

FALL 2024

“Thank you for your Thanksgiving note. Speaking about Thanksgiving traditions, my family do not have one, but I adopted a practice to give to your organization to practice my Christian faith during this season of giving and thanks.”

– message from a YSM donor, after receiving our Thanksgiving email



9,903
meals served during
the Thanksgiving
season

10,860
bags of groceries
distributed at our
Food Bank

Your generous and committed giving makes all we do possible. Thank you for ensuring struggling Toronto neighbours had a special meal and community connection this Thanksgiving!

YSM'S FOOD BANK: Addressing hunger in the community

At Yonge Street Mission our primary focus is to ensure community members feel supported and can receive relief when they need it. Given the current economy, food insecurity has never been more pressing in our city. Too many neighbours in need are dealing with unaffordable housing, un- or under-employment and insufficient social assistance programs. Global inflation has also increased prices of food and most goods, adding to pressure on those who are struggling, as well as on YSM's Food Bank and its limited resources.

Our Food Services, including meal programs and our Food Bank, offer neighbours access to nutritious foods and basic household supplies, and offer relief in ways that reaffirm each visitor's worth and dignity. How meals are offered changes according to the population being served - youth attend drop-in meals at our Evergreen Centre for Vulnerable Youth, and adults experiencing long-term poverty can benefit from our Bridges Community Services' take-away and community meals.

Wherever accessed, these programs help provide relief, a sense of belonging and let community members in need know they are cared for, and support is available, whatever their needs. We believe access to nutritious food is a right for all, regardless of socio-economic status.



Record numbers of Toronto neighbours are now relying on food banks like YSM's to sustain themselves and their families.

YSM's Food Bank offers such varied items as dairy products, meat, starches and grains, fresh produce and non-perishable goods to all community members turning to us for food support.

We have implemented a grocery store model, which allows community members to select the items most needed by their household, and that reflect their preferences and typical diet. For these reasons, our Food Bank has become a popular one in our community, now representing 40% of all households accessing food banks in the downtown Toronto east area.

Our dignified and relational approach offers more than just food: it provides connection, and community, as part of our **RISE** - Respond, Invite, Support and Engage

- model of care. As an essential aspect of the wrap-around care YSM offers which seeks to move people from surviving to thriving, it helps create pathways for community members to overcome the barriers keeping them trapped in hardship. Our vision is to end long-term poverty in Toronto in one generation, and that journey often starts with either a meal or a visit to our Food Bank.

Our essential services, and the growing numbers of Toronto neighbours they support, would not be possible without your kind and committed giving - we are so grateful for all you do!

As a valued TO.gether Team donor, we hope if you have questions or needs, you will reach out to Akudo by email at aanyanwu@ysm.ca or by calling her at (437) 255-5452.