



Newsletter

Summer 2024

Serving our Community for 4 years

It's hard to believe that we've been fighting hunger in Bloor West, Swansea, High Park, the Junction and Rockcliffe Smythe for 4 years. Time has flown by as the number of clients has risen from 8 families in our first week in August 2020 to an average of 310 in recent weeks. We are humbled by the ongoing and increasing support from our neighbourhood community members and businesses, and while we wish our services weren't necessary, we are honoured to serve our clients each and every week.



Student volunteers Edison and Gavin.



Volunteers Laura, Wendy, Peter and Carolyn receiving recognition for their long term service to the food bank.



Volunteers Kevin, Marie, Ken and Marion working hard to serve our clients.



Thank You Volunteers!

Early in the New Year, we invited volunteers to join us at Baka Cafe for a night of tasty appetizers, drinks and appreciation awards for our longest standing volunteers. Thanks to Peter, Moira, Laura, Wendy H, Wendy L, and Carolyn for their commitment to our food bank from day one in August 2020!

We also want to extend a big thank you to our summer students! We couldn't run the food bank without our summer influx of young people wanting to help.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers - young and old - for the unique perspectives each of you bring to our operations each and every week.



Coming Events

September 5 - 2nd Annual Theatre Event!

Get ready to laugh out loud at the Village Players' uproarious show of Neil Simon's play RUMORS on Sept 5, 2024 at the Village Playhouse and raise money for a good cause.



Tickets to this special performance are just \$35 and ONLY available through Eventbrite - <https://bwfb-theatre2024.eventbrite.ca> or through the Bloor West Food Bank.

October 19/20 - Run or Walk with Us!

Join the Bloor West Food Bank Team at the TCS Toronto Marathon weekend and raise funds to support our work! **Run or walk the 5K**, or take it a big step further and sign up for the **half or full marathon**.



Even if you aren't a runner or walker, you can still support our efforts by donating to the team at the TCS Community Fundraising website.

Contact us for more information about how to join our team!

Recognized at Queen's Park



In early March, our 3 Food Bank Coordinators - Karen Allmen, Maggie Galloway and Mary Anne Waterhouse - were honoured in the Ontario Legislature by Bhutla Karpoche, MPP for their ongoing volunteering and leadership as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Mark spends his days off helping us at the Bloor West Food Bank. Rain or shine, for 2 years now, he's helped to unload Thursday's delivery trucks and to organize and distribute the food bags on Fridays.



Ruth started volunteering at the food bank in March and hasn't missed a day since! Her warmth, enthusiasm, initiative, work ethic and willingness to try any job makes her a wonderful new addition to our team!

Thank you Mark and Ruth!

Youth Raising Awareness

Tilly organized a cereal box food drive at her school in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. 400 cereal boxes were gathered and shared between us and the Daily Bread Food Bank. Before being donated, the cereal boxes were used at the school as a domino course to show spirit towards helping the community. Tilly's leadership and compassion embody the spirit and impact of the domino effect.



Community Support



Runnymede United Church has been making and delivering over 200 servings of homemade vegetable soup since early in 2024. We are so grateful for this partnership and our clients love the soup!

Thank you to **Bloor West Village BIA** for their financial support and always promoting our work at their neighbourhood events including Santa in the Village, Easter in the Village, Jane's walk and movie nights.



BWFB volunteers Judith and Jennifer at the Santa in the Village BIA event.



Sharon, from Collected Joy putting up her sponsorship sticker.

Thanks to **Collected Joy** and **Sweet and Elegant** in Bloor West and **Hacienda** in the Junction who have each held fundraisers and donated a portion of their sales to our food bank.

The Body Shop and **Bloor West Dental** each held toiletries drives and donated many boxes of much needed soap, shampoo, dental care and other supplies for our clients.



Staff from the Body Shop Bloor West with the results of a successful toiletry drive.

Contact Us!

For more information about our work, to volunteer or to arrange a food donation:

info@bwfb.ca

www.bwfb.ca

Thank you to all of our Supporters!



Toronto Police Service "Pack a Patrol Car" event with St. Pius X Catholic School.



Thanks to Sweet and Elegant on Windermere for their Easter fundraiser!



Maggie and Dani from Ruffin's Pet Centre with load of donated pet food.



The 85th Beaver Scouts made signs and held an amazing food drive to support us!

St. Pius X Catholic Church
Rotary Club of Parkdale High Park Humber
Cobs Bread Bakery
The Grumpy Gourmet
Meaty Eats Bloor West
Runnymede United Church
Ruffin's Pet Centre
Bloor West Village BIA
St. Olave's Anglican Church
Nicholson's No Frills
Royal LePage Bloor West
Crocker Web Design
St. Pius X Catholic School
Runnymede Public School
Humber College Institute
St. Pius X Catholic Women's League
Church of St. Martin's in the Fields
West Toronto KEYS to Inclusion
85th Toronto Scouts
Nature's Path
Sweet and Elegant
Collected Joy
Hacienda
The Body Shop
MAD Elevator Inc.
Iliso of Canada
The Coffee Boutique
Acart
Fresh Avenue
Bloor Meat Market
Bloor West Dental
Capucci Salon and Spa
Red Label Hair Company
JC Salons
Bluestein Charitable Foundation
Cheese Boutique
Keller Williams
BMO
Snappers
Sport Chek Stockyards
Capital One
Bank of Montreal
Wiseacre Rentals



Jenny from Bloor West Dental (with volunteer Viv) delivers toothpaste and other toiletries.



Thanks to Fresh Avenue for their frequent donations!



Angela from the Bloor West BIA presents Maggie and Karen with a cheque supporting our work.



Charlene, Kasper, Judith and Vida at our Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Thank you to our volunteers and the many individuals who have donated funds and food to support our efforts.



**Daily Bread
Food Bank**



saintpiusx
Roman Catholic Church

