

MINDEN FOOD BANK now also known as MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

In 2019 the Minden Food Bank received \$143,151.52 in over 626 donations from individuals, businesses, service clubs, churches, Minden Hills Township, grants and other organizations from 259 identifiable donors. These donations varied in size from \$2.00 to \$5,000.00 and they were all greatly appreciated. There were also many generous donations of food, personal care items, toys and materials. Our operating expenses for the year were \$135,086.75 plus \$49,581.09 toward our new accessibility lift, for a total cash outflow of \$184,667.84. Note: only donations designated for the lift are going toward that project. All other donations go to our operations to purchase food and related expenses. Fortunately, last year's generous donors set us up with surplus funds to enable us to continue our operations and finish the costly lift project. Approximately 42% of the operating expenses were spent on food and supplies for our clients as so much food is now donated from various sources. The remaining portion was spent on rent, hydro, water and sewer, insurance, garbage and snow removal, transportation, supplies and other overhead expenses and a large portion was invested in the new lift. If you can increase your donations in 2020, it would be greatly appreciated to help us cover our costs without having to reduce the services we offer.

Minden Food Bank continues to be busy and the stats indicate that the first, second and fourth quarter are the busiest. This substantiates our belief that if clients find work they don't come to food bank usually in summer (third quarter). In 2019 there were 1914 adults, 1053 children and 125 seniors visits assisted by the food bank with our client base being 250 families. We gave out about 5,200 bags with a weight of about 45,000 pounds and a value of about \$105,000.00. We provided about 170 Christmas Baskets offering a turkey or ham and enough groceries for about one week. The Minden Food Centre has enjoyed another successful year in providing for those less fortunate as a result of your caring.

In addition to the Christmas Baskets and our Food Bank, we partner with the Food for Kids program. The Food for Kids program, managed by Point in Time, helps to ensure that all children have had a meal so that they are ready to learn in school. We support this program with \$500 per month ensuring young people have access to food. We also share food items with 5 other County food banks, Food for Kids and SIRCH.

Our building, just five years old, at 24 Newcastle Street in Minden is a dream come true for all of us at the Minden Community Food Centre. We partnered with the Arcadia Masonic Lodge to create a wonderful place for people to come who need food, but the building has turned out to be much more than that. The whole bottom floor of the food bank is easily six times as big as our previous space. We have a much larger food bank space, and we have a food hub where we have room to store pallets of food which we can buy for a greatly reduced price. This has helped us serve more people using fewer donated dollars! The kitchen is a joy to work in and volunteers regularly create meals there every week to fill the freezers in the food bank downstairs. The meals have been made for very little money and are a huge hit with seniors. This year, we have made 4418 takeout containers that will feed a complete meal for 2 people per container; that is 8836 meals made with the help of our dedicated volunteers plus 140 dozen cookies for the Christmas Hampers were baked! (consider saying something about Community Living here) We are now teaching in the kitchen and we will be partnering with the schools to host groups of children. The handicapped accessible ramp leading to the kitchen is beautiful making it easy for all to enter freely. Our walk in freezer and walk in cooler can store much more perishable food than we ever could before. Our numbers of clients have gone up so much that this facility is a blessing to all of us. The accessibility lift was completed in 2019. We are still seeking donations to fund our remaining loan, a few things in the kitchen and for the lift. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation toward the building project or general operations please go on-line or contact one of the following below. We thank you for all your support.

Don Veno, Chairperson – 705-306-9020 Rev. Max Ward, Treasurer – 705-286-3592

Marilynne Lesperance, Acting Community Kitchen Coordinator – 705-286-2990

Joanne Barnes, Manager Minden Food Centre – 705-286-6838

Minden Community Food Centre is open Monday and Wednesday of each week

From 11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – 705-286-6838/ in an emergency 705-854-9208

www.mindenfoodbank.org – on-line donations always appreciated