

**Stratford Rotary Club
Food Bank Funds
Yearly Funding Report
The Local Community Food Centre
Stratford, Ontario**

SUMMARY: In December 2017, The Stratford Rotary Club, granted The Local Community Food Centre \$36,000 (\$1,000 per month) to provide fresh, wholesome food to the area food banks. The grant is to be disbursed over 3 years.

This is the second 3 year commitment made by the Stratford Rotary Club to address the identified need to increase access to fresh, healthy food for Stratford's six food banks.

The need was identified in 2010 through various factors that included, but was not limited to; discussions with the food banks, the Perth County Food Security Coalition, consultations with low income community members, and initial leadership of the United Way of Perth-Huron. In fact, one of the earliest visions during the creation of The Local was to ensure a healthy food distribution service for food banks (called the "Storehouse") would exist.

This report covers the time period of December 1, 2017 – November 30, 2018

Food Banks and Allocations:

➤ St. Vincent de Paul	13%
➤ House of Blessing	43%
➤ Avondale United	6%
➤ Salvation Army	23%
➤ St. Paul's Anglican	5%
➤ St. James Anglican	10%

Note: Allocations are based on the size and level of service offered by each food bank. The Local Community Food Centre does not dictate or restrict how each food bank governs itself or runs its services. Our role is to ensure that they have as much fresh produce as possible for the dollars they have designated to them through this program.

Break down of use:

Recipient	Amount of Monthly Allotment	Frequency of Usage	Total Allocation over 12 Months	Only uses funds allotted	Purchases more than funds allow for; uses allotment to augment cost
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 130.00	weekly	\$ 1,560.00		X
House of Blessing	\$ 430.00	Monthly biweekly	\$ 5,160.00	X	
Avondale United	\$ 60.00	weekly	\$ 720.00		X
Salvation Army	\$ 230.00	weekly	\$ 2,760.00		X
St. Paul's Anglican	\$ 50.00	yearly	\$ 600.00	X	
St. James Anglican	\$ 100.00	weekly	\$ 1,200.00		X
TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 12,000.00		

Because each food bank tracks data differently, and some more than others, it is difficult for us to get specific numbers regarding clients. We cannot accurately report on how many *unique* households or individuals have been assisted.

Food bank	Number of household visits to foodbanks over 12 months	Number of individuals assisted	Number of Adults	Number of Children
St. Vincent de Paul	1,073	1,982	1,424	558
House of Blessing	3,420	6,954	4,405	2,549
Avondale United	616	720	616	104
Salvation Army	2,026	4,395	unknown	unknown
St. Paul's Anglican	840	unknown	unknown	Unknown
St. James Anglican	1,584	unknown	unknown	unknown
	12,862			

TESTIMONIALS

"Rotary funds assist us to purchase locally produced, fresh produce and meat which contributes to our mandate of providing healthy food choices at our food bank."

~ Carol Anne Doughty; Avondale United Church

"The rotary funds have allowed us to increase the amount of fresh food that we distribute to our members. We spend in excess of the grant amount so the grant allows us to maximize our budget."

~ Barry Clarke; Salvation Army

"The Rotary Funds have positively impacted our spending. These funds have allowed us to augment our offering of fresh fruit and vegetables to our clients."

~ Dave O'Reilly; St Vincent de Paul

OTHER THINGS OF NOTE

The Rotary grant has created a conduit for The Local Community Food Centre to work more closely with our community food banks. We continue to get referrals to our services and have spent some time with Food Bank personnel at their facilities.

What we are particularly encouraged by is the enhanced relationship with House of Blessing. In times gone by the communication between our organizations was tense. It was difficult to determine where we each fit into the equation of the food security issue. Through continued dialogue and interactions between the two executive directors, a cordial and supportive rapport has been developed - so much so that we are partnering to provide a workshop in the spring of 2019 that will be led by Libro Credit Union. We believe it will be the first of many projects we will engage in together.

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Swan".

Debra Swan, Executive Director;

The Local Community Food Centre