



GANANOQUE & AREA
FOOD BANK

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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MISSION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

MISSION A Community based organization serving Gananoque and Area providing food to those in need. Everyone will be treated with respect, dignity and protection of privacy.

PHILOSOPHY We have established a commitment to serve our community in the capacity of a Food Bank without condescension and with absolute confidentiality.

GOALS

- To provide an efficient program of food collection and distribution.
- To make available donated and purchased food to families and individuals while encouraging our clients towards healthier food options.
- To take an active role in educating and supporting the public about the food needs in our community.
- To gather, maintain and keep current, up-dated statistics regarding the food needs of our own community.

GANANOQUE AND AREA FOOD BANK BACKGROUND

The Gananoque & Area Food Bank was established in 1987 by the Gananoque Ministerial Association (an organization of all local churches), to provide support to individuals and families living in our area whose financial resources are insufficient to cover basic food needs. The Food Bank has rented from the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for numerous years up to and including September 2020. As of September 25th, 2020 the Food Bank moved to a new location: 497 King St. E Gananoque.

The Food Bank is funded and sustained through food and monetary donations from individuals, merchants, churches, school food drives, service clubs and local businesses as well as funding through the United way of Leeds and Grenville. An annual Halloween food drive initiated by the Ministerial Association, Cram the Cruiser event by the Gananoque Police Service and the 99.9 MYFM Food Drive are a major source of food and monetary donations for the Food Bank.

The purpose of the Food Bank is to provide temporary food to those in need. All prospective clients are subject to a screening process to determine whether they qualify for assistance under the mandate of the Food Bank.

The Food Bank is not funded in any manner by any government.

The affairs of the Food Bank are managed by a Board of Directors with a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

As a member of the Feed Ontario (FO) and Food Banks Canada (FBC) we are subject to compliance with FO Standards of Operation & Operating Policies and to FBC's Code of Ethics.

The Food Bank is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday of the Month from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. At the present time we operate with a pool of 65 volunteers whose duties range from driver, pantry worker, volunteer shopper or Intake Clerk, 5 are required to meet the daily needs on any given day. All of our volunteers are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement and a Criminal Records check.

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE

CHAIR:	SHANNON GRIGGS
VICE-CHAIR:	VACANT
SECRETARY:	ROZANNE DOYLE
TREASURER:	BARB BYFORD

DIRECTORS

JOANNE LANCASTER

MARY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

LARRY COTE

LYNDA BECKSTEAD

KATHY BENNETT

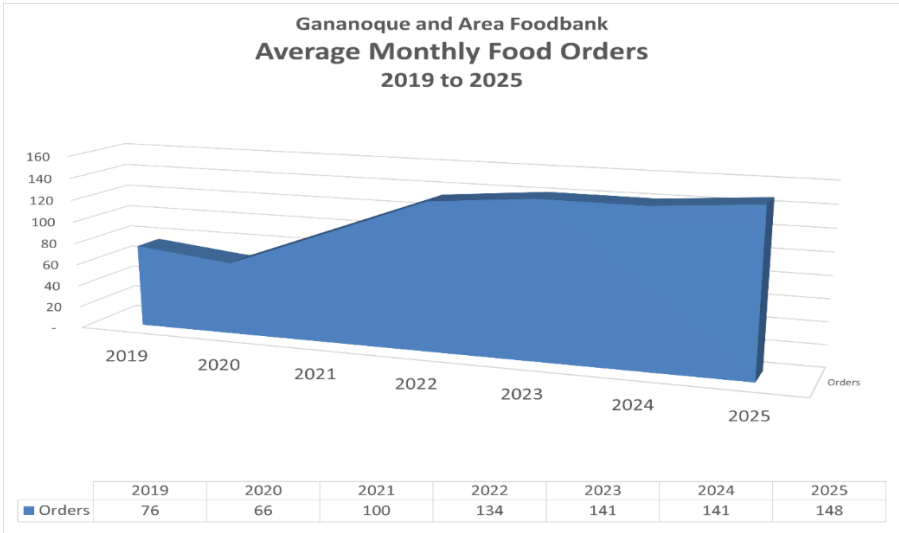
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE

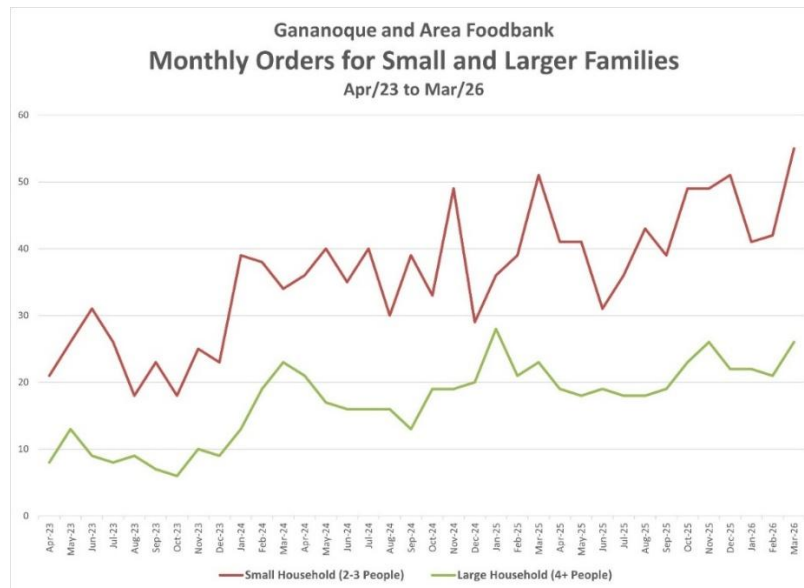
In Canada approximately 1 in 4 people in the working class are accessing Food Banks on a regular basis. That means that our foodbank has been feeding more than ever before. For those of you who are not aware we have a very large catchment area. Our boundaries go to Taylor Road in the north to Deer Ridge Road in the west to Blue Mountain Road in the East. That includes 3 towns, Rockport, Lansdowne and Gananoque. Although that is our catchment area, we are often having people from other areas approach us hungry with their foodbanks unable to assist them. That is currently happening on a regular basis. With our current economic situation in Canada, we can only assume that the situation will continue to become more challenging, especially for the most vulnerable. As we have experienced in the past year or two, food prices continue to rise, and our clients' struggle to provide the essentials, including housing, transportation and everyday needs for themselves and their families.

We are fortunate that after 39 years in operation we have been able to build, with the community's ongoing support, and caring, a sound financial foundation that will help us navigate the challenging path ahead while maintaining our core goal of feeding hungry people in our community.

Currently, we have sufficient reserve funds to meet our service delivery demands for 1.5 to 2 years, based on current demand levels. We anticipated these difficult times were coming, and thankfully through planning, and efforts from the community, our volunteers and our donors, we are in a fiscal position to meet the expected increasing in demand and cost challenges in the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank the community for their generous donations. Without your support, our Food Bank would not be able to continue to serve our community as we are so fortunately able to do





. I am also grateful for our staff, Andy, and our numerous Volunteers and Board members who give of their time so graciously. Thank you for all that you do

Below are some of our accomplishments from this year:

- In late February 2026 we completed the exhaustive/detailed National Accreditation project with Food Banks Canada called the Standards of Excellence. This involved the regulated policies and procedures for Food Banks across Canada. Our project met the deadline and achieved this goal successfully.
- Successful grant proposal to the United Way of Leeds and Grenville for the continued funding for the Weekend Bundles Program in the 4 local schools that we support with the project
- Annual donations surpassing our expected budget projections
- A successful Christmas SMILE cookie Campaign with our local Tim Hortons Store
- Successful Christmas Hamper Campaign with over 220 Hampers provided to clients
- Recipient of the Overall Best Float-Non Profit Award for the Gananoque Santa Claus Parade Participation in 2 Community Volunteer Fairs in the Town of Gananoque
- Volunteer appreciation luncheon for our 50+ volunteers
- Participating charity at the Gananoque Waterfront Concert Series Gan Rocks Concert
- Gan Rocks Concert
- Chickenwire Fundraiser concert
- Hosting the 2nd Annual Fall BBQ Open House
- Our 3rd Free pancake breakfast on June 28th at Ribfest
- Participation in 2 Community Volunteer Fairs in the Town of Gananoque

The next year we hope to continue to offer healthy, nutritious options to the people we serve within our yearly budget.

Thank you to all for contributing to our success and I look forward to what this next year holds for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Griggs,
Chair-Board of Directors

MANAGER'S REPORT

Fiscal year, April 1 2025 - March 31, 2026. The community's continued support has been beyond expectation leading to the positive assistance for those that are facing and experiencing food insecurity within Gananoque and Area. Purchasing most needed food options, fruit, vegetables, protein, dairy and non-perishable items.

Community:

- Through Feed Ontario, Harvest Sharing Food Bank in Brockville and Partners in Mission in Kingston, we receive food items throughout the year.
- Community Gardens in Gananoque, Lansdowne and local Farmers continue to donate fresh produce.
- Metro and No Frill made a substantial contribution.
- Tim Hortons nominated Gananoque and Area Food Bank for their Smile Cookie Campaign
- Freshco, Kinsmen, Moroni's, The Pump House, Intact Insurance, 1000 Island
- Tax Duty Free, Keyes Real Estate, Royal Canadian Legion, Lions & Lionesses, Rotary, Gan Fall Rocks, United Way and Home Hardware have made major contributions.
- United Way grant for Weekend Bundles. Serving all local and area Schools.
- 2025 Hunger Action postcard campaign were submitted with messages from our client's.

Food Drives:

- Linklater, Thousand Islands Elementary, St. Josephs and Gananoque Intermediate and Secondary schools. Church of the Redeemer.
- FM 99, Cram-A-Cruiser, Gananoque Fire Service, Halloween, South Alley Market and Cosmo.
- Additional events were held throughout the year, too numerous to mention, but graciously appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy White
Manager

CLIENT SCREENING REPORT

2023-24 - F24										
Month	# Orders	Large	Medium	Small	# Adults	0-17	Emerg	Delivery	New	Total
Apr	133	8	21	104	187	63	4	23	7	250
May	155	13	26	116	220	80	7	15	8	300
June	150	9	31	110	204	83	7	15	5	287
July	120	8	26	86	184	57	1	11	1	241
Aug	125	9	18	98	179	57	3	13	9	236
Sept	130	7	23	100	190	52	5	16	5	242
Oct	137	6	18	113	195	43	7	17	9	238
Nov	150	10	25	115	205	87	16	11	10	292
Dec	135	9	23	103	187	61	6	9	10	248
Jan	156	13	39	104	217	75	3	19	5	292
Feb	151	19	38	94	207	71	4	16	4	278
Mar	138	23	34	81	203	72	2	12	4	275
Fiscal Total	1680	134	322	1224	2378	801	65	177	77	3179

2024-25 - F25										
Month	# Orders	Large	Medium	Small	# Adults	0-17	Emerg	Delivery	New	Total
Apr	162	21	36	105	224	62	5	21	3	286
May	149	17	40	92	205	50	6	18	5	255
June	135	16	35	84	186	61	8	18	9	247
July	143	16	40	87	193	51	10	21	3	244
Aug	113	16	30	67	156	43	5	15	2	199
Sept	134	13	39	82	183	46	6	16	7	229
Oct	132	19	33	80	180	60	1	18	4	240
Nov	153	19	49	85	212	60	3	22	6	272
Dec	126	20	29	77	176	43	5	16	1	219
Jan	152	28	36	88	218	61	5	29	5	279
Feb	136	21	39	76	198	47	5	22	3	245
Mar	161	23	51	87	234	63	6	21	10	297
Fiscal Total	1696	229	457	1010	2365	647	65	237	58	3012

2025-26 - F25										
Month	# Orders	Large	Medium	Small	# Adults	0-17	Emerg	Delivery	New	Total
Apr	153	19	41	93	217	48	8	15	2	265
May	144	18	41	85	206	52	6	19	0	258
June	131	19	31	81	187	47	8	24	0	234
July	128	18	36	74	189	54	1	23	3	243
Aug	131	18	43	70	157	57	4	21	4	214
Sept	133	19	39	75	186	56	23	3	3	242
Oct	177	23	49	105	257	65	5	25	2	322
Nov	165	26	49	90	244	80	4	22	3	324
Dec	160	22	51	87	243	67	0	20	2	310
Jan	184	22	41	119	249	69	4	25	2	318
Feb	160	21	42	97	237	49	3	20	10	286
Mar	179	26	55	98	265	81	2	11	4	346
Fiscal Total	1845	251	518	1074	2637	725	68	228	35	3362

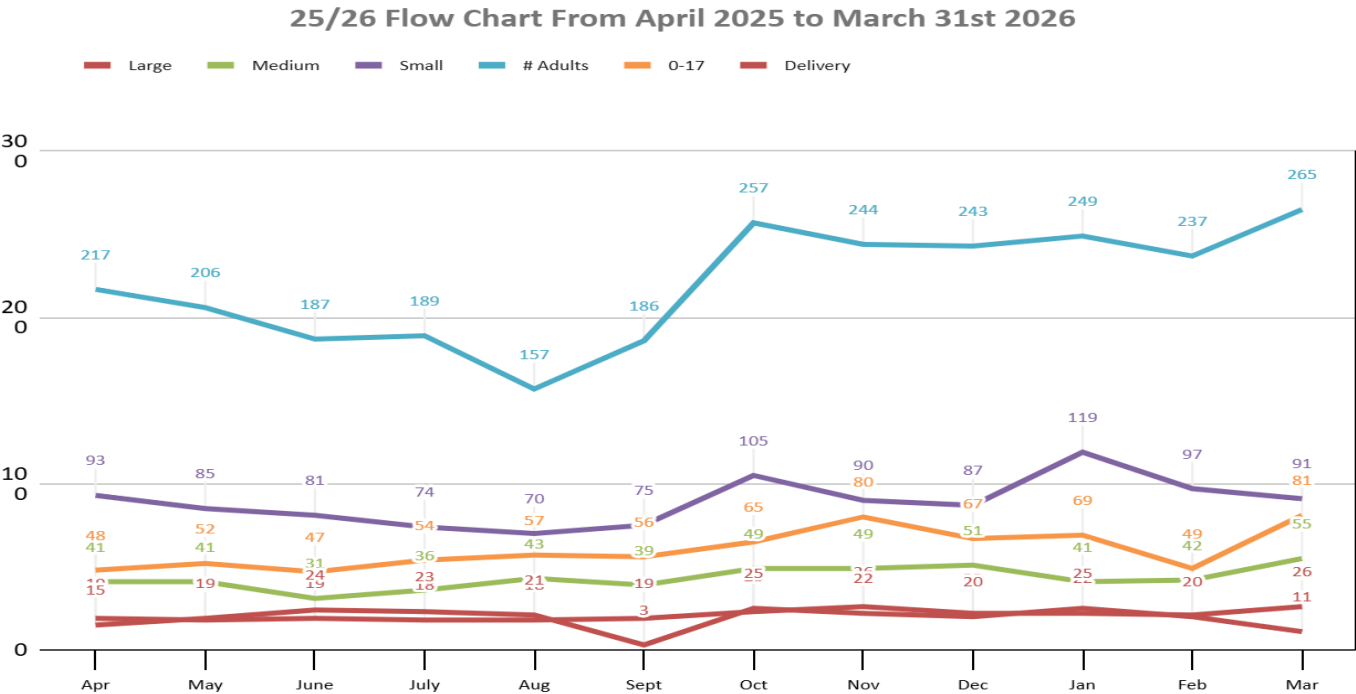
Overall Scale: Supported **3,362** people across **1,845 orders**, averaging about **154 orders per month**.

The “Winter Peak” Demand surged in the second half of the fiscal year. January was the busiest month for orders (184), while **March** saw the highest headcount (346 people). Family Impact: While adults are the primary recipients, children and youth make up a significant **21.6%** of those served.

Operational Norms: Most households (58.2%) rely on **small** orders. However, the **September spike** in emergency orders (23) stands out as a major operational outlier compared to the rest of the year.

Growth: The program is expanding, with **35 new households** joining, highlighted by a significant registration jump in February.

Client Screening Report for the 2 years 2024 to 2025



The food bank saw a noticeable increase in activity from the first year to the second

Category	First Year	Fiscal 25	%Change
Total Individuals Served	3,012	3,362	+11.6%
Total Orders	1,696	1,845	+8.8%
Adults	2,365	2,637	+11.5%
Children (0-17)	647	725	+12.1%

Summary

Over the past year, the food bank has experienced a significant increase in demand, with total individuals served rising by 11.6%. The most critical finding is a demographic shift: we are seeing a disproportionate increase in the number of children requiring assistance, alongside a trend toward larger, more complex family orders.

1. Demographic Trends: The Growing Needs of Families

We are serving more households with children than ever before.

- Youth Growth: The number of children (ages 0-17) increased by 12.1%, outpacing the growth of the adult population.
- Family Impact: We supported 725 children this year—78 more than the previous year. This indicates that local families are facing increased economic pressure.

2. Operational Demand & Logistics

While the total number of orders increased by nearly 9%, the nature of those orders is changing:

- Large Order Surge: While small orders remain our baseline, Large Orders were our fastest-growing category, increasing by 10%.
- Logistical Strain: Because the number of people served is growing faster than the number of orders, our staff and volunteers are handling heavier distributions—providing more food per transaction to accommodate larger households.

3. Seasonal Shifts & Peak Periods

The timing of when the community needs us most has shifted from isolated peaks to sustained periods of high volume:

- The Winter Surge: In previous years, demand was more fluctuating. This year, we saw a sustained surge; from October through January, with volume consistently exceeding 310 individuals per month.
- September Emergencies: We noted a massive, atypical spike in Emergency requests in September (23 requests). This likely points to a specific community “choke point”; such as back-to-school expenses, that forces families into immediate crisis.
- Annual Peak: March remains the busiest month of the year for total service delivery across both years.

Conclusion

The food bank is no longer just seeing; more people; we are seeing larger families and longer periods of high demand. To maintain our level of service, future planning must account for a sustained high-volume winter season and the specific nutritional and quantity needs of a growing youth population

FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

Key Performance & Impact Areas:

- **Holiday Support & Dignity:** We successfully provided 100 hams for Easter and 120 for Thanksgiving. These seasonal offerings are a cornerstone of our mission, ensuring that 220 families could celebrate with a traditional centerpiece and a sense of normalcy.
- **Client-Centered Inventory:** We have streamlined our selection by removing low-turnover items like frozen beans and canned green beans. This data-driven shift allows us to focus resources on the fresh, frozen, and canned produce our clients consistently prefer and use.
- **Logistical Reliability:** To meet rising demand, we transitioned from an occasional ordering model to a consistent bi-weekly rotation. This ensures our supply chain remains responsive and our shelves stay stocked for our neighbors..
- **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Through a partnership with G.S.S, we now provide nutritious, ready-made frozen meals. These are specifically designed for clients in precarious living situations who may lack the facilities to cook from scratch. "Clients without kitchens".
- **Surplus Redistribution:** We maintain a Strength in Partnership; policy, sharing all overstock with fellow food banks. This collaborative approach helps the entire local network manage the balance of rising demand and limited supply.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy White
Manager

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Community Outreach Committee, established in August 2023, has four key responsibilities:

- Identifying, planning and carrying out community outreach events and campaigns.
- Establishing and maintaining connections with other community organizations and service clubs.
- Developing fundraising and community outreach protocols and policies for the consideration of the Food Bank Board.
- Identifying and pursuing funding and grants available from government and community support organizations.

The Committee has hosted several successful community outreach events over the past year, including the Pancake Breakfast at Ribfest in June and an Open House BBQ at the Food Bank in September. As many local residents think of the Food Bank and provide significant donations around the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, these events are intended to bring attention to the Food Bank at other times of the year.

The Food Bank also won Best Non-Profit Float at the 2025 Gananoque Santa Claus Parade. Special thanks to Auto Service Kingston for once again donating the use of their float for the parade.

The Community Outreach Committee was also able to secure a number of grants for the Food Bank this year, including funding for a new client-facing refrigerator and freezer, and, for the third year in a row, United Way funding for the weekend bundles program, aimed at addressing childhood hunger in our community.

The Committee is currently working on preparing for community outreach events in the coming year and ongoing activities to identify and apply for grants for the Food Bank.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rozanne Doyle
Chair, Outreach Committee

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

This year proved to be another successful year for public relations. We received press from media outlets such as the Gananoque Reporter and 99.9MyFM Radio. Social Media continues to be a very busy job, and we thank our volunteers for keeping on top of these accounts for the Food Bank.

Some of the highlights in 2025-2026 included several on air interviews for us on 99.9My FM radio in addition to numerous newspaper articles in the Gananoque Reporter outlining our following activities:

- Weekend Bundle Program with local schools
- Pancake Breakfast
- Fall BBQ and Open House
- Cram the Cruiser
- Halloween Drive
- Christmas Hampers
- Gananoque Santa Claus Parade
- Tim Hortons Cookie Campaign
- Wish List updates

We are grateful for the continued support of our community partners for making this year a positive one for us in regard to Public Relations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Griggs
Publicity Director

TREASURERS REPORT

This will be the final treasurer's report that I prepare and above all, I step out of the treasurers' role leaving the Gananoque and Area Food Bank (GAFB) in a very satisfactory financial position. The community and their generosity are the main and biggest reason that the food bank is where it is today. The fundraisers, food drives and everyday kindness from many businesses to the numerous individuals is something not only is the GAFB honoured to be a part of, but the entire community should be extremely proud of. As treasurer for the past six and a half years I believe the board has run a relatively "tight" ship. Budgeting for most expenses is relatively straightforward, but it is the donation income and the food purchase expenses that are always the unknown factor. There is no doubt that the board will continue to evolve and meet the challenges the global economy brings to the forefront. Will it be easy, probably not, but a reasonable and steady outlook will hopefully get the GAFB through.

Financial Highlights:

- The year-end financial statements are attached. The actual amount of donations received for this fiscal year was \$329,919.81. Due to the generosity of the community, we have exceeded our budgeted donation projections by 50.42%.
- Unfortunately, the rising cost of food put the GAFB 34.96% over the budgeted amount of \$108,000 for food purchases
- However, even with being over budget in the pantry food purchases line, as mentioned earlier because of the generosity of the community the GAFB ended this fiscal year with a surplus of \$78,683.59.
- The GAFB was fortunate enough to have been successful in receiving a Feeding Possibility Grant via Feed Ontario in the amount of \$8,755. These monies were specifically used to purchase a new 2 door (glass) client freezer and 2 door (glass) client refrigerator. The clients were very appreciative of these purchases as it enables them to view what inventory we have before the doors are opened to give it out. This also saved on our electricity cost.
- The landlord and GAFB split on upgrading the ramp at the back door whereby the landlord paid for material and the GAFB paid for the labour. The relationship between the landlord and the GAFB continues to be a plus for both sides.
- The HST rebates continue to be applied for and received on a bi-annual basis.
- Due to the generosity of the community the GAFB invested additional money in short-term investments. These investments are earning reasonable returns with the higher rates of interest on longer terms.
- We continue to monitor our reserve funds and review the reserve fund policy to ensure that our reserves are kept current and in tune with the economic trends.

Objectives for the incoming Treasurer to focus on for 2026/2027:

- to oversee income and expenses in comparison with the budget
- to explain monthly financial reports, reporting on exceptions
- to develop a financial strategic plan in conjunction with an overall strategic plan

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Byford
Treasurer

GANANOQUE AND AREA FOOD BANK					
<u>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</u>					
March 31, 2026 with comparative information for 2025					
				March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
		Chequing/Savings Accounts	92,093	156,698	
		Accounts Receivable	1,250	-	
		Gift Cards	395	550	
		GST/HST Receivable	2,084	3,581	
		Investments short-long term	601,000	456,992	
Total Current Assets			696,822	617,821	
TOTAL ASSETS			\$ 696,822	\$ 617,821	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
		Accounts Payable	317	-	
		Deferred Rev-Christmas Hampers	16,260	16,260	
Total Liabilities			16,577	16,260	
Equity					
		Reserve Fund - Building	24,220	24,220	
		Reserve Fund - Capital Assets	12,500	10,000	
		Reserve Fund - Operating	141,000	116,120	
		Unrestricted Retained Earnings	502,525	451,221	
Total Equity			680,245	601,561	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			\$ 696,822	\$ 617,821	

GANANOQUE AND AREA FOOD BANK
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2026 with comparative information for 2025

	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
Income		
Donations	329,920	269,437
Grant-Feed Ontario	8,755	8,200
Grant - Food Banks Canada	0	14,841
Grants - Miscellaneous	15,000	25,000
Fundraising Income	5,502	2,691
Other Income	20,551	20,379
Total Income	379,728	\$ 340,548
Expense		
Accountant/Professional Fees	1,200	1,070
Bank Service Charges	104	99
Building - Heat	-	393
Building - Hydro	5,532	5,290
Building - Rent	15,191	14,750
Building - Water	1,264	1,255
Com Charged to Forward Donation	1,919	2,428
Fundraising Expenses	1,074	1,472
Computer Software	443	186
Delivery	55	65
Furniture/Equipment	8,053	8,064
General Admin & Office Supplies	2,392	1,530
Insurance	1,957	1,610
Leashold Improvements	-	15,249
Membership dues	1,675	1,660
Mileage	232	-
Pantry - Discretionary	3,137	3,226
Pantry-Food Purchases	145,891	94,489
Pantry-Gift Cards for Clients	1,715	295
Pantry-Other	1,489	729
Pantry-Personal Hygiene Product	6,408	1,881
Pantry - Christmas Hampers	14,666	10,887
Pantry - Weekend Bundles	21,767	25,028
Payroll Expense	56,022	37,308
Pest Control	863	828
Postage	509	496
Professional Development	507	329
Repairs & Maintenance	4,023	3,557
Telephone & Internet	2,258	2,094
Web Hosting & Domain	698	674
Total Expense	301,044	\$ 236,269
Net Revenue (Loss) for the year	78,684	\$ 104,279

VOLUNTEERS 2025-2026

Thank you to our Volunteers whose tireless efforts and dedication keep the Food Bank going.

We are incredibly lucky to have a team of 65 volunteers who show up for us day in and day out. This year, we want to give a special shout-out to five of them who are hitting their five-year milestone. Half a decade of service is no small feat, and we are so grateful for their loyalty.

Our volunteers do so much more than just keep the shelves stocked. For many of our neighbors, a trip to the food bank isn't just about shopping, it's about the human connection. It's the conversation at the counter or the friendly face that makes them feel seen. Because our team takes the time to listen and network with other local organizations, they've often been able to provide a level of support that goes way beyond a bag of groceries. They've helped turn the G.A.F.B. into what it is today: a safe, kind, and non-judgmental space where anyone in our community can walk through the doors and feel supported.

To our 5-year veterans and our entire volunteer family, thank you! We couldn't do this without you.

Aidan Taylor	Anne Swinnard	Barb Byford-Board
Barbara Milkes	Betty Lee Daigle	Bob St. Onge
Brigid Panas	Brunadette Muluenna	Caroline Yung
Cathy O'Connor	Craig Fowler	Dave Byford
Don Dorval	Heather Taylor	Jacquie Bastick
Jane Smith	Janice Vanderscheer	Jeannie Shore
Jeremy Griggs	Joanne Lancaster-Board	Joseph Letendre
Joseph Naismith	Julie Demacio	Kaitlin Kennedy
Karen Summerskill	Kate McLean	Kathie Dorion
Kathy Bennett-Board	Katy Kenney	Kevin Henderson
Kim Lemmon	Kim Melvin-Long	Lana Marion
Larry Cote – Board	Linda Beaupre	Lisa Hayden
LJ Edmonds	Lynda Beckstead – Board	Marilyn Jacobsen
Mark Roberts	Mary Dickson	Mary Elizabeth McDonald – Board
Michelle Bruder	Michelle McDonald	Mike Cartan
MJ Hojati	Molly Sorensen	Nancy Raven
Nicole Delaney	Norm Tremblath	Paula Kerr
Ralph Parry	Rhonda Allison	Rozanne Doyle-Board
Sabina Hooper	Shannon Griggs-Board	Sharon Ansell
Susan Dorval	Suzanne Watson	Sydney Shannon
Taras Myhal	Tricia Greer	Urs Wyss
Zack Bolt	Zack Krush	