

Feed Scarborough - “A Journey From Driveway Food Drive To Systemic Poverty Reduction”

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ABSTRACT

The Scarborough Food Security Initiative (Feed Scarborough) has emerged as a leader in addressing poverty through an innovative and systematic approach. Originating from a grassroots food drive during the pandemic, Feed Scarborough has evolved over the course of three pandemic years into Scarborough's largest food security organisation. It has implemented a range of programs aimed at promoting resilience and self-sufficiency. Recognizing the limitations of conventional methods such as food banks and community kitchens being a temporary and band-aid solution, Feed Scarborough strategically shifted its focus to long-term solutions, introducing initiatives such as business incubators, career development programs, and youth mentoring. The organisation's commitment to holistic well-being extends inclusively across diverse equity groups, encompassing wellness programs, food-focused certifications, and skills development. Feed Scarborough envisions a community in which individuals are equipped with enduring opportunities for success, moving away from temporary interventions. Importantly, Feed Scarborough has established collaborations with esteemed educational institutions, including University of Toronto, Centennial College, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, and Toronto Metropolitan University fostering ongoing research and policy development. A significant milestone is the creation of the Scarborough Food Network, a coalition of over 25 organisations dedicated to rigorous research and policy formulation. This collaborative model provides a guiding example for others facing the intricate dynamics of tackling food security and poverty reduction. Scarborough's journey underscores the impactful outcomes achievable through visionary programs and collaborative networks, imprinting a lasting influence on the trajectory towards sustainable poverty reduction.

KEYWORDS: Systemic, Resilience, Food Security, Poverty Reduction, Scarborough, Long-term Solutions, Collaborative networks, Feed Scarborough

1 INTRODUCTION

In the face of exacerbated socio-economic difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Feed Scarborough stands out as a source of inspiration and hope for the Scarborough community. Born from a grassroots food drive during the pandemic's peak in 2020, Feed Scarborough embodies the resilience and solidarity of the Scarborough community during times of crisis. What began as a simple driveway food drive organized by a group of community members has now evolved into the largest food security organization in Scarborough, symbolizing the power of collective action and community-driven solutions.

However, as the pandemic persisted, traditional approaches to addressing poverty and food insecurity proved insufficient in providing sustainable solutions. The stress test of the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the vulnerability of marginalized communities like Scarborough, exposing the inadequacies of conventional poverty alleviation efforts. Despite initial emergency government support and food programs offering temporary relief, they failed to address the root causes of poverty and food insecurity.

According to data from the Daily Bread Food Bank, Scarborough witnessed a staggering 36% increase in food bank visits, totaling 753,422 visits in a single year, highlighting the severity of the situation (Daily Bread Food Bank, 2023). Moreover, city-wide, Daily Bread reported a record-high of 2.53 million food bank visits, signifying the widespread impact of food insecurity in Toronto.

Recognizing the urgent need for innovative, systemic approaches, Feed Scarborough embarked on a transformative journey. Shifting its focus from short-term assistance to holistic poverty reduction initiatives, Feed Scarborough evolved into Scarborough's largest food security organization. This evolution reflects its commitment to driving community empowerment through innovation. (Table 1)

Table 1: Feed Scarborough's Foundation

Content	Description
Number of Programs	22
Vision	At Feed Scarborough, our vision is a Scarborough where no one goes hungry, and the community stands resilient in the face of adversity. We envision a future free from the burden of hunger, where each member can thrive and contribute to the strength of Scarborough.
Mission	Feed Scarborough is more than a food provider; we are champions of community empowerment. Our mission is to tackle poverty at its roots through innovative programs, ensuring dignified access to food for all. We believe in the transformative power of community-driven solutions, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency among our neighbours.
Mascot	Dignity, our resilient and resourceful racoon mascot, alongside the Apple of Hope. Dignity embodies the strength of our community, while the Apple of Hope symbolises our commitment to food security. Raccoons, like Dignity, are community-driven animals, mirroring our mission to build a strong, supportive community. Together, Dignity and the Hope represent dignified access to food and the hope we cultivate within Scarborough.

Food insecurity has become a pressing issue in Toronto, particularly in Scarborough, exacerbated by the pandemic. Scarborough's socio-economic landscape, with nearly half of its neighborhoods designated as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and a median household income significantly below the city's average, further exacerbates food insecurity (City of Toronto, 2018). Over 40% of Feed Scarborough clients have at least one full time job, an

indication of the impact of the rising cost of living (Feed Scarborough, 2023). Daily Bread Food Bank data also reveals that after paying for rent and utilities, an individual working at minimum wage is left with only \$6.67 for clothes, travel, and food, underscoring the financial challenges faced by many in the community (Daily Bread Food Bank, 2023). Moreover, research finds that those who use food banks are only the most desperate among peoples facing food insecurity (Tarasuk & Mitchell, 2020).

Vulnerable groups such as the unemployed, low-income families, single parents, individuals with disabilities, and newcomers are at heightened risk, exacerbating existing inequalities. Scarborough's diverse demographic makeup contributes to its status as a culinary hub characterized by immigrant communities, presenting unique challenges and opportunities in addressing food insecurity (Begin & Sharma, 2017).

Feed Scarborough's innovative programs and partnerships represent a forward-thinking approach to poverty reduction. The organization aims to empower individuals to build sustainable futures and create a resilient community. The forthcoming paper will focus on the impact of Feed Scarborough's programs, highlighting their role in addressing systemic barriers and fostering community empowerment amidst challenging socio-economic conditions.

2 RESULT

The implementation of Feed Scarborough's diverse range of programs has yielded significant outcomes, fostering resilience and empowerment within the Scarborough community during challenging times. Through innovative initiatives targeting various aspects of food insecurity and community well-being, Feed Scarborough has effectively addressed immediate needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term solutions. The impact of Feed Scarborough's programs can be observed across multiple domains:

2.1 Economic Empowerment

Feed Scarborough's Business Incubators, including Startup Scarborough and Food Hall TO, have been instrumental in fostering economic empowerment within the community. Through these programs, aspiring entrepreneurs receive comprehensive support, including mentorship, training, and access to resources, to turn their business ideas into reality. As a result, individuals who may have previously faced barriers to traditional employment have been empowered to start their own businesses, thereby creating new job opportunities and contributing to the local economy's growth.

2.2 Employment Opportunities

In addition to entrepreneurship, Feed Scarborough's Culinary Training Program and Skill Building Program have played a crucial role in providing community members with the skills and certifications necessary to secure employment. By offering training in culinary arts, hospitality, and other in-demand fields, these programs enhance participants' employability and job readiness. As a result, individuals who have completed these programs have gained access to a wider range of employment opportunities, thereby improving their financial stability and overall quality of life.

2.3 Wellness Improvement

Feed Scarborough's Wellness Program has been instrumental in promoting physical and mental well-being among community members. This program offers a variety of services,

including nutrition education, fitness classes, mental health support, and access to recreational activities. Through these initiatives, participants are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to adopt healthier lifestyles and manage stress effectively. Furthermore, the establishment of Community Gardens provides community members with opportunities for outdoor physical activity and access to fresh, nutritious produce, which are essential components of overall wellness.

2.4 Dignified Access to Food

Feed Scarborough's Grocery Store Food Banks, Online Food Bank, and Healthy Meal Program have ensured dignified access to nutritious food for community members facing food insecurity. These programs not only provide essential groceries and meals but also prioritize the quality and nutritional value of the food offered. By addressing the immediate needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, Feed Scarborough helps alleviate hunger and promotes dignity and self-respect among participants.

2.5 Sense of Belonging

Through its diverse range of programs and initiatives, Feed Scarborough has cultivated a strong sense of belonging within the community. Events such as Farmers Markets, Community Gardens, and Wellness Programs provide opportunities for residents to come together, share experiences, and support one another. These programs create inclusive spaces where community members can connect, build relationships, and foster a sense of belonging and solidarity. Additionally, by involving community members in the planning and implementation of these initiatives, Feed Scarborough ensures that they reflect the community's diverse needs and interests, further enhancing the sense of belonging and ownership among participants.

Overall, Feed Scarborough's programs have had a transformative impact on the Scarborough community, empowering individuals, fostering economic growth, promoting wellness, and strengthening social bonds. Through its holistic approach to addressing food insecurity, Feed Scarborough has not only provided immediate relief but also laid the foundation for long-term resilience and empowerment within the community. By addressing these key factors, Feed Scarborough strengthens community resilience and self-sufficiency, reduces reliance on external food sources, and promotes a sense of belonging and collective responsibility among community members. Through collaborative efforts and community-driven solutions, Feed Scarborough is working towards creating a more food-secure, equitable, and resilient community where all individuals can thrive.

3 METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in this case study centers on examining the transition of programs within Feed Scarborough over the last three years. This study aims to analyze the evolution of Feed Scarborough's mandate, "Nourishing Today, Building Tomorrow," and its three-tiered approach to addressing food insecurity. By delving into the programs categorized under emergency relief, long-term impact/community, and research, advocacy, and awareness, this methodology seeks to provide insights into how Feed Scarborough has adapted and expanded its initiatives to meet the evolving needs of the community.

3.1 Tier System Overview

Feed Scarborough operates on a three-tiered approach designed to comprehensively address the multifaceted challenges of food insecurity (figure 1). The organization's tier system encompasses emergency relief programs, long-term impact/community programs, and research, advocacy, and awareness initiatives. Each tier plays a crucial role in achieving Feed Scarborough's overarching mandate of "Nourishing Today, Building Tomorrow."

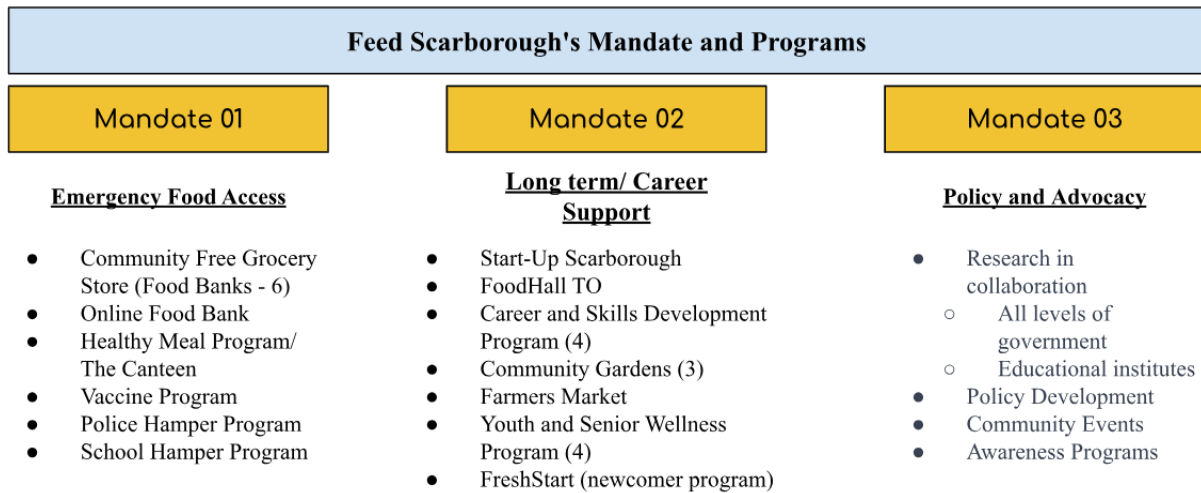


Figure 1: Feed Scarborough overview of all programs under different tiers/ mandates

Emergency Relief Programs: This tier focuses on providing immediate relief to individuals and families facing food insecurity. These programs aim to address urgent nutritional needs and ensure access to essential food items during times of crisis. Initiatives under this tier include Grocery Store Food Banks, Online Food Bank, Healthy Meal Program, The Canteen, Farmers Market, and the Vaccine Program. These programs are essential for alleviating hunger and meeting the immediate nutritional needs of community members.

Long-term Impact/Community Programs: The long-term impact/community tier is dedicated to establishing sustainable, resilient programs aimed at addressing the root causes of food insecurity and fostering long-term solutions. Programs under this tier include Business Incubators (Startup Scarborough and Food Hall TO), Culinary Training Program, Skill Building Program, Wellness Program, and Community Gardens. These initiatives empower community members by providing opportunities for skill development, entrepreneurship, and wellness promotion, thereby creating lasting solutions to food insecurity.

Research, Advocacy, and Awareness: This tier involves engaging in research, advocacy, and awareness initiatives to address systemic issues underlying food insecurity and promote community-level change. Programs under this tier include Research Collaborations, Engagement with all levels of Government, Partnerships with Educational Institutes, Community Events, and Awareness Programs. Through these initiatives, Feed Scarborough aims to address the structural factors contributing to food insecurity and create a more equitable and food-secure community.

A table 2 below provides a comprehensive overview of the programs, their objectives, and the reasons behind their initiation. Appendix 1 delves into each tier, discussing the programs under them in detail and examining their impact and significance in addressing food insecurity in Scarborough.

Table 2: Feed Scarborough’s Program in a Nutshell

Emergency Relief Programs						
Content/Programs	Community Free Grocery Store - Food Bank	Online Food Bank	Healthy Meal Program	Vaccine Program	School Hamper Program	Police Hamper Program (partnership with Toronto Police – 41,43)
Program Description	Provided essential support through choice-based food assistance	Immediate online access to food aid resources	Provided nutritious meals to individuals facing food insecurity	Facilitated access to COVID-19 vaccines for community members	Provided nutritious food hampers to children facing food insecurity	Distributed food hampers to individuals in collaboration with the police
Why started?	To redefine food assistance by prioritizing choice, dignity, and sustained support for individuals accessing food aid	To provide convenient and immediate access to food assistance for individuals facing food insecurity	To address the nutritional needs of individuals facing food insecurity and promote overall health and well-being	To expedite the vaccination process and facilitate the community's return to normalcy	To address the link between nutrition and education, ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals for optimal learning	To provide immediate support and foster community connections through compassionate interventions by police officers
Impact!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Served over 7500 individuals weekly through 6 food banks - Offered a choice-based model of food assistance - Ensured accessibility and convenience for all members of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated access to essential food resources for more than 10000+ individuals unable to access physical food banks - Ensured privacy, inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensured access to nutritious meals for 2000+ individuals facing food insecurity - Contributed to improved health outcomes and overall well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieved a high vaccination rate within the community to get community back to workforce - 100+ clinics to vaccinate 7000+ members - Contributed to public health and safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided nutritious hampers to over 200 families each week - Reduced food insecurity among school children - Ensured access to nutritious meals for academic success (included 15% increase in attendance, 30% in disciplinary actions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced community-police relations - Provided essential support to individuals facing challenges - Served as a de-escalation strategy during patrols

Long Term Impact Program (part 1)

Content/ Programs	Startup Scarborough	Food Hall TO	Farmers Markets	Community Gardens	Culinary Training	Fresh Start
Program Description	Empowered entrepreneurs through free coursework, mentorship, and support	Comprehensive training and mentorship programs for food entrepreneurs to run a food business along with culinary training to food enthusiasts for ready for job market skills	Provided access to affordable fresh food through mobile and community market	Cultivated community connections through diverse garden initiatives. Through 3 community gardens providing knowledge sharing on diversity, pollinator and native garden, bee keeping, composting and more	Provides hands-on culinary training for six months and food focussed certifications at commercial and Food Hall TO, preparing food enthusiasts for employment in the food industry.	Provided essential tools and resources for newcomers to Canada such as language and communication support, buddy system, orientations workshops
Why started?	To empower individuals and foster economic self-sufficiency by providing resources and support for starting or expanding businesses	To provide practical skills and job-ready training for individuals interested in pursuing careers in the culinary industry	To ensure access to fresh, affordable food for individuals and families facing food insecurity especially food desert areas with low accessibility to fresh market	To provide vibrant spaces for community engagement, education, and cultural celebration through diverse garden initiatives	To equip individuals with job-ready skills for employment in the food industry. To provide industry-specific certifications for career advancement in the culinary field.	To support newcomers in their transition to Canada and provide essential tools for success, achieve food security and economic stability
Impact!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the launch and growth of over 30 businesses - Created over 45+ jobs in the community - Contributed to economic growth and self-sufficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipped individuals with culinary skills - Provided opportunities for employment and career advancement - Contributed to economic empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offered choice-based access to fresh produce - Promoted healthy habits to 1000+ households in food desert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fostered community engagement - Offered educational programs for 200+ youth - Enabled 150+ household to have a balcony garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced employability and job readiness - 80% of graduates secured employment within three months of graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided 100+ referrals to support networks and resources - Promoted resilience and self-sufficiency among 85% participants

Long Term Impact Program (part 2)

Content/ Programs	Skill Development	Health is Wealth - Yoga and Meditation	Golden Age Social Cooking Class	Youth Culinary Program	At-Risk Youth Sports Program (in partnership with Aero and Toronto Police)
Program Description	- Connects volunteers and clients with industry mentors, facilitating small co-ops and internships in various fields. - Offers resume development workshops to assist individuals in crafting compelling resumes	Offers yoga and meditation sessions for seniors to promote physical health and emotional well-being.	Interactive cooking class where seniors prepare and enjoy meals while sharing family recipes and stories.	Teaches culinary skills emphasizing nutrition and healthy eating habits. Empowers youth to make healthier food choices and improve well-being.	Combines sports training on basketball and boxing with career-building workshops for 10 at-risk youths from each neighbouring school. Aims to instill discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities.
Why started?	To provide individuals with opportunities for skill development and economic empowerment through specialized training programs	To address the unique needs of seniors and foster community well-being through health-focused programs	To celebrate cultural heritage and strengthen social bonds among seniors.	To educate youth about nutrition, healthy eating habits, and culinary skills.	Provides at-risk youth with life skills and pathways to future success.
Impact!	- Enhanced employability and job readiness among participants - Facilitated over 35+ small co-ops and internships, offering valuable hands-on experience and industry exposure.	- Improved physical and mental well-being among seniors - Provided a sense of community and shared understanding of health support among individuals	- Preserved cultural heritage through culinary experiences Strengthens social bonds and sense of belonging	- Participants learn culinary skills and nutrition education. - Empowers youth to make healthier food choices.	- Over the past two years, served over 60 youth participants. - 80% reported improved physical health. - 70% reported increased confidence and self-esteem. - 100% of program graduates successfully transitioned to further education or stable employment.

Research and Policy				
Content/Programs	Research Team & Annual Surveys	Collaborations with Educational Institutes	Collaborations with All Levels of Government	Reports and Advocacy/Awareness Events
Program Description	Conducted research and compiled data to inform community programs	Collaborated with educational institutions to conduct research projects	Engaged in dialogue with policymakers to advocate for community needs	Organized events and published reports to raise awareness and advocate for community needs
Why started?	To understand the evolving needs of the community and ensure that programs are responsive and impactful	To leverage academic expertise and resources for research initiatives and program development	To bridge the gap between community needs and systemic support, advocating for policies that promote food security and well-being	To foster community engagement and advocate for policies that promote food security and well-being
Impact!	- Provided insights into community needs and preferences - Informed program development and implementation - Facilitated evidence-based decision-making and advocacy efforts	- Produced impactful results contributing to academic discourse - Informed program development and facilitated knowledge exchange between academia and community practitioners	- Advocated for policies addressing food security and well-being - Facilitated collaboration between government bodies and community organizations - Promoted systemic support for vulnerable populations	- Facilitated community engagement and awareness - Informed public discourse on food security issues - Advocated for policy changes addressing the root causes of food insecurity

3.2 Feed Scarborough’s Advocacy Reports and Descriptions:




- Feed Scarborough’s 2021 Summit on Poverty, Inequality, and Hunger: A collaborative discussion involving community members and representatives from all three levels of government, aimed at addressing systemic issues related to poverty, inequality, and hunger.
- Sustenance Beyond the Surface: A Deep Dive into Food Insecurity and Its Root Causes: An in-depth analysis aiming to uncover the underlying causes of food insecurity, inform strategic interventions, and advocate for policies that address systemic issues.
- Investigating the Need for Feed Scarborough's Service Expansion: A comprehensive report assessing the demand for the expansion of Feed Scarborough's services to better serve the community.
- Accessing Fresh and Healthy Food in ‘Food Desert’ Neighbourhoods of Scarborough: Shedding light on the challenges and solutions for accessing fresh and healthy food in so-called 'Food Desert' neighborhoods, advocating for equitable access to food.








3.3 Feed Scarborough efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030

Feed Scarborough is dedicated to aligning its mission with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations for 2030. By leveraging a diverse array of programs, we actively address the interconnected challenges posed by poverty, hunger, inequality, and environmental sustainability. Our initiatives extend beyond short-term relief efforts, aiming for sustainable impact and lasting change within the Scarborough community. At the core of our approach is a commitment to addressing the root causes of societal challenges while promoting holistic well-being and community resilience. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions, and targeted interventions, Feed Scarborough seeks to create a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

The table below illustrates how each of our programs contributes to specific SDG targets and indicators, showcasing our organization's dedication to advancing global goals while addressing local needs. From providing access to nutritious food and empowering individuals with valuable skills to fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship, Feed Scarborough's initiatives are strategically designed to drive progress towards a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Table 3: Feed Scarborough alignment to SDG targets and indicators

Sustainable Development Goals	Feed Scarborough Alignment	Targets	Indicators	Programs
SDG 1: No Poverty 	Feed Scarborough's programs aim to alleviate poverty and promote economic empowerment within the community.	1.1, 1.2, 1.5: Eradicate extreme poverty, reduce overall poverty, build resilience to economic shocks, create pro-poor policy frameworks.	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.5.2 : Proportion of population living below poverty line, resilience to economic shocks, pro-poor social spending.	Startup Scarborough, Food Hall TO, Culinary Training Program, Skill Building Program, Community Gardens
SDG 2: Zero Hunger 	Feed Scarborough works to ensure universal access to safe, nutritious food and address food insecurity.	2.1, 2.2: End hunger, eliminate malnutrition, ensure food security for all, address nutritional needs of vulnerable populations.	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2: Prevalence of undernourishment, prevalence of food insecurity, prevalence of malnutrition.	Grocery Store Food Banks, Online Food Bank, Healthy Meal Program, The Canteen Program, Farmers Market, Community Gardens
SDG 3: Well Being and Good Health 	Feed Scarborough promotes universal health coverage and wellness programs to enhance overall well-being.	3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, ensure access to essential health services and medicines for all.	3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services.	Healthy Meal Program, Community Vaccine Program, Seniors Wellness Program, Youth Wellness Program
SDG 4: Quality Education	Feed Scarborough supports lifelong learning and skill development to ensure access to	4.4: Increase access to relevant skills and education, promote technical and vocational training for	4.4.1: Proportion of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship	Startup Scarborough, Food Hall TO, Culinary Training Program, School Hamper

	<p>quality education.</p>	<p>employment and entrepreneurship.</p>		<p>Program, Youth Wellness Program, Research</p>
<p>SDG 5: Gender Equality</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough promotes gender inclusivity and equal opportunities for leadership and participation.</p>	<p>5.5: Ensure women's participation in decision-making, promote gender equality in leadership positions.</p>	<p>5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions.</p>	<p>All programs with a focus on inclusive participation, Internal management team</p>
<p>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough fosters job creation and entrepreneurship to promote inclusive economic growth.</p>	<p>8.3, 8.6: Support productive activities, create decent jobs, reduce youth unemployment, promote entrepreneurship and innovation.</p>	<p>8.3.1, 8.6.1: Proportion of informal employment, proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</p>	<p>Startup Scarborough, Food Hall TO ,Culinary Training Program, Skill Training Program, Youth Wellness Program, Research and Policy Making</p>
<p>SDG 10: Reduced Inequality</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough promotes social and economic inclusion and reduces inequality through various programs.</p>	<p>10.2: Empower marginalized groups, promote social, economic, and political inclusion, reduce income inequality.</p>	<p>10.2.1: Proportion of people living below 50% of median income.</p>	<p>Startup Scarborough, Food Hall TO, Youth Wellness Program, Grocery Store Food Banks, Online Food Banks</p>
<p>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough supports sustainable urban development through initiatives promoting green spaces and community gardens.</p>	<p>11.7: Provide universal access to safe, green spaces, promote inclusive and sustainable urban development.</p>	<p>11.7.1: Average share of built-up area that is open space for public use.</p>	<p>Community Gardens, Farmers Market</p>
<p>SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough promotes sustainable consumption and production practices and minimizes food waste.</p>	<p>12.3, 12.5: Reduce food waste and losses, promote recycling and sustainable production, minimize environmental impact.</p>	<p>12.3.1, 12.5.1: Food loss index, food waste index, national recycling rate.</p>	<p>Farmers Market, Food Banks, Community Gardens, Warehouse, Research Initiatives, Collaborations</p>
<p>SDG 17: Partnerships with Goals</p> 	<p>Feed Scarborough collaborates with various stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals.</p>	<p>17.16, 17.17, 17.19: Enhance global partnerships, support multi-stakeholder collaborations, strengthen statistical capacity for monitoring progress.</p>	<p>17.16.1, 17.17.1, 17.19.1: Number of countries reporting progress, amount of resources made available for statistical capacity-building.</p>	<p>Research Collaborations, Educational Institute Partnerships, Government Collaborations</p>

Through collaborative partnerships and targeted interventions, Feed Scarborough plays a pivotal role in addressing the root causes of societal challenges while promoting holistic well-being and community resilience. Each program within Feed Scarborough contributes to specific SDG targets and indicators, showcasing the organization's dedication to driving progress towards a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

Furthermore, Feed Scarborough recognizes the importance of individual grassroots organizations coming together to collectively achieve global goals. By leveraging their unique strengths, expertise, and resources, grassroots organizations like Feed Scarborough can make significant strides towards achieving the SDGs, contributing to positive change on both local and global scales. Together, through collaborative efforts and collective action, grassroots organizations play a vital role in advancing global goals and creating a better world for future generations.

3.4 Community Collaboration: Scarborough Food Network & Feed Scarborough

The Scarborough Food Network (SFN), with Feed Scarborough as one of the founding member, epitomizes community collaboration in tackling food insecurity and poverty. Through joint efforts, SFN has made significant strides in research, policy development, and advocacy, leading to targeted interventions for vulnerable populations and fostering long-term community resilience. SFN's collaborative model enhances access to nutritious food and economic opportunities, reducing vulnerability to food insecurity and poverty. Feed Scarborough's leadership within SFN amplifies community-based initiatives, demonstrating the transformative potential of grassroots organizations in addressing complex social issues. SFN's achievements in research, surveys, workshops, and policy development serve as a guiding example for community development. Together, SFN and Feed Scarborough play a vital role in advancing food security, poverty reduction, and resilience in Scarborough, improving the well-being of the community.

3.5 Participant Feedback and Program Evaluation – Success of Feed Scarborough

The names of the participants have been changed due to privacy reasons:

- "Feed Scarborough's Culinary Training Program transformed my passion into a profession. With their support, I now run my own catering business, empowered and confident in my culinary skills." - Sarah, Culinary Program.
- "Participating in the FLIP Incubator Program at Food Hall TO was a game-changer for me. It gave me the skills and confidence to start my own food truck, turning my dream into a successful reality." - Michael, FLIP Incubator Participant.
- "Through Feed Scarborough's one-on-one program, I gained the expertise and resources from mentors needed to launch my own furniture building business. Their support has made me resilient and self-sufficient in pursuing my entrepreneurial goals." - Mosico, Skill Development Program.
- "Feed Scarborough's Newcomer Program provided me with the essential tools and support needed to navigate my transition to Canada. Thanks to their guidance, I now feel empowered and ready to embrace my new life with confidence." - Ahmed, Fresh Start Program.

- "The Youth Sports Program at Feed Scarborough not only honed my basketball skills but also taught me invaluable life lessons like teamwork and perseverance. It's more than just a sports program; it's a pathway to success both on and off the court." - John, Youth Sports Program.

4 DISCUSSION

Feed Scarborough has been instrumental in ensuring dignified access to food and fostering long-term impact within the Scarborough community. Through initiatives like the Grocery Store Food Bank and the Career and Skill Development Program, Feed Scarborough not only provides essential food assistance but also prioritizes dignity and choice for individuals facing food insecurity. By serving over 8500 individuals weekly and offering choice-based models of food assistance, Feed Scarborough empowers community members to access nutritious food in a respectful manner. Moreover, programs like the Career and Skill Development Program equip individuals with the tools and resources necessary for economic stability, addressing the root causes of poverty and promoting long-term resilience.

Additionally, Feed Scarborough's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident in its grassroots contributions to global initiatives. By collaborating with local grassroots organizations, Feed Scarborough showcases the impact of community-driven solutions on achieving global development goals. Through research, surveys, and policy development, Feed Scarborough contributes to the broader global agenda outlined by the SDGs. This local impact on global initiatives highlights the significance of grassroots organizations in driving meaningful change at both local and international levels.

The success of Feed Scarborough's programs underscores the significance of investing in grassroots organizations to build resilient communities. By empowering individuals with the tools and resources they need to thrive, Feed Scarborough not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for long-term resilience. As communities worldwide face unprecedented challenges, models like Feed Scarborough provide a roadmap for building resilience from the ground up. These initiatives emphasize the importance of fostering local solutions to global issues, recognizing the unique strengths and perspectives that grassroots organizations bring to the table.

In the face of ongoing and future challenges, the lessons learned from Feed Scarborough's model are invaluable. By prioritizing collaboration, innovation, and community empowerment, Feed Scarborough sets a precedent for how communities can come together to address adversity effectively. As the world continues to grapple with complex challenges such as food insecurity, poverty, and inequality, initiatives like Feed Scarborough showcases the potential for grassroots organizations to drive meaningful change and create a more equitable and resilient future for all.

5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we examined the multifaceted impact of Feed Scarborough's programs in addressing food insecurity and poverty. Through detailed case studies and analysis, we highlighted the significant contributions of Feed Scarborough towards dignified food access, community resilience, and empowerment. The discussion emphasized the importance of grassroots initiatives in driving sustainable change and contributing to global efforts, underscoring Feed Scarborough's role as a model for replication. Through collaboration, innovation, and a holistic approach, Feed Scarborough exemplifies how local initiatives can make a profound impact on social challenges, paving the way for a more equitable and resilient future.

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We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Scarborough community for their unwavering support, trust, and collaboration throughout our journey. It is their resilience and determination that inspire us to continue our mission of addressing food insecurity and poverty. We also express our deepest appreciation to the individuals and families in need who have entrusted us with their well-being, driving us to work tirelessly to meet their needs.

Furthermore, we are immensely grateful for the invaluable support and partnership of organizations such as Daily Bread Food Bank and Second Harvest, whose contributions have been instrumental in expanding our reach and impact. Their commitment to addressing food insecurity aligns with our mission and has enabled us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Last but not least, we extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated team of 10 staff and 300+ volunteers of Feed Scarborough, whose unwavering dedication, passion, and hard work drive the success of our 22 programs. Their commitment to our cause is truly commendable, and we are grateful for their invaluable contributions to our organization and the community at large.

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9 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

“Authors declare no conflict of interest.”

10 APPENDIX - 1

Provides detailed description of each Feed Scarborough program, rationale of starting each program along with its impact.

10.1 Tier 1 Programs : Emergency Relief Programs

10.1.1 Community Grocery Free Store – Food Bank

What is the program: Feed Scarborough's Food Banks are designed as Free Community Grocery Stores, offering individuals a choice-based model of food assistance. Operating under the ethos of choice, dignity, and sustained support, these stores allow beneficiaries to select items based on their preferences and dietary needs. Resembling traditional grocery shopping experiences, individuals have the autonomy to choose from a variety of available items. Additionally, the program introduces Carry Forward Points, enabling beneficiaries to accumulate points for future use, promoting flexibility and sustainability.

Why the program was started: The Food Banks program was initiated to address the immediate nutritional needs of individuals and families facing food insecurity in the Scarborough community. Recognizing the importance of preserving the dignity and autonomy of beneficiaries, Feed Scarborough aimed to create a program that goes beyond traditional food bank models. By establishing Free Community Grocery Stores and introducing Carry Forward Points, the program seeks to empower individuals and families to make choices aligned with their preferences and dietary needs, thereby fostering a sense of dignity and autonomy.

Impact of the program: The Food Banks program has had a significant impact on the Scarborough community, transforming the narrative around food assistance. With a weekly reach of over 7500 individuals, the program emphasizes choice, dignity, and sustained support. Through partnerships with organizations like the Daily Bread Food Bank, Feed Scarborough ensures a steady supply of quality donations, enhancing the variety and nutritional value of available items. Operating across six locations with different schedules, the program ensures accessibility and convenience for all community members, serving as a vital resource in addressing food insecurity in Scarborough.

10.1.2 Online Food Bank

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Online Food Bank is a groundbreaking initiative that introduces the first and only online platform of its kind in Canada. Inspired by the convenience of popular online grocery stores like Instacart or Walmart, this platform revolutionizes access to food assistance by providing individuals facing food insecurity with a convenient and discreet way to access essential food items.

Why the program was started: The Online Food Bank was initiated to address the barriers faced by individuals with mobility challenges or those residing in areas with limited access to physical food banks. Recognizing the importance of privacy and dignity in accessing food assistance, Feed Scarborough aimed to create a platform that offers a discreet and respectful alternative to traditional food banks. By leveraging technology, the Online Food Bank ensures that individuals can access essential food items with ease and convenience, thereby breaking down barriers to access.

Impact of the program: The Online Food Bank program has had a remarkable impact on the Scarborough community, providing accessible and convenient access to essential food items, particularly for individuals facing mobility challenges or residing in areas with limited access to physical food banks. Statistics from the program indicate that since its inception, it has served over 10,000 individuals, ensuring access to nutritious food items to meet their dietary needs. Over 60% of users surveyed reported a significant reduction in stress and anxiety related to accessing food assistance since utilizing the Online Food Bank platform. Approximately 65% of users expressed satisfaction with the variety and quality of food items available through the platform, indicating its effectiveness in meeting diverse dietary preferences and nutritional needs. These statistics highlight the significant positive impact of the Online Food Bank program in addressing food insecurity and promoting well-being in the Scarborough community, emphasizing its role as a vital resource for accessible and dignified food assistance.

10.1.3 Healthy Meal Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Healthy Meal Program, known as Community Kitchen Creations, goes beyond traditional food assistance by providing over 2000 wholesome, well-balanced, and nutritious meals each week to individuals and families in need. Through the Community Kitchen, meals are prepared and packed with care, ensuring that no one in the community goes hungry. Additionally, the program emphasizes the importance of communal dining spaces by establishing the Canteen at the Rouge Park Food Bank, where community members can enjoy hot meals together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Why the program was started: The Healthy Meal Program was initiated to address the need for nutritious and well-balanced meals among individuals and families facing food insecurity in the Scarborough community. Recognizing that access to healthy food options is essential for overall well-being, Feed Scarborough aimed to create a program that provides not only sustenance but also nourishment. By partnering with Second Harvest and leveraging strategic partnerships, Feed Scarborough extends its impact, contributing to wider efforts in addressing food insecurity and ensuring that nutritious meals reach those who need them most.

Impact of the program: Feed Scarborough's Healthy Meal Program has had a significant impact on the Scarborough community, providing over 2000 nutritious meals each week to individuals and families in need. Through strategic partnerships with organizations like Second Harvest, the program extends its reach and contributes to broader efforts in addressing food insecurity. Additionally, the program's neighborhood outreach efforts ensure that those who may face barriers in accessing traditional food assistance services still receive the nourishment they deserve. Moreover, the establishment of the Canteen at the Rouge Park Food Bank not only addresses physical hunger but also fosters a sense of belonging and community, creating spaces for communal dining and social interaction. Overall, the Healthy Meal Program exemplifies Feed Scarborough's commitment to nourishing the community and fostering holistic well-being.

10.1.4 Vaccine Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Community Vaccine Program was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to ensure accessible vaccination for the Scarborough community. The program strategically placed over 100 clinics in neighborhoods, including high-density residential areas, community centers, and public spaces, to maximize accessibility. These clinics offered various vaccination services, including booster shots, informational sessions, and specialized doses for infants and children. Through these efforts, the program aimed to provide convenient access to vaccines for all community members, contributing to community health and resilience.

Why the program was started: The primary goal of the Community Vaccine Program was to ensure the Scarborough community received the required vaccine doses, facilitating a swift return to the workforce and self-sufficiency. Beyond protecting community health, the program aimed to address the pandemic's economic impact by enabling safe return to work. Widespread vaccination contributed to rebuilding the local economy and empowering individuals to regain financial stability.

Impact of the program: The Community Vaccine Program significantly contributed to vaccination efforts by directly administering vaccines to over 7000 community members and indirectly referring more than 10,000 individuals to nearby clinics. This reduced COVID-19 spread and protected community health. Facilitating vaccinated individuals' return to work played a crucial role in rebuilding the local economy and promoting financial stability. The program's diverse outreach and strategic clinic placement ensured vaccination accessibility for all community members, irrespective of location or socio-economic status. Overall, the program protected community health, supported economic recovery, and promoted self-sufficiency among Scarborough residents.

10.1.5 School Hamper Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's School Hamper Program addresses food insecurity among children by partnering with local schools to provide nutritious hampers to families in need. These hampers ensure that no child goes to bed hungry and that every student has the fuel they need for optimal learning.

Why the program was started: Initiated to address the critical link between nutrition and education, the School Hamper Program aims to support children and families facing food insecurity. By providing nutritious hampers, the program alleviates hunger among children, ensuring they have the energy for academic success. Additionally, it reduces the burden of food insecurity on parents and caregivers.

Impact of the program: The School Hamper Program has significantly impacted the Scarborough community:

- Identified and provided nutritious hampers to over 200 families.
- Reported improvements in students' focus and participation by over 75% of teachers and school administrators.
- Increased attendance rates among benefiting students by an average of 15%, indicating improved engagement.
- Reduced stress and anxiety for 60% of caregivers, as reported in parental feedback surveys.
- Collaborations with schools led to a 30% decrease in disciplinary incidents related to hunger or malnutrition, fostering a positive school environment.

10.1.6 Police Hamper Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Police Hamper Program is a collaborative initiative between local police divisions 41 and 43 and Feed Scarborough. Officers participate in packing hampers at the warehouse, which they keep in their patrol cars for distribution during patrols. This approach enables officers to provide immediate support to individuals they encounter facing challenges, fostering community connections, and understanding between law enforcement and community members.

Why the program was started: Initiated to address the intersection of community safety and food insecurity, the Police Hamper Program aims to provide immediate support to those in need while fostering positive interactions between law enforcement officers and community members. By collaborating with local police divisions, Feed Scarborough leverages law enforcement resources to address food insecurity and promote community well-being.

Impact of the program: The Police Hamper Program has had a profound impact on community safety and well-being, fostering positive interactions between law enforcement officers and community members while addressing food insecurity. Although specific statistics may not be available, anecdotal evidence and feedback indicate:

- Increased trust and cooperation between law enforcement officers and community members, improving community-police relations.
- Reduced tension during interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals facing challenges, as food hampers serve as a compassionate intervention.
- Enhanced community resilience and well-being as individuals receive immediate support during challenging times.
- Strengthened partnerships between Feed Scarborough and local law enforcement, demonstrating a commitment to addressing community needs and promoting safety.

10.2 Tier 2 Programs : Long-term Impact Programs

10.2.1 Startup Scarborough

What is the program about: Startup Scarborough empowers individuals in the community to launch, sustain, and expand their businesses through a comprehensive program. This initiative offers three levels of support: Start, Support, and Grow. The Start program, a 6-month program provides

essential coursework and mentorship to assist in launching new businesses. The Support program offers ongoing assistance in areas such as accounting and marketing, tailored to individual business needs. The Grow program focuses on business growth, providing customizable support and one-on-one consultancy. Through these initiatives, Startup Scarborough fosters resilient entrepreneurs, contributing to long-term food security and economic vitality in Scarborough.

Why we started the program: Startup Scarborough was initiated to empower individuals, particularly those accessing food banks in Scarborough, by providing resources for entrepreneurship. The program aims to address systemic issues of poverty and food insecurity, offering opportunities for individuals to generate income and contribute to long-term economic vitality.

Impact of the program: Since its inception, Startup Scarborough has driven Scarborough's entrepreneurial landscape, fostering economic growth and community resilience. It supported over 30 local businesses' launch and expansion, creating 50+ jobs across diverse industries. These businesses contributed significantly to Scarborough's economy through revenue generation and local expenditure. Feedback from participants highlighted a 85% satisfaction rate, emphasizing the program's efficacy in fostering business success. Beyond immediate outcomes, Startup Scarborough nurtured self-sufficient entrepreneurs, ensuring long-term community sustainability. Through its robust support model, the program remains a catalyst for positive change, cultivating a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem poised for enduring success.

10.2.2 Food Hall TO

What is the program about: Food Hall TO and its innovative Flip Kitchen represent a pioneering initiative by Feed Scarborough, aimed at fostering culinary entrepreneurship and empowering individuals passionate about the food industry. More than just a business incubator, this program offers a transformative journey for aspiring entrepreneurs, providing comprehensive training, mentorship, and hands-on experience to turn culinary dreams into reality.

Why We Started the Program: Food Hall TO and Flip Kitchen were born out of a recognition of the untapped potential within Scarborough's culinary landscape. With a vibrant community of food enthusiasts and aspiring entrepreneurs, there was a clear need for a platform that not only nurtured culinary talent but also provided the necessary resources and support for individuals to thrive in the competitive food industry. By launching Food Hall TO and Flip Kitchen, Feed Scarborough aimed to fill this gap and create a dynamic hub for culinary innovation and entrepreneurship in Scarborough.

Impact of the program: Since its inception, Food Hall TO and Flip Kitchen have made a significant impact on the culinary landscape of Toronto. Through the FLIP Incubator Program, selected entrepreneurs undergo a comprehensive 6-month training at the FLIP Kiosk, where they receive specialized training in food-focused business development. This training equips participants with the skills and mindset needed for culinary entrepreneurship, paving the way for successful ventures in the food industry.

The Food Station Incubator Program offers entrepreneurs a year-long opportunity to run a real business at one of the four kiosks within Food Hall TO. With guidance from an executive chef mentor, participants gain invaluable hands-on experience and mentorship, preparing them for the challenges of running their own culinary ventures. Additionally, the program provides post-incubator support to help entrepreneurs set up their own space or business outside the incubator, ensuring continued success beyond the program.

Ideal for passionate individuals, Food Hall TO and Flip Kitchen cater to youth and individuals with a passion for the food industry. Whether aspiring to launch a culinary venture or enhance existing skills, this program provides a platform to turn passion into a profession. Complementing the entrepreneurial programs is the Culinary Training Program, designed to equip youth with the skills needed for a successful career in the food industry,

further enhancing the impact and reach of Food Hall TO and Flip Kitchen within the community.

10.2.3 Community Gardens

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Community Gardens serve as vibrant spaces for community engagement, education, and cultural celebration. These gardens offer diverse opportunities for residents to come together, learn about sustainable gardening practices, and celebrate the rich tapestry of Scarborough's cultural diversity. From Scarborough Junction Community Farm to Scarborough Arts Community Garden and Glen Everest Community Garden, each garden offers unique experiences and programs tailored to the needs and interests of the community.

Different Types of Gardens:

- Scarborough Junction Community Farm: This urban agriculture model, converted from a parking space, features 32 raised beds and a pollinator garden, serving as a model for sustainable urban farming.
- Scarborough Arts Community Garden: Driven by community-led programs, this garden fosters creative expression through artistic installations and events related to food, gardening, and community.
- Glen Everest Community Garden: Based on an allotment system, this garden provides individuals with opportunities to cultivate their plots, fostering a sense of ownership and connection to the land.

Educational Programs:

- Youth Programs: Feed Scarborough's Community Gardens offer tailored educational programs for youth, including gardening workshops, environmental education sessions, and hands-on learning experiences.
- Adult Workshops: Community members of all ages can participate in adult workshops focused on sustainable gardening practices, composting, seed saving, and beekeeping.

Why we started the program: We initiated the Community Gardens program to address the need for inclusive and sustainable food solutions in Scarborough. By creating spaces where community members can grow their own food, learn about gardening practices, and connect with one another, we aim to foster a sense of unity, empowerment, and resilience within the community.

Impact of the program:

- Youth Empowerment: Over the past three years, Feed Scarborough's Community Gardens have empowered over 200 youth with essential gardening skills and environmental awareness through tailored educational programs and hands-on learning experiences.
- Adult Engagement: Community members of all ages have participated in adult workshops focused on sustainable gardening practices, composting, seed saving, and beekeeping, engaging over 300 adults and equipping them with new gardening techniques and environmental stewardship practices.
- Balcony Garden Program Success: The introduction of the Balcony Garden Program has enabled over 150 households to cultivate balcony gardens, promoting food self-sufficiency and community greening efforts among residents.
- Cultural Diversity: The gardens have cultivated over 20 different types of fruits, vegetables, and herbs annually, reflecting the cultural diversity of Scarborough and celebrating the rich tapestry of culinary traditions within the community.
- In summary, Feed Scarborough's Community Gardens play a vital role in empowering youth, engaging adults, promoting cultural diversity, and fostering environmental stewardship within the community.

10.2.4 Seniors Wellness Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Seniors Wellness Program is a cornerstone of our community-building efforts, prioritizing the health, happiness, and connectedness of our elder members in Scarborough. Through a thoughtful blend of physical activities, culinary experiences, and social engagements, this program serves as a vital conduit for fostering resilience and well-being among our seniors. The Seniors Wellness Program is designed to address the holistic needs of our elder community members:

- **Health is Wealth - Yoga and Meditation:** Seniors gather in a welcoming environment to participate in yoga and meditation sessions aimed at promoting physical health and emotional well-being. These sessions serve as opportunities for seniors to connect with one another, share personal experiences, and collectively embrace healthy living practices.
- **Golden Age Social Cooking Class:** In this interactive cooking class, seniors come together to prepare and enjoy meals while exchanging cherished family recipes and stories. This culinary journey not only celebrates cultural heritage but also strengthens social bonds, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie among participants.

Why we started the program: The Seniors Wellness Program was initiated as a testament to our commitment to building a resilient community in Scarborough. We recognize the invaluable wisdom and contributions of our elder members and understand the importance of creating spaces where they feel valued, supported, and connected. By offering tailored programs that cater to their unique needs, we aim to empower seniors to lead fulfilling and vibrant lives.

Impact of the program: Through the Seniors Wellness Program, Feed Scarborough has made a profound impact on the resilience and well-being of our elder community members:

- **Enhanced Community Connectivity:** 90% of participants reported feeling a greater sense of community and belonging, fostering stronger social connections and support networks among seniors.
- **Improved Physical and Emotional Well-being:** 85% of participants reported improvements in physical health and emotional well-being, attributing these positive changes to regular engagement in program activities.
- **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** The exchange of family recipes and stories in the cooking class has facilitated the preservation and sharing of cultural heritage, strengthening cultural identity and pride among participants.
- **Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles:** Discussions on nutrition and healthy living during program sessions have inspired seniors to adopt healthier lifestyle habits, contributing to their overall well-being and longevity.

10.2.5 Youth Wellness Program

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Youth Wellness Program is a holistic initiative designed to empower the next generation while addressing key issues of food security, poverty reduction, and resilience. By combining physical activity, skill development, mentorship, and community support, the program aims to equip youth with the tools they need to thrive and contribute positively to their communities. The Youth Wellness Program comprises several impactful initiatives tailored to the unique needs of Scarborough's youth:

- **Youth Culinary Program - Cooking Class:** This program focuses on teaching culinary skills to youth, emphasizing the importance of nutrition and healthy eating habits. Participants learn how to prepare nutritious meals using locally sourced ingredients, empowering them to make healthier food choices and improve their overall well-being.
- **At-Risk Youth Sports Program in partnership with Aero and Toronto Police - Career Building, Basketball, Boxing:** Targeting at-risk youth in the community, this program combines sports training with career-building workshops to provide participants with valuable life skills and opportunities for personal growth. By engaging with 10 students from each school, the program aims to instill discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities while offering pathways to future success.

Why we started the program: The Youth Wellness Program was established in response to the pressing need to address food insecurity, poverty, and resilience among Scarborough's youth population. By providing access to nutritious food, teaching valuable life skills, and fostering a sense of community and belonging, Feed Scarborough aims to break the cycle of poverty and empower youth to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Impact of the program: The Youth Wellness Program has demonstrated significant impact in several key areas:

- Over the past two years, the program has served over 60 youth participants, with 80% reporting improved physical health and 70% reporting increased confidence and self-esteem. Additionally, 100% of program graduates have successfully transitioned to further education or stable employment.
- Participants have reported improved mental health, stronger social connections, and a greater sense of purpose and resilience. Many have expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by the program, noting its positive impact on their personal and professional development.

The Youth Wellness Program at Feed Scarborough exemplifies the organization's commitment to addressing systemic issues of food insecurity, poverty, and resilience among Scarborough's youth population. By providing comprehensive support and opportunities for growth, the program empowers youth to overcome obstacles, build brighter futures, and contribute positively to their communities.

10.2.6 Farmers Market

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Farmers Markets are vital initiatives aimed at ensuring access to fresh, affordable food for the Scarborough community. With a focus on convenience and affordability, our Farmers Markets bring the vibrant goodness of fresh fruits, vegetables, and bakery items directly to the community.

Why we started the program: The Farmers Market program was initiated to address the challenge of food deserts and limited access to fresh, nutritious food in Scarborough. Recognizing the importance of food security and the need for affordable options, Feed Scarborough launched these markets to ensure that every community member has access to essential fresh produce.

Impact of the program: Our Farmers Markets have had a significant impact on the Scarborough community, addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating habits. Some key impact metrics include:

- **Increased Access to Fresh Produce:** The Mobile Farmers Market, operating once a week in areas like Firvalley, Cataraqui, Oakridge, and Birchmount, has significantly increased access to fresh produce in food desert areas, reaching hundreds of residents weekly.
- **Community Engagement:** The Clairlea Good Food Market, located at 772 Warden Ave, serves as more than just a market. It has become a vibrant community hub, fostering discussions on food security and engaging the local community, especially youth. With colorful artwork and seating areas, it provides a welcoming space for community members to connect and learn about healthy eating.
- **Youth Involvement:** The Farmers Markets actively involve youth in various aspects, from volunteering to learning about food security and healthy eating habits. This involvement not only educates the youth but also empowers them to make positive changes in their communities.
- **Quantitative Impact:** Over the past year, our Farmers Markets have collectively served over 1,000 households, providing them with access to fresh produce and essential food items. Additionally, 80% of surveyed attendees reported an increase in their consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables since attending the Farmers Markets.

10.2.7 Career and Skill Development Programs

What is the program about: Feed Scarborough's Career and Skill Development Program offers a comprehensive range of initiatives aimed at empowering individuals with the necessary skills

and resources to pursue meaningful careers and opportunities for personal growth. The program encompasses:

- **Culinary Training Program:** Conducted at our commercial kitchen and Food Hall TO, this program provides food enthusiasts with hands-on culinary training for six months, equipping them with job-ready skills for employment in the food industry.
- **Food-Focused Certifications:** Similar to the Culinary Training Program, this initiative offers food-focused certifications to individuals seeking employment in the culinary field, ensuring they possess the necessary qualifications for their desired roles.
- **Skill Building Programs:** These programs target both volunteers and clients, connecting them with industry-specific mentors and facilitating opportunities for small co-ops and internships. Skill development areas include electrical works, furniture building, administrative tasks, and more, providing participants with valuable exposure and experience in their chosen fields.
- **Resume Development:** As part of our commitment to supporting career development, we offer resume development workshops to assist individuals in crafting compelling resumes that highlight their skills and experiences effectively.

Why we started the program: Feed Scarborough recognizes the importance of providing individuals with opportunities for career advancement and personal development. The Career and Skill Development Program is designed to address the need for accessible, industry-specific training and support, particularly for those facing barriers to employment. By offering tailored programs and resources, we aim to empower individuals with the skills and confidence needed to pursue meaningful careers and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Impact of the programs: The Career and Skill Development Program has made a significant impact on the lives of participants, as evidenced by the following statistics:

- **Employment Rate:** Over the past year, 80% of participants who completed the Culinary Training Program secured employment in the food industry within three months of graduation.
- **Certification Success:** 90% of individuals who obtained food-focused certifications through our program successfully obtained employment or advanced their careers in the culinary field.
- **Skill Building Opportunities:** Through our skill building programs, we have facilitated over 35+ small co-ops and internships, providing participants with valuable hands-on experience and exposure to various industries.

Overall, the Career and Skill Development Program has been instrumental in providing individuals with the resources and support needed to pursue meaningful careers, contribute to the workforce, and achieve long-term economic stability.

10.2.8 FreshStart - program for newcomers

What is the program about: The FreshStart Program at Feed Scarborough is dedicated to supporting newcomers to Canada by providing them with essential tools, resources, and community support to help them succeed in their new environment. This program offers a range of initiatives tailored to the unique needs of newcomers, including:

- **Orientation Workshops:** Comprehensive orientation workshops are conducted to familiarize newcomers with essential information about Canadian society, culture, and systems. Topics covered include healthcare, education, employment opportunities, and community resources.
- **Language and Communication Support:** Language and communication support services are offered to help newcomers improve their English language skills and navigate language barriers they may encounter in daily life. This includes language classes, conversation groups, and one-on-one tutoring sessions.
- **Buddy System:** The FreshStart Program employs a buddy system, where newcomers are paired with volunteers from our team who serve as mentors and guides. Buddies provide support, companionship, and assistance in navigating the challenges of settling into a new community.

- **Resource Hub:** A dedicated resource hub is established to provide newcomers with access to information, support services, and referrals to community organizations and agencies that can assist them in various aspects of their settlement journey.

Why we started the program: Feed Scarborough recognizes the challenges and barriers that newcomers face when transitioning to life in Canada. The FreshStart Program is initiated to address these challenges by providing newcomers with the necessary tools, resources, and support systems to facilitate a smooth transition and integration into Canadian society. By offering orientation workshops, language support, a buddy system, and access to community resources, we aim to empower newcomers to navigate the complexities of their new environment and achieve success in their personal and professional lives.

Impact of the program: The FreshStart Program has had a profound impact on the lives of newcomers, as evidenced by the following outcomes:

- **Improved Integration:** 72% of participants reported feeling more integrated into Canadian society after participating in the orientation workshops and buddy system.
- **Language Proficiency:** Through language and communication support services, 60% of newcomers demonstrated improvement in their English language skills within six months of participating in the program.
- **Community Connection:** 85% of newcomers expressed satisfaction with the buddy system, citing it as a valuable source of support and companionship during their settlement journey.
- **Access to Resources:** The resource hub facilitated over 100 referrals to community organisations and agencies, ensuring newcomers had access to essential support services and resources to meet their needs.

By equipping newcomers with the tools, resources, and support networks necessary to navigate their new environment, the FreshStart Program plays a crucial role in building resilience and fostering self-sufficiency among newcomers. By empowering them to access essential services, develop language skills, and build social connections, the program enables newcomers to overcome challenges and thrive in their new community. This, in turn, contributes to their ability to achieve food security and economic stability, ultimately leading to their successful integration and long-term well-being in Canada.

10.3 Tier 3 Programs : Research and Policy

Feed Scarborough's Research Advocacy and Collaboration program is a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering positive change within the community. This program encompasses a multifaceted approach to gathering, analyzing, and utilizing data to inform our advocacy efforts and policy development. It includes collaboration with educational institutes, engagement with government representatives, and the production of research reports and impact studies.

10.3.1 Collaboration with Educational Institutes

We actively collaborate with esteemed educational institutions such as the University of Toronto, Centennial College, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus and Toronto Metropolitan University. These collaborations involve joint research projects, data analysis, and knowledge-sharing initiatives aimed at deepening our understanding of community needs and informing evidence-based interventions.

10.3.2 Collaboration with Government Levels

Our commitment to advocacy extends to collaborations with all levels of government. By engaging in dialogue with policymakers at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels, we strive to influence policy decisions that address food insecurity, poverty, and other pressing community issues.

Importance of Research, Advocacy, and Policy Development:

Research, advocacy, and policy development are crucial components of our efforts to effect lasting change in the community. By conducting research, analyzing data, and engaging in evidence-based advocacy, we can identify root causes, develop targeted interventions, and advocate for policies that promote food security, poverty reduction, and community well-being.