

*Serving our community  
for 35 years.*



INTERFAITH  
FOOD BANK  
SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

*1989 - 2024*



## *Thank You!*

Interfaith Food Bank was born in response to community needs by caring citizens that knew a little collective effort could go a long way. Over the past 35 years, Interfaith has moved beyond providing only for basic needs, to providing programs, referrals and skill building that can help move families past the food bank lineup; and to providing support to other food banks and food security initiatives across Southern Alberta.

We can mark milestones such as securing important equipment; adding kitchen, garden and advocacy programs; and purchasing and improving our facility, but what counts most are the number of lives that have been touched through the process.

It is the collaboration of community members that ensures our success. Over 250 volunteers give of their time each year to sort food, build hampers, and participate in fund-raising activities. Thousands of individual donors, local businesses, schools, church groups and community organizations collect food and funds on our behalf, and a volunteer Board of Directors oversees our entire operation.

We've been honored with awards and recognized for the impact we make on our community. We often receive thanks for the good work we do for individuals and families in need, and while it is nice to hear that our efforts are appreciated, we must point out that it is really our community of supporters that deserve the thanks. Our staff, volunteers and donors understand the privilege it is to help others in need, and those who benefit from our programs and services speak often of the dignity they experience at Interfaith Food Bank.

Celebrating our past 35 years gives us the chance to acknowledge what can be accomplished when we work together. We've built a viable organization with a clear vision and have provided valuable services to community members in need and the community at large.

Moving forward, we are focused on sustaining Interfaith Food Bank to ensure we're able to continue to sustain our community. We are aware that our community needs us to be a long-term fixture that addresses short-term needs and acknowledge that addressing the underlying issues of food insecurity will allow us to continue to provide a lasting impact to the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for working with us to make hunger history!



Executive Director





Back in 1989, Interfaith Food Bank was intended to be a short term, “temporary fix” for individuals in need to land back on their feet. Since our inception, we have continued to see a rise in the number of clients accessing our services each year. We have learned social issues such as the exponentially increasing cost of living, generational poverty, medical/chronic illness, and systematic oppression can cause individuals to require support from our organization in the long term. After 35 years of operation one thing is clear – **Interfaith Food Bank’s services will continue to be needed by our community.**

We have set a goal to raise \$35,000 in recognition of fighting hunger in the Lethbridge community for 35 years. Help us continue to be a sustainable support in the Lethbridge community for the next 35 + years.

All financial donations specified for the 35th Anniversary Campaign will be put into an Endowment Fund to ensure long-term sustainability for Interfaith Food Bank. To specify your donation, simply note on the subject line of your cheque, or with your donation.

Here are some ways you could help us reach our fundraising goal:

- **Make a one-time financial donation**
  - *350 donations of \$100 would help us reach our goal*
- **Become a monthly supporter**
  - *85 partners donating \$35 monthly would help us reach our goal*
- **Make a food donation**
  - *350 donations of \$100 would help us reach our goal*

Donate in person, or online ([www.interfaithfoodbank.ca/35years](http://www.interfaithfoodbank.ca/35years)) or, help us spread the word online with the following hashtags:

#35YearsofIFB #35kfor35years

# *Interesting Historical Facts*



## *Emergency Food Distribution*

In our first year of existence as an independent agency, Interfaith Food Bank provided 2267 hampers, assisting 7059 individuals (3430 Adults and 3629 Children). On average, we were distributing 262 hampers per month.

In 2009, we had a drastic increase in our monthly hamper distribution compared to years prior and averaged about 600 hampers per month, providing emergency food assistance to 1100-1300 individuals each month, half of whom are children.

In 2018, 7894 hampers were distributed to 11,209 adults and 7232 children. This averages out to be just under 650 hampers and over 1500 individuals each month.

Recently in 2023, our distribution reached 10,183 hampers which were distributed to 14,854 adults, and 10,330 children. This is an average of 850 hampers to over 2000 individuals, monthly.

# *Physical Plant*

In our first years of operation, we distributed emergency food services to families from the basement of Our Lady of Assumption Church. We shared space with Catholic Charities Food Bank and the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen in our earlier years until we acquired a rental facility of our own in 1993. Our previous facility housed 6272 square feet of space, and we've continued to grow to meet the needs of our community.

Our current facility, purchased in 2010, was originally 21,500 square feet with West Wind Gymnastics occupying 11,900 square feet in the front half of the building and Interfaith Food Bank occupying 9600 square feet in back. Facility improvements have included the addition of the outdoor storage facility, expansion of the second level, expansion into the front half of the building, and the addition of the Co-Op Community Kitchen. Our client services were brought from the rear of the building to the front, and we also added a Client Advocacy and Resource Room and 3 more classrooms for outreach programs and community services. We now have 27,118 square feet of program space for food bank activities

In 1988, we carried inventory to serve 6 households each month. In 2024, we plan for enough food stock to serve 950 households each month, and supply several community agencies, schools, as well as The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen cooking classes. We require over 100,000 pounds of food each month to serve local families, and to provide our many programs and activities designed to empower community members to provide for their own food security.



# Volunteers

In February 1991, Interfaith Food Bank had 7 volunteers who contributed just over 200 hours in the previous year.



In 2008, we had 8108 hours of volunteer service, and almost 100 volunteers who gave of their time to the food bank.

In 2013, more than 100 volunteers gave over 11,700 hours of service to Interfaith Food Bank.

In 2018, our volunteers performed 16,646 hours of work for us.

Today, it takes over 230 volunteers weekly to run our operations. This equated to 34,687 hours of service throughout 2023. Many more community members give of their time on our Board of Directors, committees, special projects, and participate in fund-raising activities and events that promote our mandate within the community.



# Programming

Emergency Food Services were our first priority when we first began offering services in 1989. Since then, several supplementary programs have been added to the repertoire for us to offer not only a hand out, but a hand up.

- Pick room/daily supplements
- Diabetic Bundles
- Baby Bundles and Pregnancy Increase
- Smart Start for Safety Program
- Birthday Bundles
- School Supplies
- Christmas Hope - Christmas Hampers and Toys for children



## Emergency Food Assistance



## Community Connections

Our Client Advocacy Program builds bridges, encourages self-advocacy, and makes referrals to address underlying issues that lead to food insecurity.

**Second Door Thrift Store** turns non-food items into funds that can be used for food and other program costs. Shop, Save, Support!

## *The Second Door Thrift Store*



## Interfaith Learning Garden

**Interfaith Learning Garden** teaches community members how to grow their own food, encouraging healthy and cost effective means for providing food security at home.

**Ih'taapiinii'mopa inn'siimaan** (Healing Garden) offers a space for community use and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as a public display of our community's shared vision in moving forward together as Indigenous and non- Indigenous Canadians. All plants in the Healing Garden were traditionally used by the Blackfoot people for food, medicine, and ceremony.



**Community Kitchens** provide additional kitchen programs such as Collective Kitchens, where participants work collectively to plan a menu .



**The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen (TICCK)** is a community kitchen program that provides FREE cooking sessions intended to teach healthy eating on a limited budget.

**The Co-Op Community Kitchen** is available for community use. Bookings have included Fry Bread making, Big Cooks, and even a Filmmaking Masterclass!



### *Interfaith Food Recovery Program*

**Food Recovery Program** transforms surplus food stock into baked and canned goods to extend its shelf life in support of our other programs.

**Helpful Hobbies** encourages community members to share their skills and interests with program participants and each other, by using their hobbies to benefit others.



### *Interfaith Helpful Hobbies*



### *Food Share*

**The Food Share Program** provides urban and rural communities, food banks, and agencies who serve those facing food insecurity access to food and resources.

# *35 Years of Foodbanking*

## *October 1989*

Under our previous name, Catholic Charities Food Bank, we moved from a church basement, to share a space with the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen.

## *April 1990*

We legally changed our name to Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge.



## *July 1990*

As the newly named Interfaith Food Bank, we incorporated as a registered society, in accordance with the Alberta Societies Act.

## *September 1990*

Striking out on our own, we moved into a “tin building” on the northside of Lethbridge.

## *May 5, 1991*

We held the very first Annual General Meeting as our new entity, Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge.

## *March 1993*

We were approved to share client lists with Lethbridge Food Bank, Coaldale Food Bank, Salvation Army, and other local agencies. This would help us all to prevent “double-dippers” (clients who abuse the system, accessing more than one agency for duplicate services).

## *June 12, 1993*

This day marked the Grand Opening at our new facility located at 1116 3 Avenue North. At this time, the food bank operated out of just one of five bays in the building.

## *May 1995*

A storage shed was added to our back lot to accommodate equipment and other materials.

## *June 1, 1995*

At this time, we experienced a lot of growth at the food bank, and expanded to include a second bay (B-Bay) of the facility.

## *August 1996*

With advances in technology, and a desire to promote efficiency and up-to-date record keeping, as well as eliminate double dipping between food banks, we invested in a computer system that would track client activity.

## *January 1997*

We bought and installed our first walk-in freezer!



## *July 1997*

Interfaith expanded once again, now filling a third portion of the facility (C-Bay) with the Interfaith Garage Sale (now known as The Second Door Thrift Store), an in-house fundraising opportunity.



## *1998*

Interfaith became the screening agency for the Child Car Safety Seat Program operated by the Chinook Health Region.

## *1999*

We made further technological advances, adding a computer network and three new terminals. The Friends of Interfaith Committee was also established to develop and manage fundraising.

## *2001*

We began to plan for the development of the future Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen!

## *March 1, 2002*

The final plans were now made for the establishment of a kitchen program. We announced our intentions to the public, and construction started on the E-Suite Project which expanded the facility to include the commercial kitchen and education room.

## **2004**

Family Centre joined Interfaith Food Bank and Chinook Health - Population Health as the third partner in The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen. With this addition, we could now include child and parenting programs in addition to cooking instruction.

### ***October 14, 2004***

We held the Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen.



### ***February 2005***

We began to offer regularly scheduled cooking classes out of The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen.



### ***August 18, 2005***

We were approved as an Alberta's Promise Agency.

### ***December 2006***

We bid farewell to Jock Carpenter who had served the agency as Executive Director for 18 years. Danielle McIntyre assumed the position and had the opportunity to "learn the ropes" during the busiest time of year.



## *January 2007*

We converted to a weight system to track inventory.

## *February 2007*

The Interfaith Garage Sale space was updated and “shrunk” to the front part of C-Bay to allow more space for food bank activity in the rest of the bay.

## *April 2007*

In order to help us secure a solid volunteer base, we acquired membership with Volunteer Lethbridge.



## *October 2, 2007*

We solidified our official mission statement, which has provided direction for our activities ever since.

*Interfaith Food Bank recognizes the human dignity of those in need and provides food and access to services and resources generated within our community.*

## *October 2007*

We established a common screening process together with Lethbridge Food Bank and Salvation Army, committing to working together to serve families in need for the Christmas season. This improved working relationship allowed better communication between the city’s major food banks.

## *December 2007*

For the first time ever, Interfaith Food Bank, Lethbridge Food Bank and Salvation Army served clients jointly at Christmas. Lethbridge Food Bank took care of regular food supplies for December, Salvation Army took care of toy bundles, and Interfaith Food Bank took care of Christmas Day meals.

## *January 2008*

Our Board of Directors recognized the need to partake in some strategic planning to further the direction for the organization. This was focused around developing policies and procedures for our Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers.

## *May 2008*

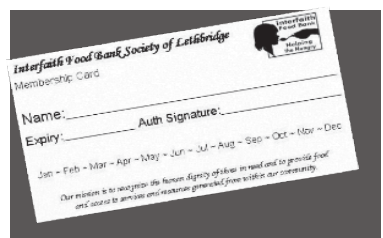
After recognizing the need for feedback from clients, donors, staff, volunteers and board of directors, we asked them all to participate in a needs assessment survey to assess the state of our organization. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and areas for improvement were identified clearly.

We also received our first Better Business Bureau Business Ethics Award in the non-profit category, and were pleased to share the honor with our partner agency, Family Centre, who also were awarded with an Ethics Award.



## *June 2008*

We wanted to improve our Client Intake procedures, and so chose to implement a Client Membership Card System – this allowed us to screen clients once, then provide access to services for a pre-determined period of time, based on client circumstances. Food bank use is intended to be temporary, and a renewal system allows us to assess reasons for the renewal, in turn creating more opportunities for referring clients to other agencies that can address underlying issues that place them at the food banks. Cards prove eligibility for services at both local food banks.



## October 2008

Recognizing the need to “get with the times” so to speak, we officially launched our website: [www.interfaithfoodbank.ca](http://www.interfaithfoodbank.ca).

## November 2008

Interfaith launched a Planned Giving Program that allows donors to designate funds from wills and bequests, and life insurance and retirement funds to Interfaith as a beneficiary.

## December 2008

United Way came on board this year, funding our Baby Bundle program, ensuring local babies have the food they need.



## April 2009

Our Board of Directors solidified our vision statement to read:

*In partnership with the community, Interfaith Food Bank is a leader in alleviating hunger and its root causes through: programs, services, advocacy, and guidance, thus encouraging individuals to realize their full potential.*

We also determined it was time for us to acquire a building of our own – whether we purchased and expanded our existing facility, or if we found another location. Cedar Ridge Quality Homes and The Action Team of Century 21 Real Estate launched the “Flip4Food Project” that constructed a show home in the Riverstone area to be unveiled at the fall Parade of Homes. Interfaith Food Bank benefitted from the net profit after the sale of the home (over \$100 000).



## June 2009

Board of Directors Policy Manual and Staff & Volunteer Handbooks were completed. We now had a standard set of procedures to ensure consistency of service, and the society was equipped with guiding principles for all future activity.

## *October 2009*

Interfaith Food Bank celebrated 20 years of service to the community with an open house.

## *November 2009*

With funding from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta, Interfaith Food Bank and Lethbridge Food Bank purchased Income Manager Software that provides for donor tracking and recognition (separate databases for each food bank), and a joint client database that is shared between the two food banks, which allows us to track client access to services, bolstering communication between the two food banks and providing consistency in services.

## *December 2009*

Our volunteer base grew to over 100 volunteers who contributed over 9400 volunteer hours in 2009.



## *April 2010*

Bi-Monthly volunteer newsletter was developed to keep all manpower up to date on activities at the food bank.

During this month, we also placed a conditional offer on a new location, directly across the street. Various inspections, appraisals and application for a development permit were conducted to explore the possibilities of the new location.

## *April 2010*

The launch of our new logo at this time, gave us a new look, and a new hope for the future as we continued to build upon the community effort that started Interfaith Food Bank so many years ago.



## *July 2010*

Flip4Food Home sold and Cedar Ridge Quality Home and the Action Team from Century 21 had raised the difference we required for the full down-payment on the mortgage for the new facility.

We also launched the *Planting Roots, Growing Community* Capital Campaign to recruit funds required for the first phase of renovations that were required at the new facility:

- to include confidential client intake area
- to include space for The Interfaith Garage Sale (social enterprise, now called The Second Door Thrift Store)
- for future expansion and relocation of The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen, which would stay at the old facility until a new kitchen suite was constructed.

## *September 2010*

We took possession of our new (current) building directly across the street and coordination of renovation activities began.

## *October 2010*

We received the Better Business Bureau Ethics Award in the Non-Profit category for the second time.

## *November 3, 2010*

Interfaith opened for business at the new location! The kitchen remained at the old facility across the street, but fund-raising had already begun for the second phase of renovations.



## *February 2011*

Our existing Daily supplement program was discontinued with the implementation of the new Pick Room, where clients could now choose fresh bread and produce daily. Interfaith also began to receive weekly perishable loads of food from Calgary Food Bank, providing either fresh or frozen food for clients.

## *March 25, 2011*

We hosted a Grand-Reopening to celebrate the purchase of the new facility, the completion of Phase 1 renovations, and the launch of Phase 2 of *Planting Roots, Growing Community*. With building plans and budget now complete, Phase 2 projects included:

- expansion and relocation of The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen Suite, including teaching kitchen, children's playroom, office, laundry and education room
- expansion of existing mezzanines to a complete 2nd story for further program/project space
- installation of an accessibility lift to transport supplies and volunteers to second level project space
- construction of an outdoor storage facility

## *May 2011*

With assistance from the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta, Murray Chevrolet Cadillac and restricted funds from years past, we purchased a new 16 foot cube van.



## *July 2011*

Our volunteer program received funding from Catholic Charities this year. These funds provided for volunteer recognition gifts, events and partially covered salary costs for the Volunteer Coordinator.

## *September 2011*

Joint client software was implemented with both food banks now accessing the same client database. Getting used to the system took time, but hurdle by hurdle, things improved.

## *October 2011*

We received the Better Business Bureau Ethics Award for the third time!

Also this month, the Endowment Fund was established with the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta. Interfaith launched Leaving A Legacy activities to recruit funds that will be invested to ensure on-going revenue sources for the food bank.

## *January 2012*

Knights of Columbus Council #5726 took on the Outdoor Storage Facility project as their commitment to help us attain goals outlined in the Phase 2 capital campaign. In addition to a substantial cash donation, members of the KOC recruited the building supplies necessary for the new garage.

## *April 2012*

Associated Engineering took on CANstruction, bringing the competition to Lethbridge for the first time. Over 8500 pounds of food were collected from sculptures made entirely from canned food.



## *September 2012*

Interfaith Garage Sale was re-branded and re-named. The Second Door Thrift Store took on a new identity and continued to generate great revenue and provide a valuable service to clients of Interfaith Food Bank.

### *The Second Door Thrift Store*



The Outdoor Storage Facility was completed thanks to a total contribution of over \$33,000 raised by the Knights of Columbus Council #5726. The garage is heated, equipped with electrical for power and lights, and houses the forklift, tools, and other large items.



## *October 2012*

Phase 2 renovations began, with Jace Adams of Wesbridge Construction managing the project, and we battled through the season of giving (Thanksgiving – Christmas) while under construction.

During this month we also received the Better Business Bureau Ethics Award for the fourth time!

## *February 2013*

With the bulk of the renovations complete, we hosted the first ever workshop in our new kitchen suite. Food Banks Canada offered a Food Safety Course for area food banks in our brand new Education Room. TICCK classes also resumed, and we finally had the kitchen program and food bank back under one roof.

## *March 2013*

We received notice of our approval for \$25,000 from the New Horizons for Seniors Program to build a learning garden in an unused area just west of the building.

## *May 2013*

A Garden Committee was struck, and plans for the learning garden began to take shape!

## *May 27, 2013*

Interfaith hosted a second Grand-Reopening to show off the completion of Phase 2 renovations (new kitchen suite, expanded second level, and outdoor storage facility), and announce Phase 3 of Planting Roots, Growing Community – the development of the new Learning Garden.



## *June 2013*

The Food Bank was awarded the Excellence in Food Banking Award from Food Banks Canada as the top medium-sized food bank in Canada. Our executive director, Danielle McIntyre traveled to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to accept the award and attend the national conference.



## *August 2013*

The bulk of the garden project was now complete and kitchen classes were using fresh produce grown on site. Plans were also made to include a found objects garden and garden shed next season.

## *October 2013*

Once again, we took home the Better Business Bureau award, although the awards were structured differently this year. Interfaith was awarded the Torch Award in the Community Investors and Stakeholders category, and also received an honorable mention for our Management Practices.

## *October 24, 2013*

We hosted a Garden Harvest Celebration to show off the completed Learning Garden, thanking funders and contributors and partaking in pumpkin soup and roasted vegetables and harvest breads baked in our new forno oven.



## *January 2014*

Formal Sponsorship Options were developed and circulated to 4th Quarter donors with tax receipts. Several annual sponsorships are now offered for the Volunteer Program, The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen, Interfaith Learning Garden, Whoop Up Days Pancake Breakfast and Parade Float, and Friends of Interfaith Charity Dinner & Silent Auction. Sponsorships offer recognition levels in return for financial contributions.

## *February 2014*

The Premier of Alberta announced at the Cattle Producers Conference in Red Deer, that Interfaith would receive \$75,000 through the Community Initiatives Program to develop a Protein Pilot Project which will source meat from the livestock industry to be processed into ground product for food bank clients.

## *April 2014*

Interfaith received funding from Food Banks Canada to incorporate garden and outdoor cooking activities into kitchen classes. Additional funding also provided for program development of a new program, called Kids in the Kitchen for 7 – 10 year olds, and expanded programming for Young Chefs (10 – 13 years) and Big Chef Little Chef (pre-school and caregiver).

## *May 2014*

Interfaith Learning Garden was planted for the season with assistance from Telus employees through the Telus Day of Giving. Telus also provided \$5000 for the development of Learn and Grow Activity Totes for teachers and group leaders to use the garden for field trips.

## *June 2014*

A new garden shed was purchased with funds from ADM Cares.

## *July 10, 2014*

We celebrate 25 years of service to the community by offering another open house complete with tours of the food bank, thrift store, kitchen suite and learning garden.



## *October 2014*

We were honoured to receive, for the sixth time, a Better Business Bureau Business Ethics Torch Award. This time for our Management Practices. We also received Honorable Mention for our Community, Investor & Stakeholder Relations.



## *November 2014*

Interfaith Food Bank was selected as the local charity to benefit from Mealshare, a registered Non-Profit Society that works collaboratively with partner restaurants allowing customers to provide a meal for someone in need just by purchasing a meal of their own while dining out.



## *December 2014*

Interfaith Food Bank was selected as a Good Food Organization, one of the first 37 groups representing communities all across the country (only two in Alberta) all working together towards a healthy and fair food system.



## *May 2015*

We Co-hosted the Alberta Food Banks Provincial Conference and Annual General Meeting, which recorded the largest attendance and food banks represented in Provincial Conference history to date.



## *June 2015*

Several groups signed out the new Learn & Grow Activity Totes which include curriculum-connected lesson plans, materials, and tools necessary for educators and volunteers to lead interactive educational activities about water, soil, insects, and many other garden topics.

## *August 2015*

Interfaith began the Kitchen On-the-Go program which includes Train the Trainer workshops that teach agency staff and group leaders to recreate our cooking classes for their target clientele. Mobile Kitchen Totes are available to be signed out by those who complete the training.



## *September 2015*

Two giant pumpkins were grown (133lbs the biggest one) in the garden for Make A Wish Foundation pumpkin festival at the Greenhaven Garden Centre



## *October 2015*

We bid farewell to our tenant, West Winds Gymnastic Club. Interfaith would search for the next 10 months for a new tenant to rent the front half of our building.

## *December 2015*

Our website continued to be a great fund-raiser, as it incorporates the option for online giving, at the end of the year almost \$46,600 was contributed online – more than double our online donations in 2014. The addition of online giving options has proven to be beneficial for accepting credit card donations, monthly gifts, and donations of securities and/or investments.

## *January 2016*

With the troubling economic climate, we saw an extremely high increase in demand (up to 30% more people requiring services each month). For this reason we had to be able to do more with less and although it would be a strenuous year, we were able to continue what we do thanks to all of our community support.

## *February 2016*

We completed the grant funded Project Protein pilot project and were able to show success in our model for accepting livestock to be ground into protein for food bank distribution. The pilot program exceeded budget expectations in the grant application and provided food banks with more than 39,000 pounds of ground beef for food bank families.



## *August 2016*

At this point we decided to no longer look for a tenant to rent the front half of our building. Instead, we partnered with Food Banks Alberta to use a portion of our building as a food hub. The Southern Alberta Food Hub distributes food from regional and National Foodshare Systems to food banks within the network.

## *October 2016*

We launched a new program called FoodFit that brings people together to set goals, learn skills, and make measurable changes in overall health and fitness, with a focus on nutrition and exercise. Over 12 weeks, participants cook, learn about nutrition, and participate in physical activity.



## *December 2016*

An online campaign called the “Snowbal Effect” was able to raise over \$25,000 for us. This shows how important our online contributions have been in recent years and continue to be.

## *January 2017*

Our Board of Directors updated our Strategic Plan in 2017, and identified several goals we will work towards through to 2019.

We announced “Building Possibilities” a capital project that will see us expanding into the front half of the facility through 3 phases of construction.

We implemented Link2Feed, a cloud based client tracking program recommended by Food Banks Canada. This software allows us to track client demographics, movement between communities/food banks, and referrals to other community agencies.

## *June 2017*

Secured funding for Phase 1 “Access and Accessibility” which entailed connecting the two sides of the building; installing a wheelchair ramp and stairlift; as well as a second bay door and concrete driveway. Plans are to complete Phase 1 by the end of the year.



## *July 2017*

We started our annual art competition for students with cash prizes: 1st: \$300 2nd: \$200 3rd:\$100. This competition puts local youth talent to good work.

## *November 2017*

Thanks to funding through the 2017 Kitchen Creations Fund offered by Food Banks Canada and Unilever, Interfaith Food Bank offers Shop Smart and Collective Kitchen programs, free for community members. The class includes label reading, information about core nutrients and family meal planning, and wraps up with a grocery store tour for a demonstration on how to make a shopping trip budget friendly. Once participants have completed a Shop Smart session, they are eligible to attend Collective Kitchens programs. In a Collective Kitchen, participants plan a menu, grocery list, and prepare 5-7 days of meals together.



## *March 2018*

Interfaith was the beneficiary of the annual CANstruction event. The event had teams design and build structures out of cans of food. Over 43,000 cans were used which was more than double from the previous year!



## *April 2018*

We accepted over 17,000 pounds of food from the Feeding Furture Minds challenge. Seven elementary schools competed in the challenge in which all donations came directly to us.



## *November 2018*

Thanks to funding from Food Banks Canada and The Hershey Company, The Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen began offering Food Explorers Cooking Club, a skills-based healthy eating program for Canadian kids ages 7-12.



## *December 2018*

The Christmas Hope partnership was expanded in 2018 to add Lethbridge Family Services - Angel Tree, and My City Care - Shop of Wonders to the mix, joining Interfaith Food Bank, Lethbridge Food Bank and Salvation Army in service to our community.



Also, in December we installed our new cold storage unit which has drastically increased the amount of space we have to store fresh and frozen food.



## *January 2019*

Interfaith hosted the grand opening of the Co-op Community Kitchen to provide additional space for community programs and events. A big thank you the Co-op Community spaces program, Farm Credit Canada, Richardson Oilseed, Deluxe Granite, and the Government of Alberta for funding the project.



## *May 2019*

We were able to add a Wash Bay and Laundry Room to our warehouse thanks to funding from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund. This gave us the ability to wash large produce bins indoors.

## *June 2019*

The S.E.R.V.E. (Seniors Engaged in Rewarding Volunteer Experiences) committee worked with Interfaith Food Bank to create two new volunteer programs:

The Interfaith Food Recovery Program is intended to promote sustainable food consumption practice. Volunteers work together to repurpose and preserve surplus stock to extend the shelf life of donated food. These items can be included in our food hampers or used for fundraising.

The Helpful Hobbies program brings seniors and other community members together to socialize and use their hobbies to benefit others.

Participants sew, knit, or crochet to make items to be distributed to our community members in need, or sold for fundraising.



## July 2019

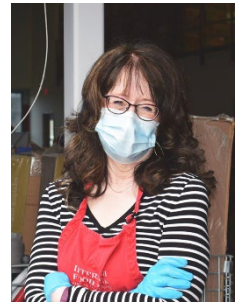
We celebrate 30 years of service to the community by offering another open house complete with tours of the food bank, thrift store, kitchen suites and learning garden.

Also in July, we were invited by Food Banks Canada to participate in the After the Bell Program which aims to bridge the gap created for school aged children when school nutrition programs end for summer. In two months, we distributed 2387 food packs to children in need.



## March 2020

Following the World Health Organization identifying the Covid- 19 Virus as a Pandemic, health regulations began impacting and greatly changing our day to day lives. The government of Alberta recognized food banks as an *Essential Service*, so our doors could stay open for our clients. Key Impacts of the pandemic included:



- A massive drop in volunteers, as most of our existing team are seniors, people with disabilities, or those more vulnerable to the virus.
- Halt to local events and fundraising activities that included gatherings.
- Major disruptions to the food supply chain and access to food, panic buying and hoarding
- Requirement to modify donation recruitment approach, and a shift to online giving options.
- Increased expenses for personal protective equipment, facility alterations to accommodate physical distancing and safety barriers, as well as janitorial costs and technology upgrades.

- Increased access to Covid-specific grant funding, and national campaigns raising funds to support those who lost jobs, had to isolate or quarantine, or could not provide for basic needs.
- Increased communication and collaboration among local support agencies; and cooperation with systems navigation, integrated and coordinated access and referrals.
- Incredible community response, offers of help, and creative ideas for problem solving.

## *April 2020*

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announces an investment of \$100 million to improve access to Canadians facing social, economic, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## *June 2020*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to host our annual Canada Day Charity Breakfast. In lieu, we created a BBQ in a Bag Fundraiser featuring a pre-made meal kit donors could bring home to celebrate in accordance with health guidelines.

## *July 2020*

We completed Phase 3 of the Building Possibilities capital project announced in 2017. By moving our client services to the front of the building, we almost tripled the space available for serving individuals and families in need and increased our capacity for hosting outreach programs with the addition of a Client Advocacy and Resource Room, and three more classrooms.



## *August 2020*

Interfaith Food Bank adopted the mandatory mask policy implemented by The City of Lethbridge to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

## *September 2020*

Our annual Charity Dinner & Silent Auction was adapted to an online city-wide dinner party format, in partnership with local restaurants, caterers and radio stations. Over \$26,000 was raised.

## *November 2020*

Mikado Electric makes a 5 year, \$100,000 commitment of support to the annual food purchase budget. As the founding sponsor of the Food Bank Guardian program, Mikado made long-term commitment to provides for the future of the food bank.



## *January 2021*

After a year of operating during a pandemic, we learned that a “new normal” would mean having to adapt, to be flexible, and to make do. The pandemic continued to wreak havoc on our operations and Covid Fatigue set in hard, but the spirit of our community kept us going. Never before have we had to ride so much on faith, but yet again, somehow, we made it through!



We saw a decrease in individuals accessing Emergency Food Assistance likely due to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Unfortunately at this time, vandalism and break-in's were at an all-time high. Responding to the need for heightened security, IFB installed lights and security cameras, and began nightly patrols of the property.

## *February 2021*

A virtual Tax Clinic was hosted to support clients and community members in getting the most out of their returns.

## March 2021

Interfaith Food bank hosted an Indigenous Immunization Clinic to provide a marginalized population with healthcare to prevent the spread of Covid -19.

## November 2021

Charity Intelligence named IFB as a 2021 Top 10 Impact Food Bank. We were selected based on our demonstrated impact per dollar donated.



## April 2021

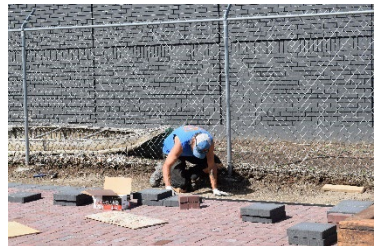
A new Strategic plan was unveiled, which our Board of Directors updated in 2020 and identified several goals to work towards over the following three years. In this process we identified four foundational pillars within our food bank, Administration & Governance, Operations, Service & Care, and Community Engagement & Public Education.

Our vision statement was updated to read; *In partnership with the community, Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge is a leader in alleviating hunger and its root causes.*

## May 2021

Food Bank employees were classified as “critical workers” and became eligible for the critical worker benefit, a one-time payment in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the Interfaith Learning Garden, a patio was added to make the space more functional for workshop and event use.



## *June 2021*

Together with multiple community support agencies, especially those that support the unhoused, we held our first City Wide Water Drive and our local food banks were able to recruit thousands of bottles of water to support community members during the summer heat wave.



The Client Advocacy position was added to our staff team. This employee will work in our newly added Resource Room, to make referrals to address underlying issues that lead to food insecurity.

The Food Recovery Program was able to resume transforming surplus foods into canned and baked goods while following social distancing protocol.

IFB upgraded to Internet phones, allowing multiple employees to use the phone line at one time.

Our Food Share Program was expanded to include rural partners, and both Rural and Urban Food Share Coordinators, were added to our staff team to manage this program.



In accordance with our updated Strategic Plan, we hired an external consultant to conduct a Human Resources Review. IFB was then provided with recommendations for efficient recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers.

## *July 2021*

Premier, Jason Kenny, lifts nearly all Covid-19 restrictions for Albertans, as key vaccination and hospitalization rates were achieved.

## *September 2021*

A fourth wave of Covid-19 hit Albertans, this time with the highly contagious Delta variant. This led to increased restrictions to once again stop the spread. The province announced a Restrictions Exemption Program, which allows businesses to be exempt from these restrictions provided that individuals 12 and older present proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test.



## *October 2021*

Interfaith Food Bank puts in place a mandatory vaccination policy for employees and volunteers to comply with the Restrictions Exemption Program.

A partnership was formed between Interfaith and Permanent Supportive Housing Consortium. These partners offer not just a place to stay and food on the table, but also help to connect their residents with the inner and outer resources needed to become empowered to live a full and independent life. We support their food security through our gleaning expertise and wholesale food sourcing.

## *December 2021*

Hobgoblin Holdings joined the Food Bank Guardians Program and made a pledge to provide Interfaith Food Bank with \$10,000 each year for 5 years. Food Bank Guardians ensure capacity for future services through substantial multi-year commitments.



## *January 2022*

The new organizational structure, as identified in the updated Strategic Plan, was implemented. This included four foundational pillars and updated job descriptions for all paid employees.

## *March 2022*

We welcomed the first phases of Pandemic Recovery as mask mandates were lifted, public gathering resumed, and we began to recount the lessons learned so we could be prepared for future public health crises. While we were still operating during the Pandemic, we began to move to the “New Normal”.

Interfaith Food Bank becomes the first certified Living Wage Employer in Lethbridge and joins the Alberta Living Wage Network.



## *April 2022*

The Empowered Filmmakers Masterclass was hosted for the first time in Lethbridge, and we were honored to offer our facilities for 25 Future Filmmakers to learn to produce their own short films. A total of **7 films** were produced in 5 days, and 2 participants received sizable grants to further their careers in film and storytelling.

## *June 2022*

We see food bank use rise back to pre-pandemic numbers following the discontinuing of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

## *September 2022*

The grand Opening of *Ih'taapiinii'mopainn'siimaan* (*Healing Garden*) offers a public space for community use and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as a public display of our community's shared vision in moving forward together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Together we will grow plants for food, medicine, and spiritual use, reconnecting to the land that sustains us all.



## *October 2022*

Halal Hampers were added to our current emergency food support offerings. Sharing culturally appropriate food allows us to serve our clients with dignity and respect. 322 Halal Hampers were distributed to community members between October and December.



## *November 2022*

IFB is proud to be named as a Top 10 Impact Food Bank by Charity Intelligence for the second year in a row.



Alberta was found to have the highest food insecurity rate in Canada. In response, the Government of Alberta announced \$10M in emergency funding for food banks.

## *January 2023*

From 2022 to 2023 we saw a continued increase in hamper distribution by 30% month over month, going from an average of 663 hampers a month to 850. The number of additional packages distributed also went up significantly. As our organization continued to grow so did the amount of people supporting us. More than 250 volunteers contributed 34,687 hours of service in 2023.

## *February 2023*

Taking advantage of the space available after relocating client services to the front of the facility, our North Warehouse underwent major renovations to create a new Food Share Office providing us with the space to coordinate our expanding operations.



## *April 2023*

An anonymous donor provided \$50,000 towards the purchase of an additional Food Share Van, expanding the Fleet that Feeds.



We hosted our first Get a Better Job Workshop series to teach our clients employable skills such as resume building and interview techniques.

## *June 2023*

Additional cabinetry was added to the Co-op Kitchen to expand storage and usable food preparation space, thanks to funding from Lethbridge Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.

## *September 2023*

We are proud to have been honored with a Reconciliation Champion Award by the City of Lethbridge for our efforts towards Reconciliation.



We share this award with the Indigenous leaders and partners that inspired us and partners that inspired us and hosted activities at our facility.

## *October 2023*

We are honored to be selected as a **2023 Top 100 Charity** and receive a **5-star rating from Charity Intelligence**. Interfaith Food Bank was selected for our financial transparency, reasonable overhead costs, and demonstrated impact.



## *November 2023*

We are humbled to be selected for a third time as a **2023 Top 10 Impact Food Bank by Charity Intelligence.**



## *December 2023*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints provided \$140,000 to assist us with the replacement of the aging coolers and freezer in our North Warehouse. In addition to being much more energy efficient, these new cold storage units have tripled our storage capacity and ability to accept and distribute more fresh and frozen food.



Interfaith Food Bank broke a new milestone by handling over 1,000,000 lbs of food in 2023.

## *January 2024*

Continuing work toward the Human Resource Review recommendations, health benefits were added to employee's total compensation package. This will assist with employee recruitment and retention.

## *February 2024*

To accommodate our growing staff team, the former volunteer room was converted into office space. The volunteer area was moved to the foyer, allowing us to also update the Donations and Administration area at the same time.



## *April 2024*

Our staff and Board of Directors are invited to participate in a traditional Indigenous Sweat Lodge. This was a crucial step toward understanding what it means to acknowledge the land we operate on, as well as deepen our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.



## *July 2024*

We celebrate 35 years of service to the community by offering another open house, complete with tours of the food bank, thrift store, kitchens, and gardens.

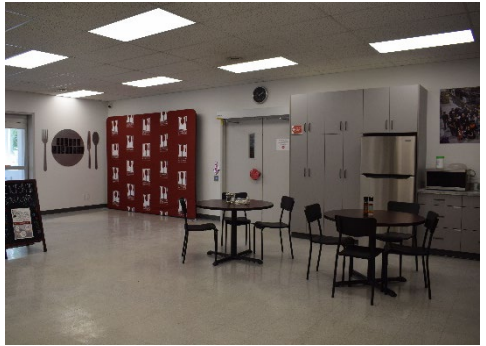


# *Then vs Now*

## *Client Intake*



## *Donations & Administration*



## *The Fleet That Feeds*



## *Warehouse*



## *South Warehouse*



## *Second Door Thrift Store*



# Interfaith Chinook Country Kitchen



# Interfaith Learning Garden



## Logos



# 2024 Staff



**Danielle McIntyre**  
*Executive Director*



**Neil Heaton**  
*Operations Manager*



**Amy Granger**  
*Donor Relations*



**Gladys Karanja**  
*Client Intake Supervisor*



**Bill Selles**  
*Volunteer Coordinator*



**Troy Tollestrup**  
*Warehouse Supervisor*



**Lisa Schalk**  
*Standards Admin Support*



**Mariam Ghali**  
*Client Advocacy*



**Myla Krippel**  
*Admin & Finance Assistant*



**Michelle Parry**  
*Food Share Coordinator*



**Taylor Doyle**  
*Marketing & Communications*



**Jessica Gelata**  
*Kitchen Facilitator*



**R.J.**  
*Food Access Coordinator*



**Aaron Fedunec**  
*Operations Support*



**Heidi Sommerfeld**  
*Summer Events Coordinator*



**Holden Fafard**  
*Summer Program Coordinator*



**Megan Miller**  
*Kitchen Coordinator (Family Centre)*



**Jocelyn Hill**  
*Early Childhood Educator (Family Centre)*



# 2024 Board of Directors



**Angela Wilde**  
*President*



**Sue Burrows - Johnson**  
*Past President*



**Sandra McGrath**  
*Vice-President*



**Keith Greeno**  
*Treasurer*



**Laurie Gibson**  
*Secretary*



**Kim Waterfield**  
*Director*



**Echo Novak**  
*Director*



**Blair Roth**  
*Director*



**Brittia Tonin**  
*Director*



**Rich Thiessen**  
*Director*



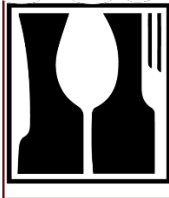
**Frank Onuh**  
*Director*

# Past Board of Directors

John Aberle | Elsie Alexander | Del Allen | Scott Barbour | Edward Berze | Sidney Black  
John Brett Carlson | Jock Carpenter | Eunice Comchi | Lloyd Currie | Ruth Daw  
Jeremy Debow | Anne De Walle | Vicki Diehl | Jerry Dirk | Mike Durrant | Airen Duran-Milne  
Maureen Ebel | Jennifer Elliott | Erin Feist | Austin Fennell | Jason Gibson | Jon Gittos  
Robin Goates Marshall Gourlay | Fred Gravel | Sue Griffiths | Geri Hecker | June Hepple  
Stephanie Heseltine | Tim Hironaka | Joe Huemer | Jan Huizing | Dawn Janecke  
Angie Jaremco | Mary Ellen Johnson | Jennifer Johnson | Jan Johnson | Ken Kissick  
Holly Kletke | Renate Kolibar | Cheri Komar | Bert Konynebelt | Penny Kwasny  
Carol Laycock | Michael Leusink | Jean-Claud Lessard | Brent Lloyd | Paddy Maclean  
Walter Marshall | Josh Martens | William Mathews | Alice Matisz | Doris McIntosh  
Eileen McIntyre | Colin Nemeth | Pat Nicholson | Gary Nickel | Cybele Noronha  
Darren Nii Martey Armah | Don Olson | Carol McLean | Arlene Paiha | Louise Peloquin  
Jessie Penner | Suzette Peters | Cal Poirier | Dan Price | Rosemarie Renwick | Paul Robinson  
Jacob Robinson | Shane Roest | Jan Roth | Louise Roziere | Shelly Shaw | Ches Skinner  
Frank Smerek | Geoff Stewart | Phil Story | Gordon Swanson | Lenard Tetzloff  
Doug Van Belle | Wendy Vanee | Casey Verschoor | Ron Viney | Rudy Zimmer

*In honour of the many community members who gave of themselves to build a society committed to recognizing the human dignity of those in need and providing food and access to services and resources generated from within our community.*

**35** *Years*



**INTERFAITH  
FOOD BANK**  
SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

*Serving our community for 35 years.  
1989-2024*

### **Stay connected...**

#### **Donations & Administration**

Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm

Ph: 403-320-8779

F: 403-328-0521

### **Client Services**

Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:45am

Monday-Thursday, 1:00-3:30pm

Ph: 403-320-8022



**[interfaithfoodbank.ca](http://interfaithfoodbank.ca)**

**[info@interfaithfoodbank.ca](mailto:info@interfaithfoodbank.ca)**

1103 3 Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H7