

Annual Board Report - Harvest Share

Presented by Laurie de Fleuriot, Vice-Chair

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm honoured to present this year's annual report—a year that has truly been transformative for Harvest Share.

Strategic Vision Realized

This past year, our organization embarked on one of the most comprehensive strategic planning processes in our history. Working hand-in-hand with our incredible community of volunteers and supporters, we emerged with a clear, ambitious roadmap for 2025-2027.

Our new strategic plan centers on four critical priorities that will elevate our impact:

1. **Securing a single, central facility** to better serve our community
2. **Expanding our proven programs**—including our beloved Community Meals, Community Garden, and Cooking Classes
3. **Enhancing resource development** through diversified fundraising, strengthened Food Rescue initiatives, and growing our volunteer family
4. **Increasing our advocacy efforts** to establish Harvest Share as the leading voice on food insecurity in our community

Immediate Action, Immediate Results

While our strategic plan was officially approved just months ago, our dedicated staff and volunteers have already demonstrated remarkable momentum. Our participation in Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie campaign this year was nothing short of extraordinary—raising an incredible \$18,751 for Harvest Share and the Salvation Army. This success reflects not just our community's generosity, but our organization's growing capacity to mobilize support.

Commitment to Excellence

We've also taken significant steps toward operational excellence by completing all requirements for Food Banks Canada's new Standards of Excellence accreditation. Our staff working group has diligently prepared our submission to Food Banks Canada, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to providing the highest levels of safety, dignity, and service to every person who walks through our doors. This rigorous process positions us to join the ranks of Canada's most operationally excellent food banks.

Looking Forward

As we move into the coming year, we do so with unprecedented clarity of purpose, a commitment to proven operational excellence, and a community that continues to believe in our mission. The foundation we've built this year positions Harvest Share not just to meet today's needs, but to lead the fight against food insecurity in our community.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, community partners, and fellow board members who made this transformational year possible.