



annual report April 2005 to March 2006

Creating The Roadmap For The Future

Mike Lysecki

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Hamilton Food Share Board of Directors and its committees have spent considerable time over the past year reviewing our mandate, and working to more clearly articulate and understand our role in addressing the growing problem of hunger in our community. The Board members and key staff members spent an entire day with a professional facilitator to look closely at where we have been as an organization and where we need to go in the future. The outcome has been the development of a refined Vision and Mission Statement, as well as a clearly defined set of Values, all of which are presented in our Annual Report. These statements provide a roadmap for current and future board members and staff, ensuring that Hamilton Food Share continues to play a leading role in the fight against hunger.

Many thanks to our Vice Chairman, Gord Green for heading the development process that lead to our new tagline Hunger. It's just unacceptable. It will accompany the Hamilton Food Share logo everywhere it appears and clearly defines the reason we exist.

The Special Events Committee has also been expanded to launch a new 'signature' fundraising event which will debut on June 23, 2007. The fundraiser Open House for Hunger will be held at a unique property each year, starting with the spectacular lakeside residence of Nasser Dabirian in Grimsby. This event is expected to generate substantial revenues needed to meet the increasing demands in the community, while creating new ambassadors throughout the community. Committee Chair Shendal Yalchin is to be commended for efforts in recruiting an outstanding team

of people to make this the most memorable event of the year.

With this roadmap in place, the Board of Directors will be able to support staff and the organization in strengthening our identity, creating a deeper understanding of our role but even more important, creating a deeper sense of empathy and caring for those less fortunate. Hamilton Food Share continues to be a strong advocate for the hungry and impoverished in our community, thanks again to the tireless efforts of Executive Director Joanne Santucci and her dedicated staff.

In addition to gathering information about hunger in our community, preparing reports, sitting on local, provincial and national group committees and organizations as well as participating in educating our community about the issues of hunger and taking on special projects, Hamilton Food Share raises and distributes more than two million pounds of food annually.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the staff is infectious and the level of enthusiasm at the Board of Directors level grows and grows. I would like to thank the Board members for investing their time in a renewed vision that will ultimately steer the course for our organization and the role we must play to diminish hunger in our community.

The Board and staff would like to thank our local community for opening their minds and hearts to the needs of others and assisting our organization in being responsive to those needs. We could not support all the hunger relief activities without your valued contributions.

Mission Vision Values

Vision: We envision informed communities actively engaged in the elimination of hunger ensuring all community members have access to adequate, safe and appropriate food choices.

Mission: To diminish hunger in our community by collecting and sharing food and other resources through effective partnerships that strengthen our response to hunger.

Values Statement

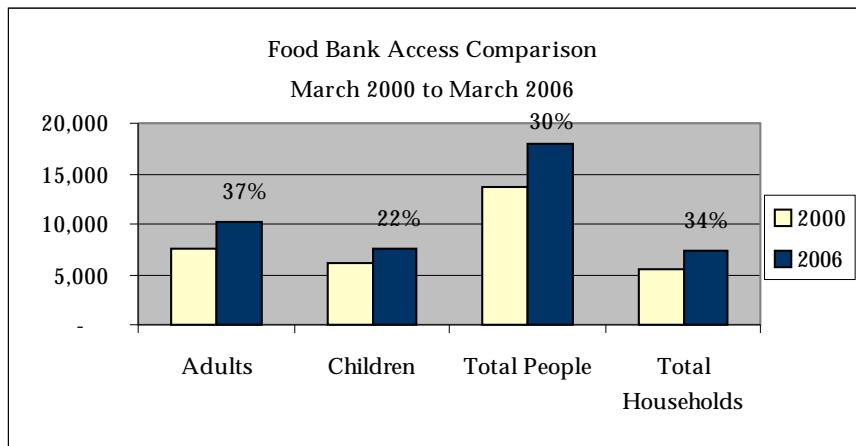
- We believe every individual has the right to daily sustenance and personal dignity.
- We value long term vision, sustainability, and approach our mission committed to building awareness of hunger and its root causes.
- We recognize and acknowledge the individual and collective contributions made to and through our organization.
- We value an ethical and prudent approach and we demonstrate our integrity through fairness, openness and honesty in our dealings with others.
- We pursue our mission in a proactive manner and we value community collaboration and partnerships.



The EFAC Project:

As a member of The Emergency Food Action Committee (EFAC), Hamilton Food Share will take the lead in representing local emergency food programs across the city to establish a "standard information collection system" by partnering with the City of Hamilton and the federal government's Homelessness Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Member agencies have begun the process of working together as a sector to identify information needed to develop a template that will be used nationally as a best practice model. This unique project is slated for completion and implementation of this data collection system by March 2007.

This project has engaged the federal and our municipal government as partners in the process and the information collected will identify trends that can lead to a realignment of existing resources to changing conditions, identifying gaps and program supports needed within the system and will ultimately support policy development, contribute to future planning, and enhancement of service delivery. Member agencies are to be commended for their unyielding commitment to help people in need while working collaboratively toward a common vision of diminishing hunger in our community.



Hunger Facts:

In the month of March 2006:

- Over 17,800 people accessed a food bank.
- 7,500 (42%) are children. One in five children are going without breakfast or a balanced meal.
- 54% are families. 81% of parents who visit a food bank sacrifice their own food so their children can eat.
- 36% are single people.
- 12% are couples with no children.

Since March 2005: Percentage of increase in food bank access.

- Adults 11%
- Children 9%
- Total people 10%
- Total households 12%

Volunteer hours given by our local community to local food banks in the Month of March is equivalent to 118 full time positions at 40 hours a week.

External factors adding pressure to food insecure households:

- Social benefits income and middle to

low-income levels have not kept pace with rising utilities costs, market rents and inflation.

- Manufacturing plants have closed resulting in job loss.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Trends toward part-time and contract employment.



Hunger among children is a critical issue.

- Children in food insecure households experience a lack of focus and concentration in school.
- Women and children are the largest group living in poverty.

Emergency Food Distribution Network

Member Agencies

- Good Shepherd Centres
- Living Rock Ministries
- Mission Services of Hamilton
- Neighbour to Neighbour
- St. Matthew's House
- Stoney Creek Food Bank
- The Salvation Army
- Welcome Inn
- Wesley Urban Ministries

Niagara Region Hub Food Banks

- Niagara Falls, Project Share
- Caledonia Food Bank
- Community Outreach, Fort Erie
- Dunnville, The Salvation Army
- Grimsby Benevolent Fund
- Beamsville, Lincoln Community Care
- St. Catherine's Community Care
- Welland Food Bank

Local Community Groups

- Beasley Nutrition 4 Kids
- Café Adoni
- Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
- North Hamilton Community Health Centre, Breakfast Program
- Out of the Cold
- Partnership West
- S.P.C.A.
- St. Michael's Youth Camp

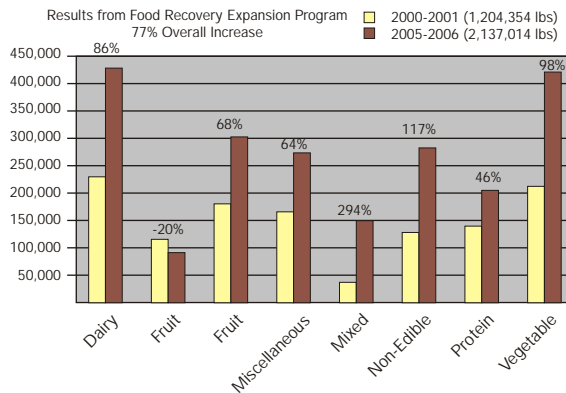




The Food Recovery Program

The objective of our food recovery program is to increase our community's capacity to respond to hunger by developing a sustainable source of food supplies for local food banks and hot meal programs. Our Food Recovery Program is a collection of innovative food gleaning systems that turn partnerships into investment opportunities that

benefit our entire community. Additionally, our organization establishes community partnerships, donor relations and fundraising activities that support our food recovery operation. Our program raises over 2 million pounds of product annually.



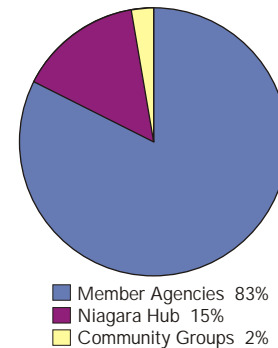
Food in by Type: Comparison of 2000-2006

Hamilton Food Share answered the request for more food supplies by our member agencies and ramped up food recovery activities for an overall increase of 77% of food raised from 2000. (note: Mixed food is food derived through food drives, it is needed so quickly that it was distributed without identifying its type.) The Food Bank Access Comparison on the previous page shows the steady incline of increased need experienced by emergency food programs.

Food in by Source:

Hamilton Food Shares main source of food comes from establishing partnerships within the food industry that result in the ongoing donation of food supplies. We glean food from local food companies and receive food from and have assisted in developing food recovery systems, provincially, through the Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB) and the National Fair Share System operated by the Canadian Association of Food banks (CAFB). We have also added more supplies to emergency programs by developing a regional food recovery and sharing system that lead to increasing food supplies. These systems make up the bulk of food supplies distributed from the food industry.

Our local community answered the call to action organizing food drives throughout the year at their workplaces, churches, service clubs, schools and family functions and especially during the holiday season. Approximately 12% of the food raised comes from the hard work of community volunteers organizing food drives and inspiring others to give.

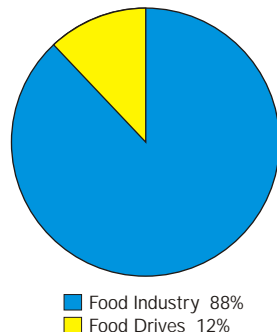


Food out By Group:

The majority of the food raised, 83% was distributed to Hamilton Food Share's member agencies consisting of local food banks and hot meal programs.

As a member of the Ontario Association of Food Banks, Hamilton Food Share also distributes food beyond our city borders. Approximately 15% of donated food supplies were distributed to Niagara Hub to assist emergency food programs throughout the Niagara Region who are members of the OAFB and CAFB.

When there is more food to share, the food recovery operation assists community groups with their programs and two percent of the food raised was directed as a support to these programs.



Joanne Santucci

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Finally, poverty has taken a prominent place on the City's agenda. As emergency food providers we need to be mindful that the real work is yet to come. To achieve a vision of positive change for the people we serve it will take leadership, the kind that may mean more work to get it right and to achieve conscientiousness. It will take making informed decisions that are based on current information and that connect to an overall investment strategy. It may take putting aside our own agency specific interests and ramping up collaboratively constructed activities for the sole purpose of placing the future of the people we serve first. While presently, the commitment to our mission to feed the hungry will keep us focused on helping people in need, we cannot let the extent of its activities eclipse our participation toward the vision for change.

Working towards this vision we have met a few milestones worthy of mention. To get our organization ready for the task ahead, our board of directors revisited our mission, vision and values. These important documents will be the touch stones to guide the way for the future of our organization.

Local food banks and hot meal programs across the city came together as a sector to begin the process of standardizing information collection. The significance of this milestone cannot be underscored enough. Under the banner of the Emergency Food Action Group (EFAC) together we will create a template for best practices in the utilization of an emergency food client information system across Canada. The legacy of this kind of leadership will lead to a more meaningful exchange and support on hunger issues both locally and nationally.

Our resolve to diminish the degree of hunger and improve the lives of people in need will involve engaging all three levels of government. The EFAC project will involve partnerships with local and federal governments. Provincial activities will find Hamilton Food Share at Queens Park in the latter part of 2006 meeting with all MPP's to present policy papers developed by the Ontario Association of Food Banks that cite the prevailing conditions that allow poverty

to proliferate and the ill effects endured by people affected by it. The reports will include documented research and policy recommendations on the working poor, people on disability and child poverty. In addition, Hamilton Food Share will continue to participate as a member of the City of Hamilton's strategic planning committee developing a Community Action Plan on homelessness.

The last milestone reached is one I am not proud of but one that inspires me every day to keep moving towards the creation of a different future for children we see in our community. Children go hungry in Hamilton every day. HungerCount 2006 showed an all time high of 7,500 children lining up at the food banks every month.

Poverty has a foot hold in this community and only action at this point will release its grip on the people we serve. Our hunger awareness campaign will devote the time necessary to cross every sector of the community engaging support to "invest" in the creation of real opportunities that enable people who live in poverty to move forward with dignity and sustainability for their future.

As we end this year of operation we do so with great thanks and appreciation in acknowledging the work of our Board of Directors who will steer the direction of our organization toward the vision of change. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our amazing donors and community partners whose support has enabled our organization to continue our mission of diminishing hunger.

My final note of thanks is dedicated to our committed staff known as the Food Share Team. They bring distinctly different and valuable gifts to our organization. Their innovation and tireless efforts bring out the best this organization has to offer and their value as a team is immeasurable. The results of their hard work resonate throughout this report.



Hamilton Food Share Board of Directors

Mike Lysecki Chairman
Gordon Green Vice Chairman
Duane Dahl Past Chairman
Vicki Edwards Treasurer/Secretary
Paul Johnson Agency Representative
Alan Whittle Agency Representative
Shendal Yalchin Director
Kathy Zebruck Director

The Hamilton Food Share Team

Joanne Santucci Executive Director
Rachel O'Reilly Resource Development Director
Mona Santucci Warehouse Manager
Deborah Walsh Executive Assistant
Kira Scattolon Warehouse Support & Driver
Mike Radko Warehouse Assistant



Hunger. It's just unacceptable.

339 Barton Street
Stoney Creek, ON L8E 2L2

905-664-9065
hamiltonfoodshare.org