

S A S K A T O O N
FOOD BANK & LEARNING CENTRE

2012 Annual Report
April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

Message from Our Team

Often we hear organizations talk about the rate of change experienced over the last year in Annual Reports but I think I can say that the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre can rival those claims. Specifically, I would like to point out two gentlemen to whom we said good bye; Paul Merriman, CEO, and Neil Mihalicz, past Board Chair. Their efforts dramatically changed the way in which the organization developed and will shape the future of the SFBLC. I, along with the rest of the board, thank them for their outstanding service. With Paul's departure, we welcome Laurie O'Connor as the new Executive Director. Her expertise in community partnerships and knowledge of the issues surrounding poverty in this City are assets not easily found. It has been a pleasure to work with the staff and my fellow board members over this last year. Their dedication to the organization and to the people of Saskatoon have made this year as Board Chair incredibly rewarding.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors and volunteers for their contribution of time and/or resources. Your support makes it possible for the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre to operate in our community and continue to make a difference in the lives of Saskatonians.

Jeff Lindgren
Board Chair

This past year the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre has seen many changes. We have welcomed a new board chair and said farewell to our past Executive Director as he pursues a new career. With these changes we pause for reflection and embrace fresh opportunities for renewal.

I am pleased to have officially accepted the position of Executive Director for the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre. Having been with the organization for five years, I have had the privilege to dream big dreams, collaborate with our team and the community and forge lasting partnerships that make a difference in people's lives every day. I look forward to expanding our work even more to deepen awareness of underlying causes of poverty in our city and engage our wonderful, caring community in lasting solutions.

I would like to thank all of our supporters, our staff, volunteers, donors and community partners. It is because of you that we are able to envision a more equitable community where poverty and hunger do not exist.

We are deeply energized by a shift toward possibility and eager to engage more people as allies and champions for community wellness. And so, I welcome you to come to the food bank and have a visit, experience firsthand what we do and explore answers to the question we ask ourselves every day: "What is possible?"

Laurie O'Connor
Executive Director

What is Possible

At the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre **we believe in the power of community**, and that our hopes and dreams connect us all.

HOPES &
DREAMS



For some, reaching aspirations, pursuing dreams, and holding onto hope can be difficult. Without a roof over one's head or food in the cupboards, it's hard to meet life's everyday challenges.

Here at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre, we are thankful to have resources to offer support to people who just need a helping hand, whether it is food, clothing or learning opportunities. We are only the steward of such resources. It is because of the generosity of our friends and neighbours that we are able to provide this support.

Decreasing hunger and improving health in our community and province, is really about increasing opportunities, and offering people the chance to reach their hopes and dreams.

This year we asked visitors and volunteers to share their hopes and dreams for the future. We received candid and heartfelt responses. As we read through these comments, we were reminded once again that **"whatever the problem, community is the answer."**

Our Stories

Everyone has a story. Over the year we have had many opportunities to learn from visitors, volunteers, and supporters. Their stories inspire and connect us, and remind us that no matter what walk of life we come from, hope is always possible.

As we reflect on the past year, we would like to share some of the stories from people who are great examples of what possibility looks like. Each of our storytellers has inspired us in some way.

Mike's Story:

Staff Team Member, Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre

I moved from BC and pretty much decided to start a whole new life. A big thing that happened in my life is my dad passing – that made me want to do better. It made me look back and think I could do more for myself.

I started off in Melville then I worked my way out here. I got hired at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre through the Workforce Development Program. They helped me get my forklift training, WHMIS, First Aid and more. I went back to volunteer after my contract was done and now I have just been hired as a permanent full-time employee. I love the Saskatoon Food Bank because it keeps me out of trouble and it keeps me motivated. There's always something to do here, always something different. I love helping the community, that's for sure, because I was in the same situation and I know the Food Bank helps out in so many ways.

I have been at the Food Bank for a year and a half now and I have met a lot of people. People who come here are very understanding of how the Food Bank works and how we help the community. I like helping out and helping with the volunteers – we couldn't do anything without volunteers. I had a lady come up to me at the food drive and she asked me if we needed volunteers at the Food Bank. I told her how the Food Bank works and what we do here. She's probably going to come and bring some kids from school. I like talking with teachers and seeing how they like the food bank and how the kids do too. So that's part of my job too, is helping out with the community by letting people know more about how the food bank works.

I moved here to start a new life. And so far, it's great.



Audrey's Story:

Aboriginal Role Model Winner, Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre Practicum Student, Community Volunteer

My name is Audrey and I am of First Nations descent from the Thunderchild First Nation. I am a single mother of 3 boys. These boys are my motivation to succeed in life. It was because of them I decided to go back to school and get a university degree which in turn would give them a better life. I want them to have a world of opportunities and I want them to be able to approach whatever opportunity arises and to take the challenge. And by going to school, working and volunteering they are seeing that there is so much out there that can be achieved by being dedicated and determined.

I have known since about grade ten that I wanted to be a social worker and that I wanted to get my degree from the First Nations University (SIFC back then). But the Creator had a different plan for me. I ended up being a teen parent by the time I was 17. I graduated high school a year late, and started working right away so I could support my baby on my own. But because I had a baby I was very skeptical to leave our home in North Battleford to pursue my education in Saskatoon. So I ended up working and took an office administration course so I could at least get a decent job. Which I did, and I worked as a secretary and office clerk for the next 5 years. And by the end of 5 years I got tired of doing everything for everybody else. At this time I had also ended an abusive relationship.

And now here we are, I am in my third year of university doing my first practicum here at the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Center and I am so pleased with myself for not giving up when times get tough. And we all know that times do get tough, not only for people like me, but for everyone. Being here at the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Center has opened my eyes and I must say I am absolutely amazed at how this organization works. My first week here was completely exhausting, but great. I have met so many people from different community agencies which is so important in this type of career. The reason I chose to do my practicum here is because, as a single mother, I know what it is like to struggle, I know how hard life can be and so I want to try to help people who have these same struggles and I know the Saskatoon Food bank and Learning Center does this. I was mostly interested in the Learning Centre because I am really big on education and I enjoy encouraging those who are pursuing it because I know how scary it can be to take that step. I have met a few people in the Learning Centre this term that I have seen such great potential in and I really encouraged them to go on to complete their adult 12 and move into the University level. I tried to pass on whatever knowledge I could to them, I organized a tour of the First Nations University of Canada which was a great success, it opened up their eyes to see how easy it actually is. But my hope is for any one of them to follow their dreams and pursue their education.



Events



Canadian Tire Golf Classic

Every game is a winning game when you're playing for a good cause. The Canadian Tire Golf Classic brought 175 golfers from across the country to the greens to support learning programs at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre. This year the tournament raised \$120,000 to support learning programs.

The tournament has many unique features, which add to the entertainment value. Every hole has a fun activity and prizes in addition to the tee shot. The event is anchored by the annual Canadian Tire Dealers meetings held in Saskatoon.



Tree of Plenty Campaign

This year's Tree of Plenty Campaign was our most successful campaign to date. Kicking off November 15th and running until December 31st, the campaign raised almost \$390,000.

The Tree of Plenty Campaign goes far beyond food and fundraising and serves to ignite hope and bring an entire community together. We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of community members, who came by to volunteer, drop off financial and food donations, and learn more about what they can do to support their community.

Whether the gift was time, ten dollars or ten thousand dollars, whether it was one can of soup or a semi-load of food, each person's thoughtfulness made a difference in someone's life.



Food Basket Challenge

The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre participated in a collaborative, multi-agency awareness campaign called the Food Basket Challenge. Several high-profile Saskatoon residents were challenged to live for one week on the contents of a food basket, plus a meager food budget of just \$5. Throughout the week the Food Basket Challenge participants shared their experiences living on a "food bank diet" in the media and on a blog site.

As the participants shared stories, thousands of people followed along and contributed their own deeply personal insights. The powerful conversation connected people from all walks of life and touched on the root issues contributing to poverty.



PotashCorp Holiday Season Matching Campaign

Over the holiday season PotashCorp challenged the people of Saskatchewan to give generously, and in turn they would match each and every dollar donated to food banks in this province. Their matching campaign inspired waves of generosity in communities across Saskatchewan and reminded an entire province that together, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary results. In total, over \$2.4 million dollars was raised to help make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people in Saskatchewan.



Annual Food Drive

The Annual Food Drive far exceeded expectations with a record number of food donations coming from all areas of the city. A key factor in the success of the day was the dedication of more than 500 volunteers who canvassed door-to-door throughout the city collecting bags of food donations. In total approximately 99,000 lbs. of food was collected to support hungry families in Saskatoon.

Building Community

Our Programs & Services



For over a decade the **Literacy to Pre-Employment Program** at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre has been demonstrating that literacy is a powerful tool for social change by effectively empowering people to break the cycle of poverty and reach their aspirations.

The Program was designed to “meet learners where they’re at” in an inclusive, welcoming and safe classroom environment. Program facilitators encourage participants to upgrade their skills and embrace a philosophy of lifelong learning. As such, the Literacy to Pre-Employment Program is an excellent starting point for many individuals who have been out of school for a number of years and who have difficulty finding employment due to interruption in educations or underdeveloped comprehension skills.

Families need healthy food in order to build healthy lives. We make it a priority to supply healthy, high quality food for people forced to turn to us in a time of crisis. The **Garden Patch** is an innovative partnership with the City of Saskatoon to grow food on vacant municipal land. The Garden Patch, located on the 900 block of 3rd Ave South, is

the first urban agriculture initiative of its kind in our city. Volunteers are the driving force of this community project, including lead volunteers Larry Mullen and Milton Taylor, whose energy and passion have inspired many people to get involved.

In just two years the Garden Patch has produced over 28,000 lbs. of fresh food for hungry families and individuals. It's given people the opportunity to learn new skills, and most important of all, it's helped build a healthier community for all.

Every person has a right to food. We continue to work to ensure that each and every member of our community has access to food during periods of crisis. Our **food programs** assist anyone in Saskatoon and area with 2 to 3 days of emergency food once every two weeks. We strive to provide the most nutritious, quality food possible. Generous financial donations to our **Milk for Children** program have made it possible to include one litre of fresh milk to children and pregnant and nursing women in their food baskets. We've also supported more than 60 agencies and community schools with the food resources they need to provide programs and services that help make our community stronger.

This year approximately 30,000 customers visited the **Clothing Depot** to access basic necessities, such as clothing, toiletries and household supplies. For the a nominal charge of just \$2.00 families can purchase three sundry items and a large bag of clothing.

The **Workforce Development Program**, now in its second year, provided 26 participants with an opportunity to gain valuable hands-on training and work experience. They received a variety of skills-building workshops and training to help them secure permanent employment, such as forklift training, First Aid and Safe Food Handling. (See “Mike’s Story” on page 3 for more information)



Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre. Hundreds of **volunteers** donated their time and expertise over the year. In total, over 14,000 hours of volunteer and community services were contributed - the equivalent of \$ 241,000 in salaries and benefits. We continue to value service learning partnerships and offer work placement opportunities.

Collaborations

We believe collaboration is one of the keys to achieving impact and creating change. Collaborating with partner organizations increases the richness and diversity of programs and services and strengthens relationships across our community.

Collaborative programs in the **Community Kitchen** focus on developing meal preparation skills and healthy lifestyles. Many of the foods used are those that would be typically offered in a food basket. Programs include Live Well with Chronic Conditions, the Aim 4 Health Food Experience, and Collective Kitchens.

Aim 4 Health is a community outreach diabetes program of the Saskatoon Health Region which provides education about diabetes prevention and care. The interdisciplinary team instructs participants in meal preparation and diabetes prevention. Classes are held weekly in the Community Kitchen between September and June and are open to the public. Dietitians also provide on-one-on nutritional counseling throughout the year to interested individuals.

The **Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparation** program at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre has been operating for over 20 years. Each year they help thousands of people with low income and simple tax situations to complete their tax returns. This program injects over six million dollars into the economy each year through income tax credits and benefits.

For almost five years Catholic Family Services has been providing no-cost **counseling services** at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre to residents of the core neighbourhoods in Saskatoon. This year clinical counseling and mental health support was provided to 421 clients.



Messages From Our Learners

"My mother, brother and sisters, we were like a closed fist opened. For a long time, our life was dark, sad, and scary. Now my life is calm. There is a ray of light shining on me."

"My past experience in school was very rocky. I had a hard time growing up. I got pregnant at the age of 18, and now, I want to get back to school for myself and my kids. I want them to know that school is very important in life. I know I will have a hard time but I'm not going to give up on myself."

"I had dropped in and out of school since grade 7. I had always made up excuses not to go. It was either my kids are too young or I'm just not ready. But my kids are old enough, and there should be no reason anymore. I need an education to reach my goals. Just to be in this program is giving me a heads up."

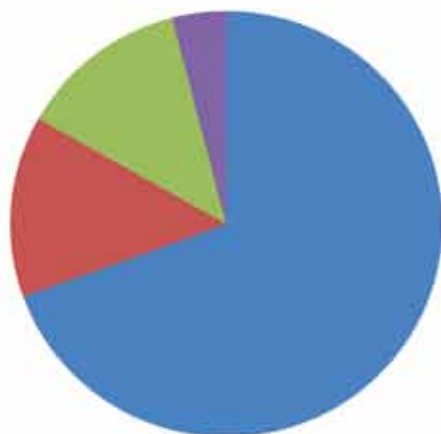
"It always makes me feel good to wake up to a beautiful day, cloudy or not, and coming to the Learning Centre".

"It gives me a lot of pleasure to meet people who have shared the same experience in life I've lived and struggled with. It makes me feel I am not alone in the struggles of a very fast pace of life. It is never too late to learn how to live healthy and safe."

- Program participants, Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre

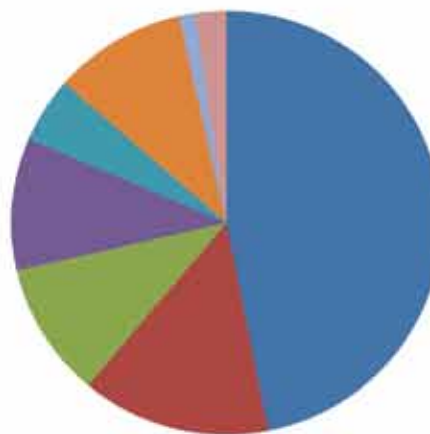
Numbers

Revenue



Donations	69 %
Grants	14 %
Fundraisers	13 %
Earned Income	4 %
TOTAL:	\$1,593,443.38

Expenses



Wages & Benefits	47 %
Programs	14 %
Admin & Operations	10 %
Food Purchases	10 %
Warehouse & Maintenance	10 %
Clothing Depot	5 %
Fundraising	2 %
Advertising	1 %
TOTAL:	\$1,370,974.71

Audited Financials Available on Request

Goods Distributed (kg)

Total Food Distributed	808,497
Food to Community Agencies	35,073
Food to Community Schools	9,367.5
Food to Other Food Banks	24,386
Non-Food Items	41,150

Food Baskets

Total Baskets Requested	66,206
Requests from Adults	90,657
Requests from Children	67,095

Board of Directors

Jeff Lindgren – Chair
 Quinton Osatchuk – Vice Chair
 Earl Foster – Treasurer
 Blake Rooks
 Colin Clay
 Gail Hendry
 Linda Guedo

Lynn Evans
 Matt Leisle
 Michael Maurice
 Sandra Schofield
 Sumith Kahanda
 Yvonne Tessier

Our Supporters

The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre receives no core funding from any level of government. The work we do to build our community is made possible in large part thanks to our generous and committed sponsors and the many individuals who donate food and funds.

We thank each and every person who has supported the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre with their time or funds. Truly, these gifts add up to a wealth of opportunity for some of our community's most vulnerable members.



All Fab Building Components
Alliance Energy
Brownlee Family Foundation
Canadian Pacific Railway
Canadian Tire
CBC
Cherry Insurance
Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
City of Saskatoon (Property Tax Abatement)
Concorde Group
Conexus Credit Union
Costco
CTV
Dakota Dunes Community Development
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E & E Farms
Edge Transport
El Rancho Food and Hospitality
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Scribblinz Studios
Shaw Communications
Sobeys
Starbucks
Strawberry Ranch
Stuart Olson Dominion Construction
Super Save
Superstore
Supreme Steel
TD Bank
The Churches of Saskatoon
Tierra Del Sol
United Way of Saskatoon (Milk for Children Program)
University of Saskatchewan
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Thank You