

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

2011 Annual Report

Chief Executive Officer Report

This has been the most exciting year in my four years at the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre.

We have seen the community at the corporate, civic, faith based, and the individual level step up to assist us in meeting the needs of our clients, learners and volunteers.

The Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre received its largest corporate donation on January 27th from Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan of \$425,000. This was part of a \$1,000,000 donation for all of the Food Banks in Saskatchewan. These funds were distributed based on usage of all of the food banks throughout the province. Our Tree of Plenty campaign was again the most successful in our history. We received over 216,756.75 kgs of food and \$291,870.38 raised in our six week Christmas campaign.

We continue to focus on nutritious food for our food hamper program. This allows people the right to access QUALITY food at our doors. It is important to ensure all people have access to nutritious food.

The community in conjunction with the City of Saskatoon is now growing fresh food on vacant city lots. This has been a tremendous success for us as they have turned unproductive land into a garden for our clients.

I consider myself a very lucky person to be able to work with great staff, a very supportive Board and most importantly to work for those in need in Saskatoon.

Paul Merriman

Programs

We work collaboratively with numerous community based organizations to deliver programs and services that meet the aspirations of community members in Saskatoon and surrounding area.



This year 23 adults graduated from the 15-week **Literacy to Pre-Employment Program** with improved basic literacy, numeracy and computer skills. The warm and inclusive classroom environment has supported the learners on their journey to employment or additional schooling.

Making sure we have healthy food has always been a priority for us. This year we invested in **Urban Agriculture** and formed the first partnership with the City of Saskatoon to grow

food on vacant municipal land. The Potato Patch Garden (pictured on next page) yielded over 16,000 lbs of fresh produce and sparked countless conversations about the importance of urban food production.

We continue to ensure that each and every member of our community has access to nutritious food during periods of crisis. Our **food hampers** include one litre of milk for children and pregnant and nursing women, infant formula when requested and a supply of 2 to 3 days of nutritious food. 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.

The **Clothing Depot** provided 26,000 customers with clothing, toiletries, toys and household items for a nominal charge – for just a toonie customers can buy a large bag of clothing and three other sundry items.

Sometimes people just need a break. We designed the **Workforce Development Program** as an opportunity for people with significant barriers to employment to gain valuable work experience and hands-on training. Over the year 40 people were employed on short term contracts and were offered a variety of skills-building workshops to help them get permanent employment, such as forklift training or First Aid & CPR.



Photo courtesy Imagery Photography

Hundreds of **volunteers** have donated their time and expertise. In total over 16,500 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

Identification clinics and services have been provided to over five hundred individuals through **Project ID** - a community-driven initiative that offers support to individuals who require assistance in accessing formal identification. Numerous agencies and organizations have collaborated on this project based out of the Learning Centre.

The **Community Kitchen** was utilized by several partner agencies to offer cooking and life skills programs for members of our community. Programs include Live Well With Chronic Conditions, the Aim 4 Health Food Experience, and Collective Kitchens.

The **Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparation** program at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre celebrated its 20th year helping people with low income and simple tax situations to complete their tax returns. The receipt of income tax credits and benefits injects millions of dollars into the economy each year.



In partnership with **Catholic Family Services** a clinical counselor provided over 230 sessions of clinical counseling services at no-cost to low-income community members, offering immediate and continuous counseling and support.

Featured Project

Bringing Our Families to the Table: "It's about community building, not just community helping."

Throughout the year we've worked collaboratively on the Bringing Our Families to the Table Project – an initiative to give each member of our community a seat at the table in a dignified environment where everyone is welcome to exchange ideas and experiences.

Using a model of collaborative community engagement we have equipped our Learning Centre with infrastructure and resources to support the mandates of numerous community based agencies throughout Saskatoon's core communities. By partnering with other community based organizations we are able to provide increased learning opportunities for community members and decrease overhead operating costs.

Our upgrades include:

- **Kids Play Kitchen** - A space for short-term child minding and family nutrition programs. Kids can learn about nutrition interactively using the play kitchen and learning resources
- **Community Building Room** – a space for community groups to meet and plan. It's equipped with the technology and resources they need to do their work
- **Community Kitchen** – A place where community members can cook and engage with each other. Programs include food preparation, diabetes management and collective kitchen partnerships.
- **Shared Office Space** – Five cubicles and four offices were built to support joint program initiatives, such as clinical counseling and income tax preparation.



Events

Tree of Plenty



This year's Tree of Plenty Christmas Campaign raised 216,756.75 kg of food and **\$291,870.38** in just six weeks.

Canadian Tire Golf Classic



The annual Canadian Tire Golf Classic is the single largest fundraiser for our Learning Centre. This year it raised **\$128,707.94** to support programs and services.

Milk For Children



Various events for the Milk for Children Program, including Bob Pringle's Karaoke-A-Thon, raised **\$13,838.17**.

Annual Food Drive



Over one hundred volunteers mobilized to canvas the city door-to-door for food donations. The Food Drive raised almost **20,000 kg** of food in just one day!

Our Stories

Pauline's Story: "If you have it in you to dream, you have it in you to succeed"

My name is Pauline and I am a First Nations woman from Muskoday First Nation. I am a single Mother of three and am proud to say I would do anything to feed, clothe and nurture my children. I come from a dysfunctional home but have always known right from wrong when it comes to raising my children. Right from the young age of 5 yrs, I told my best friend that when I have babies, I will do anything to make sure they go to bed with a full tummy and a nice warm bed to sleep in (something the both of us didn't have). And that is exactly what I still stand by today. Each and every night when I go to sleep, I give thanks for all of our blessings, good health and that the Creator protects us and keeps us close.

When my youngest child turned 4 years old, I decided to go back to school and get a diploma in Business. I wanted to show my kids "If you have it in you to dream, you have it in you to succeed". Before I decided to go back to school, I heard a new integrated resort was in talks of opening in 2007.

So while I was taking classes for an Administration Assistant Diploma we would take evening drives to the construction site. I would tell my kids, "Look kids, this is where Mommy's going to work". All they would say is, "Awesome!"

I graduated from the Administrative Assistant Diploma Program in June 2007. My big day to graduate was here so I dressed myself and my kids up in formal wear. I was so proud of myself, and so proud that I succeeded to show my kids the steps on how to go after your dreams.

Now it was time to go job hunting. Being that my motto is, "I would do anything to feed, clothe and nurture my children", I would still visit the Saskatoon Food Bank when groceries started to get scarce for us. I will never forget that special day in January of 2009. I was waiting inside the Food Bank for my number to be called when these two ladies asked me if I wanted to have some lunch while I waited for my number. Then they asked me if I was interested in joining their "Job Finding Club" here at the Food Bank's Learning Center. "A twist of fate is what I call it". It brought a smile to my face and a sigh of relief.

I gave them all of the information about myself that they needed to enrol me into their program. Then another "Twist of Fate" was set in front of me. They told me, "You know Pauline, actually there's a program that just started today in the Learning Centre called the "LEAP" program (Learn Explore Achieve Plan), if you're interested in taking it?" This is when I met one of my closest, down to earth, give you her shirt off of her back kind of friend, Trina Kaal, the Program Coordinator. The program was for sixteen weeks, which would give us two job placements of our choice and a number of other awesome trainings that would actually be put to good use.

I asked to be placed at the resort for both of my job placements. The first day I started my job placement, I knew it was the place and company I wanted to have a career with. I love my job and look forward to coming to work every day. I have been employed with this company since June 23, 2009 and plan on retiring from there.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of sharing "My Story" with you.

Sincerely,
Pauline Umpherville



The Potato Patch Story : “We’re not just growing potatoes; we’re growing a community that makes food a priority.”



Before ...

Photo courtesy Imagery Photography

It all started with one very determined community member, Milton Taylor. He was tired of looking out the window of his downtown business at empty lots across the street that sat vacant, filled with weeds and trash. He thought the land could be put to better use.

Milton came to the staff at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre with an idea to grow potatoes on the vacant lots. We thought

it was a great idea, there was just one problem –it had never been done before. The land was owned by the City and there were rules and policies that would get in the way of this “no-brainer” proposition. We didn’t think it made sense.

It turns out the City didn’t think it made much sense either. And so, in the spring of 2010 Saskatoon City Council voted to permit urban food production on municipal land and the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre became the very first organization to enter into a Garden Site Agreement with the City of Saskatoon.

Within a few months the weeds and trash were gone, and in their place grew a remarkable garden producing fresh and nutritious food for our community.

The community came together to support the garden from the first turn of the soil to harvesting the yields. “Gardening Angel” volunteers maintained the crops and Food Bank clients rallied to help package and distribute the produce.

At the end of the growing season over 16,000 lbs of fresh produce went back to the community who need it most through distribution to community schools and in food bank hampers.

For those involved it became clear early on that the Potato Patch was about much more than just growing potatoes. The true success of the Potato Patch was the community it brought together, the conversations it cultivated, and opportunities it represents for urban food production.

After.

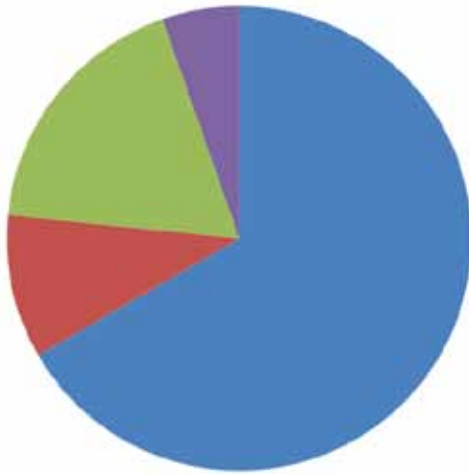


Photo courtesy Imagery Photography

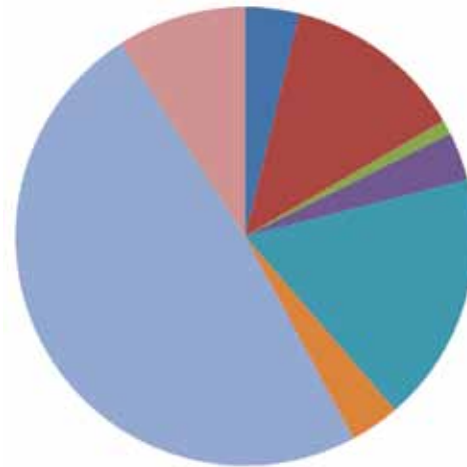
Statistics & Financials

Financials

Audited Financials Available on Request



Donations	67%
Grants	18%
Fundraisers	10%
Earned Income	5%



Wages & Benefits	49%
Programs	18%
Administration & Operating	13%
Food Purchases	9%
Clothing Depot	4%
Warehouse & Maintenance	3%
Advertising & Community Relations	1%
Fundraising	3%

Numbers of usage

Goods Distributed (kg)

Total Food Distributed	1,014,279
Food to Community Agencies	30,057
Food to Community Schools	6,132
Food to Other Food Banks	24,378
Non-Food Items	31,232

Food Hampers

Total Hampers Requested	64,930
Requests from Adults	87,963
Requests from Children	64,908

Board of Directors

Neal Mihalicz – Chair
 Lyle McDonald – Vice Chair
 Earl Foster – Treasurer
 Blake Rooks
 Colin Clay
 Gail Hendry
 Jeff Lindgren
 Linda Guedo

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

Major Funders

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 one for their participation in our community.



Canadian Tire
CBC
City of Saskatoon (Property Tax Abatement)
Community Initiatives Fund (Project ID and Bringing Our Families to the Table Project)
Costco
CTV
Dakota Dunes
Edge Transport
Extra Foods
Fresh Pak
Imagery Photography
J&H Builders
Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon

Les & Irene Dube
Lesia Design
Loraas Disposal
Maple Leaf
Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (Literacy Pre-Employment Program; Workforce Development Program)
North Ridge Developments
PotashCorp
Prairie Meats
Rawlco Radio
Rosenau Transport
Rotary Club of Saskatoon
Safeway
Saputo
Saskatoon Blades
Saskatoon Community Foundation
Saskatoon Co-op
Saskatoon Star Phoenix
Shaw Communications
Sobeys
Starbucks
Super Save
Superstore
TD Bank
The Churches of Saskatoon
United Way of Saskatoon (Milk for Children Program)
Westco
Yanke Group of Companies

