and have a meaningful discussion about our impact, and how we are working toward our vision of a community where all members can meet their food needs.

We invite you to read our Annual Report for 2022-2023 to learn all about what we were able to achieve together this year, despite facing the most challenging year in our history. <https://northyorkharvest.com/about-us/annual-reports/>



Renew Your Support for Seniors in Our Community



With the arrival of spring comes the opportunity for riding bikes, hiking, and getting your hands dirty planting the first seeds of the season.

We plan for these things every season, but there are some things we can never truly plan for.

Last year, Margaret was in a car accident that would have lifelong impacts. Suddenly she was unable to work, and she and her husband began having trouble making ends meet.

Unexpected illnesses, accidents, and strained finances happen to people every day. When these things happen, your generosity ensures our neighbours have a pillar of support where they can access quality food.

By making a gift, your generosity helps seniors like Margaret today while empowering North York Harvest to continue working to address the root causes of poverty.

The seeds we plant together today will help our community grow stronger in the days ahead.

[Learn how to donate here](#)



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Registered Charity No. 11906 2495 RR001

