



2011 Annual Report

*Together We Are
Neighbours Helping Neighbours*



Overview

The Airdrie Food Bank's mandate is to provide short term emergency food support to adults, children and families in need in Airdrie and surrounding communities. We collect food and funds from the community and distribute food as needed through our many programs.

We use volunteers and staff to meet our mandate of being "Neighbors helping Neighbors."

Mission

The Airdrie Food Bank collects and distributes food to those in need and educates the community on hunger related issues.

Vision

The Airdrie Food Bank is building a stronger community that believes in the value of the food bank where Neighbours help Neighbours.

The Airdrie Food Bank partners with our community to provide the tools required to meet the needs of our neighbours.



Core Values

The Airdrie Food Bank is available for everyone in need

We treat people with dignity and respect and are non-judgmental

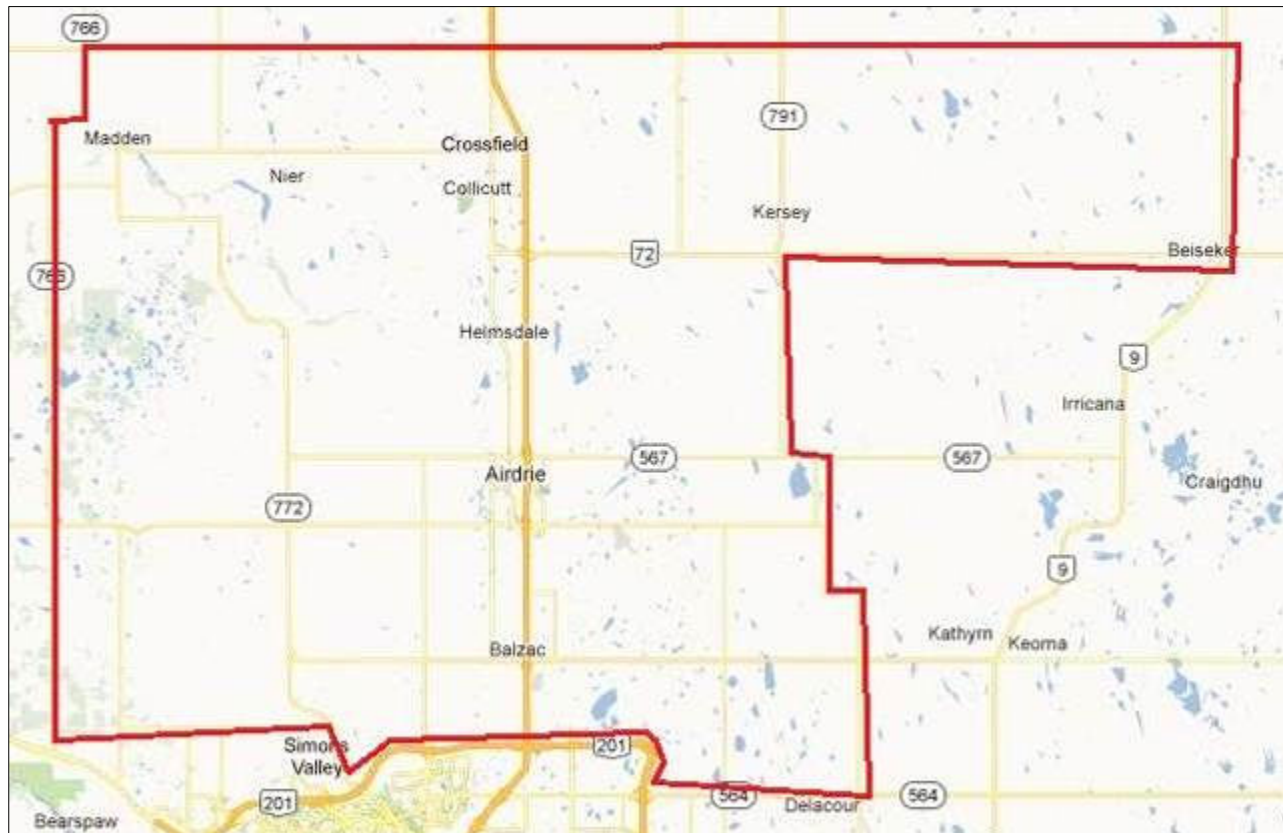
We value and support our community. We are seen as the hub of the community

We value people's talents and abilities



Service Area

We serve clients in Airdrie, Crossfield, Balzac, Beiseker, Madden and surrounding areas.



Message from the President

2011 was a year of preparation and focus on what we started last year - the implementation of our strategic direction for a new building.

Having completed a Best Use Site and Building Study through Gibbs Gage Architects in early 2011, we began our work towards the engagement of a builder for a "Design Build." The Board initially met with several builders to discuss build options and proposals. The board then appointed a volunteer Building Advisory Committee to follow through with the development of an RFP (Request for Proposal) and preparation of Tender for Bids to be sent out.

Currently the Building Advisory Committee is meeting weekly and hopes to have a decision on a General Contractor within the next few weeks, for Board approval. The timing on engaging a Contractor is however dependent on the bids meeting our specifications on the Design Build process.

Over the past year the Board has given a lot of time and energy to engaging Fund Development Council. A vital piece of work the board has focused on was to develop strategies to assist us in developing a Capital Campaign. We are currently well on our way to implementing that Capital Campaign and are in the process of solidifying a Volunteer Campaign Cabinet and Campaign Management team that will work with

and support
Volunteer
Canvassers around
fundraising
activities.

The year 2012 will see the Board, with the strong support of the Executive Director and staff, work hard to meet drastically increased demands for food services and programs. The Airdrie Food Bank's strategic plan to move forward with the construction of a new building is one that will support the clients we serve for the next 25 years. With community support and in consultation with professional services and government, we will achieve our goal of a new permanent, purpose-built facility.

All of the work accomplished over the past year could not have been undertaken without the strong and active support of the AFB Board. Thank you for all the work you do!

My thanks as well to the AFB Executive Director and staff, who frequently go above and beyond the call of duty. We are indeed fortunate to have them on our team.

Sincerely,

Lise Blanchette
President, Board of Directors



Message from the Executive Director

Another year has passed and 2011 has once again been a year where I have had the privilege of facilitating the good will of the community to its neighbors in need through the programs of the Airdrie Food Bank.

We continue to be a safe, caring place where children, individuals and families come to get food support and be connected with other community programs. We are also a place where individuals, local businesses and community groups can come to offer help to others in need and give of their time and talents. It is a place where people matter, connect, and feel like they are worthy of support or can make a difference by giving back.

We were blessed as well to have our efforts recognized by the community at large as our agency received the 2011 People's Choice award for the Charity of Choice for the 3rd year running as well as the 2011 award for Best Festival for our Empty Bowls Event.

It has been a privilege for me personally to be a part of this organization and I thank my board, staff, volunteers and community for their ongoing support and encouragement in my role as Executive Director.

I would like to thank the Food Bank Board of Directors for their dedication, vision and direction. Because of them, our agency is strong and vibrant. Thanks as

well to the staff who give over and beyond to serve our community. With their hearts for our clients the food bank is a respectful, welcoming place for all who enter.



I also want to thank our volunteers, the people from this community who give their time, talents and treasures to help others. Without the gift of your time the Food Bank would not be able to operate.

Lastly, my heartfelt thanks to all our donors. Every person who puts a can in at the store or makes a monetary donation owns a piece of the Food Bank. I am humbly grateful that you all care enough to reach out to others. Without your support we would not be able to accomplish our missions of making sure none in our community go hungry.

I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring compassionate community that supports its Neighbors. I am richly blessed by you all.

Respectfully,

Lori McRitchie
Executive Director



Financial Operations

The year 2011 yielded both successes and challenges in the area of finances.

We were the top winner in the Joey's Community Revival Project which provided us with a prize of \$15,000.

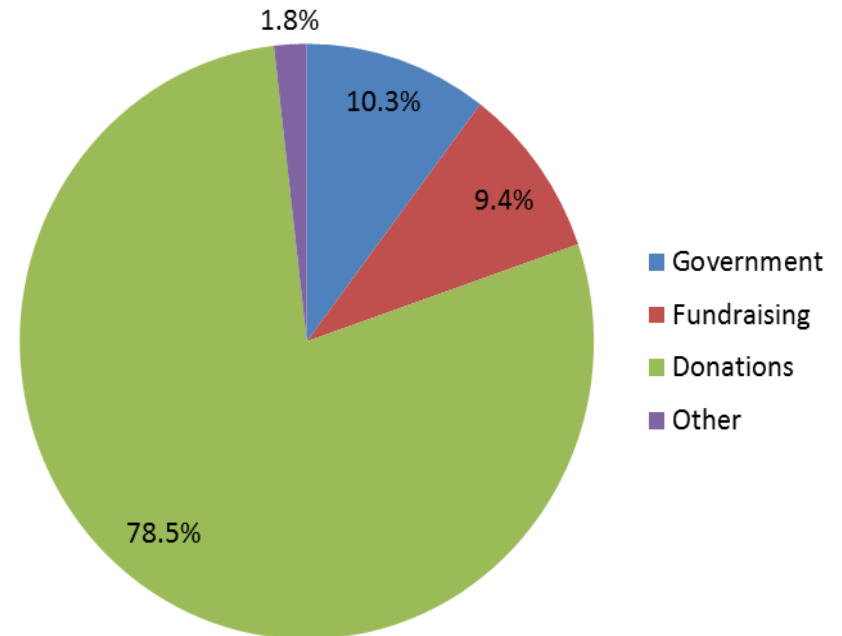
Our FCSS funding was reduced by \$20,000 from the previous year while we witnessed an increased need for our services.

Government grants came through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), Canada Heritage and Alberta Community Spirit.

Fundraising money was generated through the Empty Bowls Festival, TreeCycle and many business and community events.

We are very grateful for the huge support our community gives up making up over 78% of the funds needed to support our programs and operations.

Airdrie Food Bank - 2011 Income

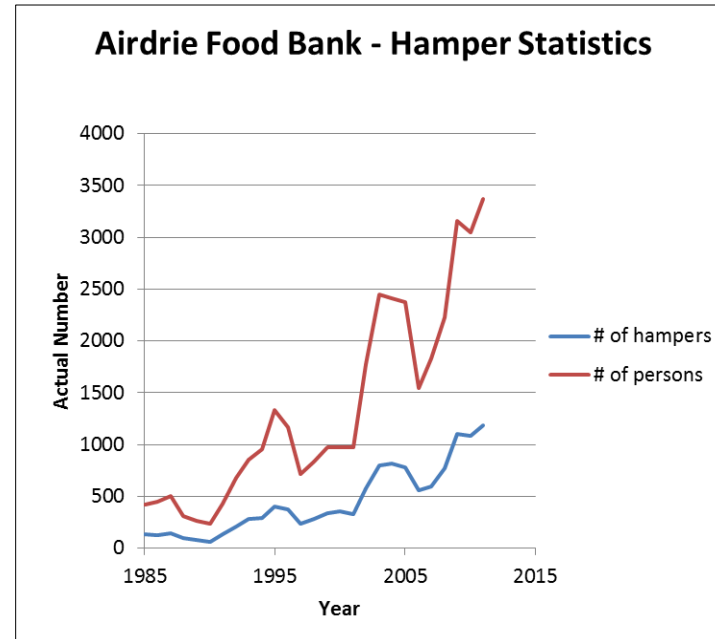


Hamper Stats

The number of people who are in need of the Food Bank's support in Airdrie has risen drastically in the last 25 years.

The graph to the left represents the number of hampers and people served between 1985 and 2011.

Note: These numbers are for regular hampers only and do not include food provided through our other programs and services.

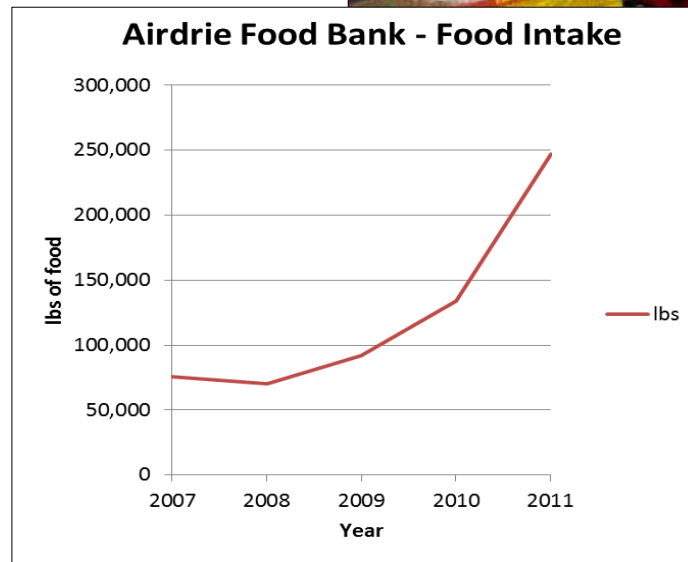


Food Intake Statistics

We certainly need and appreciate the increased support from our community in order to meet the rising demand for our services.

This graph shows the amount of food donated to the Airdrie Food Bank between 2007 and 2011.

The additional food donations are needed but do come with storage challenges. Over the last few years we have run out of room and have found it necessary to rent extra storage to hold the additional food.



About Hunger in Airdrie

Airdrie Food Bank Statistics

In 2011 we provided the following support to families and individuals in Airdrie and area:

- 1,186 hampers to 3,370 people including 1,778 (53%) adults and 1,592 (47%) children
- Bread and extras to 2,718 families comprised of 7,563 individuals
- 5,673 breakfasts to children aged 5 - 10
- 9,166 emergency shelf items to 22 school programs
- Best beginning food hampers for 6 expectant mothers
- Formula and/or milk for 87 new mothers
- 59 emergency packs to local agencies

The Need for Food

Clients of the Airdrie Food Bank are individuals and families who are in a crisis situation and turn to us for help. Some of the reasons they find themselves in this position are:

- Working poor (people working at minimum wage or less than full time)
- People with disabilities
- People receiving social assistance or living on a fixed income
- Newcomers to Airdrie and area (e.g. immigrant families)
- People experiencing unexpected financial crisis such as job loss, illness, and/ or increase in rent and utilities
- Abandoned spouses and/or families
- Those missed or not serviced by the social system
- Victims of domestic abuse



Faces of the Food Bank

The following client stories are a sampling of what we hear at the Airdrie Food Bank. They are based on real life situations although names have been removed and circumstances changed slightly to protect our client's identities.

An upper middle class family lives in a nice house in one of the better areas of Airdrie. Dad works while Mom stays home to raise their children. Suddenly Dad moves out leaving Mom with huge bills and no income.

A 16 year old boy living with his single mother regularly goes to school without breakfast or lunch. There is little to no food in the house.



An elderly couple lives in fear of their mentally handicapped and abusive adult son; any extra money is stolen by the son to support his addictions.

A construction worker falls and hurts his back. He is unable to work for 6 weeks and with no income during that time, he struggles to feed his young children.

A young woman finds herself pregnant without support from family or knowledge of how to look after herself or her new baby.



A war veteran comes to the food bank and tears up with gratitude at the amount of food supplied to him.

On behalf of our community we were able to assist every individual/family listed above and many more whether it was through food support, referrals to supporting agencies, a friendly face or other assistance needed. We were there to help.



Programs & Services

Regular Hampers

Hampers provide 7 to 10 days' worth of food for individuals and families. It contains all food groups including meat, dairy and produce. Hampers can be accessed 6 times in a 12 month period and only once every 30 days. Clients must qualify for this program.

Milk and Formula for New Moms

Milk and/or formula are provided to support moms and their babies. This program operates in partnership with Community Links and the Calgary Health Authority who makes the referrals and monitor health of mom and baby.

Best Beginnings Hampers

Best Beginnings is for expecting moms and their families. The program operates in partnership with the Calgary Health Authority and Community Links. Women are referred to us and we provide nutritious food support for them while they are expecting.



Emergency Packs

A day's worth of food that doesn't need preparation including items such as juice boxes, easy open cans, granola bars and high protein nutritious snacks. Packs are distributed by local agencies and churches to individuals as needed.

Snack Attack

Emergency snack, breakfast and lunch food items are provided to any student who is hungry through 22 school programs in Airdrie and surrounding area. We do not limit items given to what has been donated to us only, so items are purchased by us, as needed.

R.J.Hawkey Breakfast Program

A program that feeds breakfast to children aged five to ten every school day. Operating from 7:15 until 8:00 a.m. this program fills a vital need in the children's lives, providing nutritional support as well as caring for their social and emotional needs.

Bread & Extras

Bread and extra food items are available to anyone in need at any time during our regular office hours. Clients do not need to qualify for this program and are encouraged to stop in any time we are open and as often as needed to pick up available extras.

Annual Events

January

Treecycle: Tree recycling by Logical Creations

February

(no events)

March

Safeway's Friends helping Friends Food Drive

Silent / Live Auction, Dinner & Dance

April

National Volunteer Week

Latter Day Saints Food Drive #1

Home & Garden Fair

Loblaws National Spring Food Drive #1
@ No Frills and Superstore

May

Latter Day Saints Food Drive #2

VIP Bowl Painting @ Simply Ceramics

Bowl Making @ Muk Luk Magpie

June

Food Bank Open House

Empty Bowls Arts Festival

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Astoria Golf Tournament

July

Christmas in July event @ Sobeys

August

\$10.00 Hair cut day (2011)

Bikes and Bulls Airdrie Oilman's
Association (2011)

Airdrie Time Travelers Show and Shine

September

Latter Day Saints Food Drive #3

Airdrie Fest



October

Great Pumpkin Food Drive @ Sobeys

Latter Day Saints Food Drive #4

November

Stuff a Bus Food Drive Co-op

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Bowl Making @ Art Market Telus
Convention Center

Cam Clark Ford – Fill a Truck

December

Holiday Train (every second year)

Propak Food and Fund Drive

Lioness Christmas Hamper Program

Loblaw's National Food Drive #2
@ No Frills and Superstore

Mayors Food Drive @ Safeway

Airdrie Festival of Lights

Monthly

G.E.A.R. (Gathering Edibles for Airdrie
Residents) Food Drives by local school
(Sept – June)

Old Phones = New Hope Recycle Program
(Nov 2011 to Dec 2012)



Empty Bowls Festival

A celebration of local talent in visual and performing arts that builds community in the Airdrie area; raises awareness of local hunger issues and raises funds for the Airdrie Food Bank operations. Event runs from mid-May to mid-June each year and includes:

Open House

A day when we open the Food Bank for a tour, serve refreshments and show our community what we have accomplished with their support.

Soup-N-Bowl Saturday

All day event at Nose Creek Park in Airdrie featuring children's area, artists, music, silent auction as well as free soup lunch. Bowls made by local ceramic artists and community members are available for a suggested \$20 donation.

This event is the Airdrie Food Bank's way of saying thank you to our great community, for all they do to support those in need.



Sponsorship

The Empty Bowls Festival is possible because of funding from Canadian Heritage - Building Communities through Arts and Heritage fund, the Rotary Club of Airdrie and the support of many Airdrie artists, restaurants and businesses.



Staffing

The Airdrie Food Bank's staff consists of one full time employee and seven part-time employees.

Lori McRitchie, Executive Director
Sue Methuen, Executive Assistant
Carolyn Geertsen, Client / Volunteer Manager
Michelle Clarkson, Food Manager
Carolyn Bayda, Client Intake
Lesley Pauls, Client Intake
David Scheuchner, Warehouse Manager / Buyer
Diane Boyd, Warehouse Manager / Buyer



Board of Directors

Airdrie Food Bank is governed by a Board of Directors. Approximately half of the board positions are up for renewal each year, so there is always a mixture of experienced and new board members at any one time.

2011 Board of Directors

Lise Blanchette, President
Marie Lauer, Vice President
Annette Malley, Treasurer
Tom Smith, Secretary
Carrie Peddie, Director
Scott Pulvermacher, Director
Steven Bello, Director
Shane Ferguson, Director

Code of Ethics

The Airdrie Food Bank is a member of the Canada Association of Food Banks (Food Banks Canada), Food Banks Alberta and the Alberta Food Bank Network Association.

As an organization, we follow a Canadian Food Bank Code of Ethics and have made it available online.

Partnerships & Community Support

Memberships

The Airdrie Food Bank is a member of:

- Canadian Association of Food Banks (Food Banks Canada)
- Alberta Food Bank Network Association (Alberta Food Banks)
- Food Banks Alberta (Southern & Central Alberta Food Bank Federation)
- Volunteer Airdrie
- Volunteer Calgary
- Volunteer Alberta
- Airdrie Chamber of Commerce
- Airdrie Regional Arts Society (for Empty Bowls Festival)

Agencies

The Airdrie Food Bank operates a referral system, networking with local agencies in order to provide clients with information about various resources available to them within the community. This information provides the support they need in times of crisis.

We refer clients to:

- North Rockyview Community Links
- Airdrie Public Library
- Airdrie Employment Services
- Airdrie and District Victims Assistance Society
- Airdrie Boys and Girls Club
- Alberta Health Services
- City of Airdrie Social Planning Department
- Manna House
- Airdrie Lioness Club Hamper Foundation



Volunteers

The Airdrie Food Bank is able to provide services and programs to the community because of the involvement of a dedicated team of over 120 volunteers. These loyal supporters engage in tasks supporting all levels of operation and food bank programs.

As the need for our services has increased over the years, the volunteers have increased their hours to ensure we are supported.



Year	Volunteer Hours
2007	3291
2008	4105
2009	6551
2010	7390
2011	7931

Community

The Airdrie Food Bank is tremendously supported by our community including help from businesses, schools, churches, community groups and caring individuals.

With approximately 10% of our funding in 2011 coming from government support, we rely on donors and fundraising events to make up the remaining 90% of money needed to purchase perishable food products as well as support programs and operations.

Every year individuals and organizations in our community find innovative ways to raise money and the thousands of pounds of food we need to fight hunger in the Airdrie area. Even children help by organizing food drives - birthday parties are one popular option.

Our local media (weekly newspapers, radio and social media groups) advertise for us at little or no cost as well as help spread our messages online.

The community continues to support us at special events including our annual Silent Auction and the Empty Bowls Festival.



Our History

The Airdrie Food Bank was established in 1984 when a group of caring individuals from the community recognized a need. In 1998 the church basement where we were being housed became too small for the increased demand and we moved to a room in the Regional Health Building.

In 2006, the Regional Health Building was needed for other uses and the Airdrie Food Bank began a campaign to look for a new location. The community stepped up to support us with the Agricultural Society giving the Food Bank a warehouse and the City of Airdrie leasing us land for a 5 year term. In 2011, that lease was extended to a 25 year term in 5 year increments.



Our Future Plans

The Airdrie Food Bank will continue to work hard with our community to meet the drastically increased demand for food services and programs.

Our hope for the future is to build a new permanent, purpose-built facility. Our long term lease allows us the opportunity to continue our services while moving ahead with an expansion that will meet the increased demand and serve us well into the future.

Did you know?

The Airdrie Food Bank is active on the web and in social media. In addition to our website, we have over 150 fans on Facebook and over 500 followers in Twitter. We accept online donations through Canada Helps.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who have supported the Airdrie Food Bank. Because of your heart for the community those who experienced difficulties were able to be cared for.

We look forward to continuing to work together to be a caring, compassionate community that we are proud to be a part of – neighbours helping neighbours.



Airdrie Food Bank

20 East Lake Way
Airdrie, AB T4A 2J3

www.airdriefoodbank.com
www.facebook.com/airdriefoodbank
www.twitter.com/airdriefoodbank

