



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

"If we share our story with someone who responds with empathy and understanding, shame can't survive" ~Brené Brown



About Project SHARE:

MISSION - Project SHARE provides essential support services that improve the lives of Niagara Falls individuals and families in need.

VISION - To end the struggle against poverty and empower those in need.

VALUES - We believe in:

- Interacting with all members of our community with dignity, respect, compassion and understanding.
- Working as a team, within Project SHARE and with our community, to provide whatever help is needed.
- Providing services based on inclusivity, equity, cooperation and collaboration.
- Growing an effective organization through open communication and fiscal and social responsibility.
- Investing in opportunities for our staff to develop in their roles.



Message from the Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Directors:

This past year saw a record-breaking increase in the need for support, where approximately one in every eight residents of our community relied on Project SHARE's emergency services. Through incredible community work between our donors, volunteers, partners, funders and staff we were able to meet this increased need and ensure none of our neighbours went hungry.

We were able to safely resume our pre-pandemic shopping model, re-opening our food room following public health guidelines to provide more choice and dignity for families. We secured funding to improve our building accessibility this year through a Capital grant and ordered a larger, refrigerated van with funding from a Resilient Communities fund grant, both through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. These projects will increase our capacity and ability to deliver client-centred services. We expanded our homelessness prevention services following best practices identified by a consultation with Org Code, delivering services through a consortium with Community Care St. Catharines & Thorold, The Hope Centre and Community Care West Niagara. This strengthens our services to the community and works toward a no wrong door approach to homelessness prevention.

Our collaboration extended into the newly formed Feed Niagara partnership of the ten Feed Ontario member food banks serving the Niagara region. Through this collaboration we secured additional funding for bulk food purchasing, collectively stretching our impact to meet the increased need throughout the region. The need in our community is alarming, and we engaged in many advocacy opportunities this year including co-hosting the Feed Ontario Hunger Report Roadshow, attending the Feed Ontario MPP breakfast, the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction roundtable discussion, and communicating regularly with our local elected officials to work towards our vision of an end to the struggle against poverty and empowered people in need in Niagara Falls.

We are continually grateful for the incredible generosity we receive from our community partners, donors and volunteers, and the dedication of our staff and board of directors. Our community truly is at work to keep our neighbours fed, housed and healthy.

With gratitude,



Pam Sharp, Executive Director



Irma Sebastiano, Chair



2022-2023 Board of Directors:

Chairperson of the Board	Irma Sebastiano
Vice Chairperson of the Board	Anna Luciano
Past Chairperson	Brian Pellow
Treasurer	Mick Wolfe
Secretary	Trent Dark
City Council Representative	Lori Lococo/ Ruth Ann Nieuwesteeg
Board Member	AJ Heafey
Board Member	Jim Ferraro
Board Member	Jennifer Guarasci
Board Member	Jim Rocca
Board Member	Perry Wong
Board Member	Aly Kassam
Board Member	Tom Snodgrass
Board Member	Julia Fabiano
Executive Director	Pam Sharp
Honourary Member	Karen Stearne
Honourary Member	Selina Volpatti



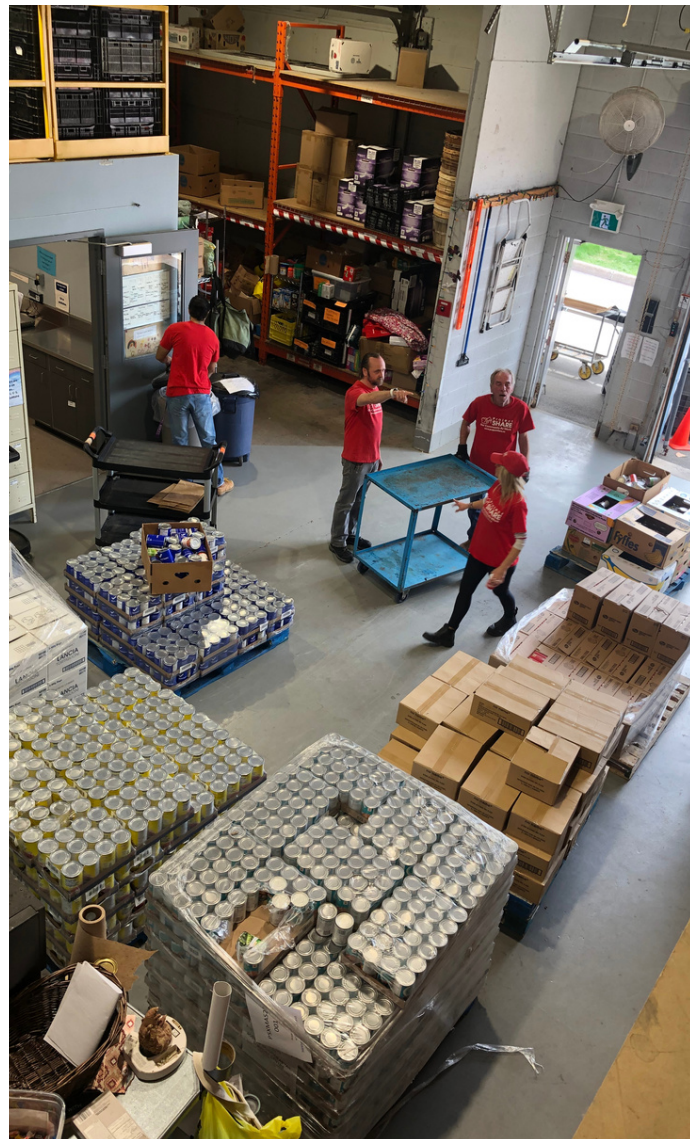
Emergency Support Services statistics in 2022-2023:

- **11,670** individuals served
- **6,031** households served
- **30%** of households served had 1 or more children
- **35%** of clients served were 19 years old or younger

71%

increase in the number of people coming in for support compared to the previous fiscal year

1 IN 8 RESIDENTS IN NIAGARA FALLS RELY ON PROJECT SHARE



Our Impact on the Community:

"I don't know how I would get through the month. ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) does not give enough money to buy healthy food."

"In the past two years, my family has struggled financially. Without the help of Project SHARE, we would be worse off than we are and without healthy food on our table."

"Project SHARE helps a lot of families. I have four children. Project SHARE gave me gift certificates so I could buy and wrap some Christmas gifts to put under the tree and a grocery gift card to purchase what we want for dinner for Christmas. I wouldn't be able to provide Christmas without Project SHARE. They help a lot."



Strengthening our Impact - Feed Niagara:



Project SHARE continued to collaborate with fellow Feed Ontario member food banks as Feed Niagara. This included bulk food purchasing together with grant funding and designated community donations.

Pictured below: Betty-Lou Souter of Community Cares St. Catharines and Thorold, accepting a donation on behalf of Feed Niagara from CAA Niagara



Programs and Services:



In 2022-2023, the Emergency Food Program:

- Distributed 1,005,811 pounds of food to people in need.
- Was accessed 44,803 times by individuals.

Our Community Garden hosted 145 plots, and produced 2,159 pounds of fresh produce for our Emergency Food Program.



Programs and Services:



- Our Emergency prescription funding program is a partnership with a local pharmacy to assist clients with emergency prescription expenses once per year (pain-killers and narcotic products are excluded).
- Our Eye glass support program is a partnership that assists clients who are in need of eyeglasses without any other assistance available.
- Dental Program: The Brushed Aside program helped 16 clients in need of dentures or extractions with an interest free loan of up to \$1,000. The Dental Cleaning program provided adults with a preventative dental cleaning. These programs were funded in part by the Niagara Region through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative.



Back to School Program:

800 children received support from our Back to School Program during the summer of 2022. Children between the ages of 4-17 received new sneakers, backpacks, school supplies, and healthy snacks to get their school year off on a positive start. Parents often tell us that Back to School can be just as stressful as Christmas financially. Thanks to the support of many individual donors along with our corporate partners Canadian Tire Bank and PenFinancial Credit Union.



Christmas Program:

5,220 individuals within 2,351 families received grocery store gift cards and gifts for children 17 and under to help provide some Christmas magic during the holiday season in 2022. 13,982 pounds of toys and gifts and over \$130,500 in grocery gift cards were distributed. The Christmas program was generously supported by many individuals, businesses, churches, and community groups.

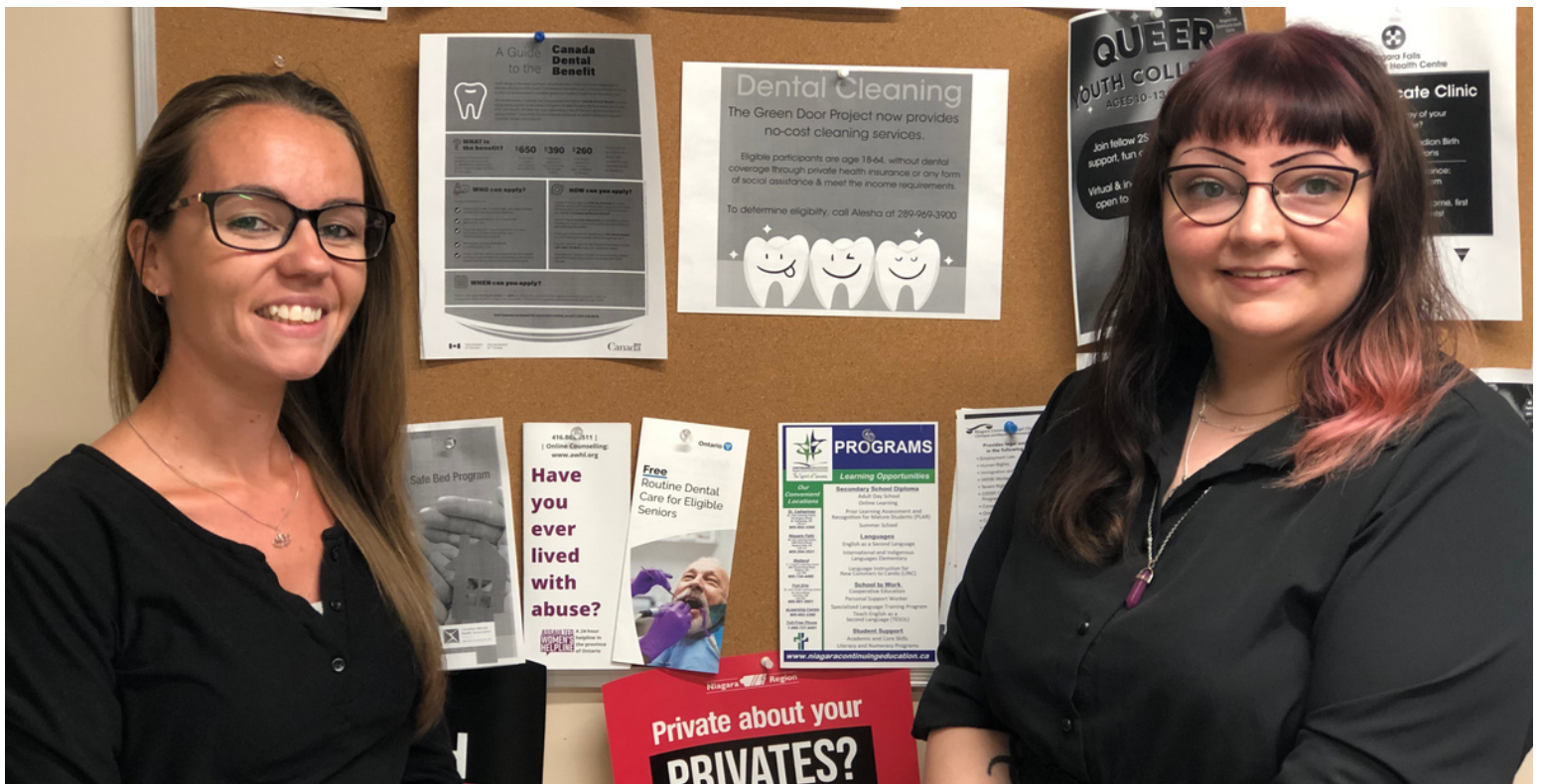
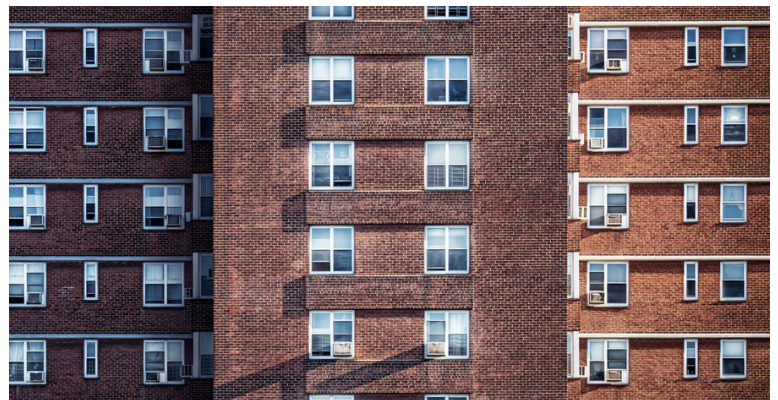
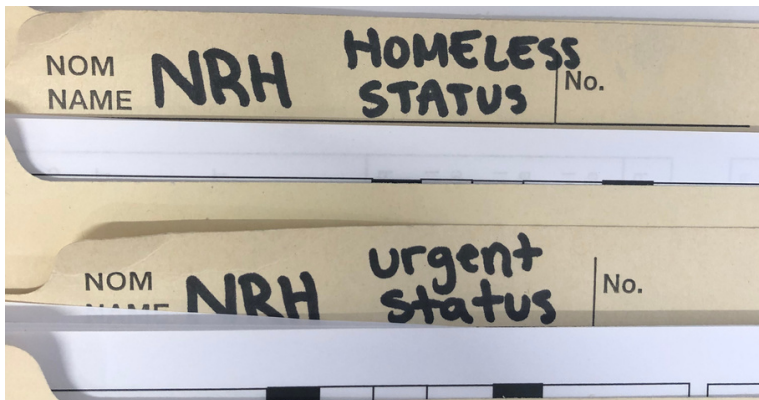


Programs and Services:



In 2022-2023, our Housing Help Program assisted:

- 707 families in their search for housing.
- 211 families through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- 129 families through the Niagara Emergency Energy Fund (NEEF)
- 224 families through the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)
- Provided 1,153 families with bus tickets for transportation



Pictured left: Carrie DeWitt, Housing Intensive Case Manager

Pictured right: Jasmine Kenyeres, Housing Support Worker

Programs and Services:



During the last fiscal year, we expanded our housing services by creating a team of two housing focused staff members within our client services team. Clients work continuously with the same staff member to build a relationship of trust and receive individualized, ongoing case management to reduce barriers to finding and sustaining housing. During the last year:

707 families received housing support

Housing support services may include:

- Creation of individualized housing goals and ongoing case management
- Niagara Regional Housing application assistance, letters of support & advocacy
- Resources & referrals to essential community supports including legal assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Re-housing
- Money management support

Project SHARE's housing programs are funded in part by by:



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

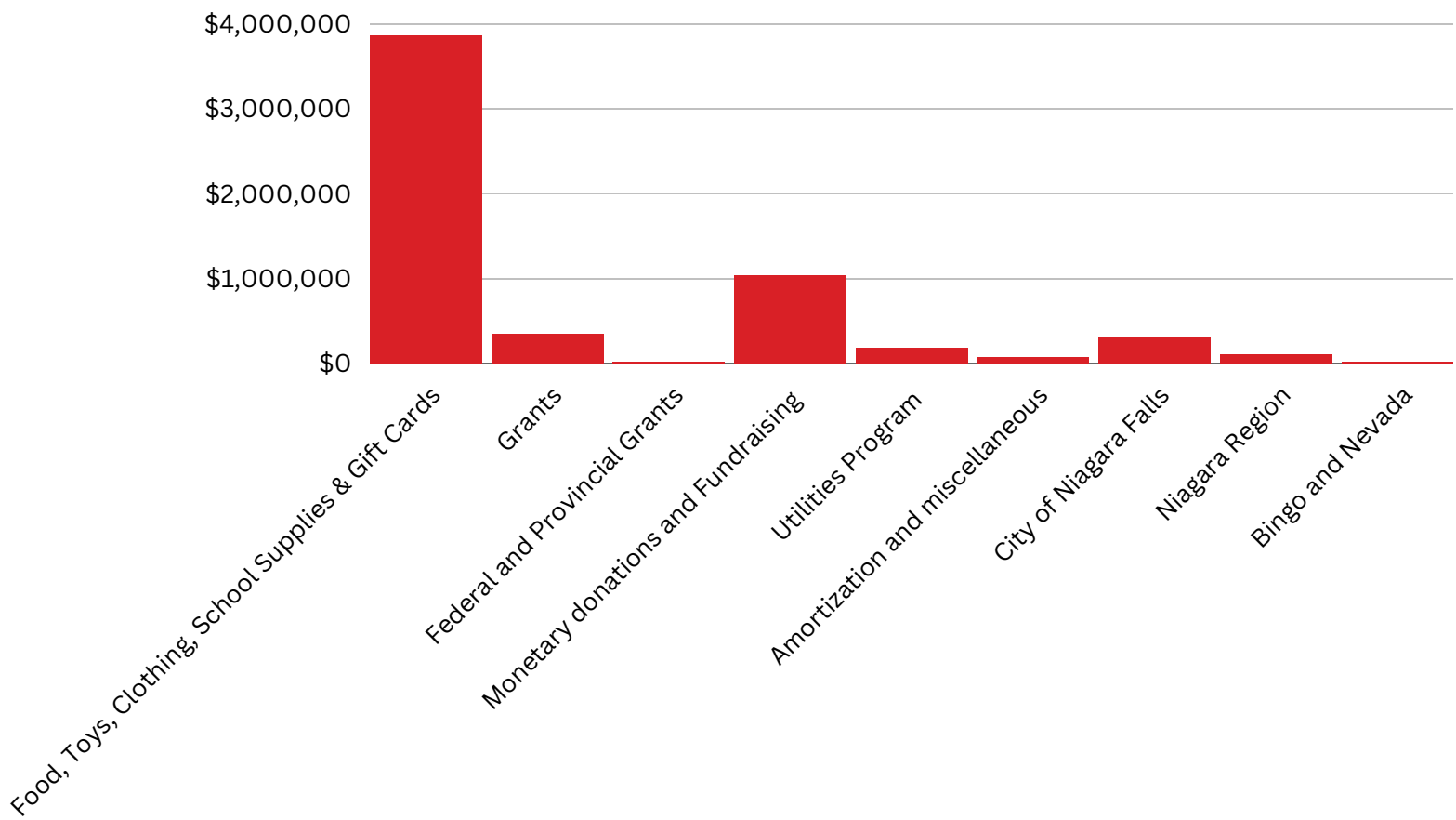
Did you know that
Project SHARE
provides other
essential items to
people in need such
as:

- Baby Food
- Infant Formula
- Diapers
- Ensure/Boost
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Incontinence Products
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Pet Food

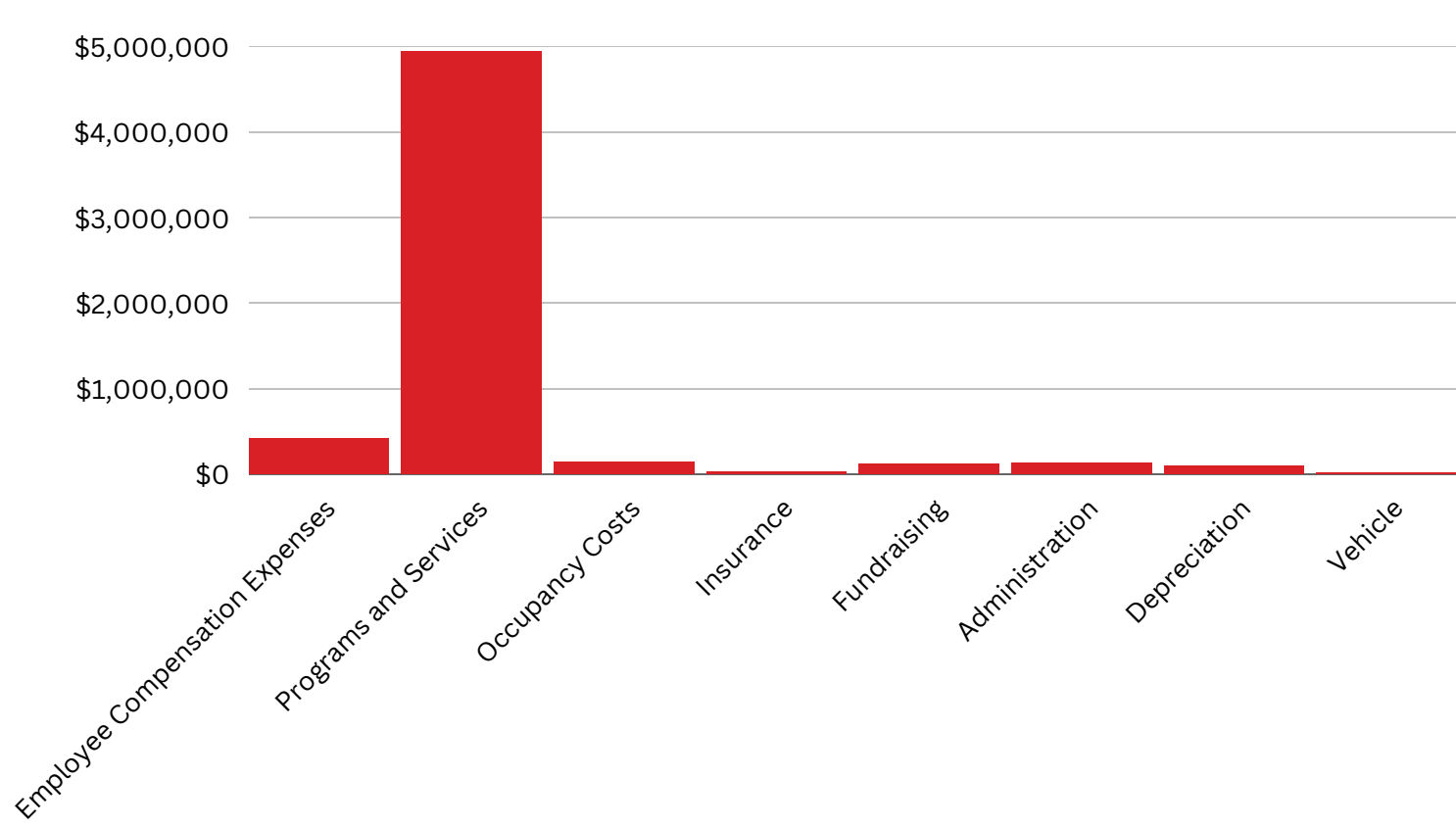


Financial Statement:

Revenue: \$5,903,867



Expenses: \$5,837,041



Fundraising:



Stuff the Bus Challenge & the Morrison Pharmacy - Pharmasave Good New Breakfast

Amount raised:

33,343 lbs of food,

2,701 lbs of toys &

\$46,948



GOOD NEWS

Breakfast

37 community groups, schools, and businesses collected donations to help spread the joy of the holiday season!

Congratulations to James Morden Elementary School for winning the school challenge and to Kettlebells Niagara for winning the corporate challenge!

Our Stuff the Bus Challenge wrapped up with our Good News Breakfast and the Bell Media Great Holiday Food Drive.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Morrison Pharmacy - Pharmasave, Greg Frewin Theatrical Centre, Niagara Region Transit, YourTV Niagara, Fallview Casino Resort and Casino Niagara.

Christmas Family Sponsors

Our Christmas Program provided grocery store gift cards for holiday meals to families and gifts for children 17 and under who are living in low-income households.

Part of the Christmas Program was supported by donors who sponsored specific families.



Fundraising:



The Meridian Credit Union Coldest Night of the Year Walk:

Amount raised: \$58,129



The Coldest Night of the Year is an outdoor winter walk that raises awareness and funds to support our emergency programs. Funds raised from this event allow us to have fully trained client support service workers who meet one-on-one with over 100 families per day, and connect them with all applicable programs and services including emergency food, homelessness prevention and referrals to additional community resources.



Fundraising:



Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign:

Amount raised: \$43,283.39

*fund disbursement was received in the 2023-2024 fiscal year
Project SHARE & GROW Community Food Literacy Centre were the proud recipients of the funds raised during the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign in Niagara Falls during the month of May, 2023. Thank you to the many Project SHARE volunteers who helped to put smiles on THOUSANDS of cookies to make this campaign super successful! And a special thank you to the local Tim Hortons owners, managers, staff, and customers in the community who purchased Smile Cookies.

Every smile cookie™ makes a difference.

100% of proceeds go to local charities & community groups.



Tim's.

**NOW
MAY 1-7**

At participating restaurants in Canada. © Tim Hortons, 2023

Fundraising:



Third Party and Community Fundraising:

Amount raised: \$85,042.89

Third Party fundraisers are organized by an individual, company, or organization to support the work we do, the people we serve and the programs we offer. Third party fundraisers are an important resource for connecting to our community, raising funds, and increasing awareness of Project SHARE. Acting independently and with Project SHARE's support, third party fundraisers help us extend, enhance, and sustain our emergency services to empower those living below the poverty line in Niagara Falls.



Volunteer Support:

Volunteers are an integral part of our organization, performing many essential tasks to help deliver our mission. Our core group of volunteers give their time daily to distribute emergency food. These volunteers provide a friendly welcome and help to make families feel comfortable when visiting Project SHARE. Warehouse volunteers provide muscle power and are detailed when sorting through donations of both perishable and non-perishable foods to follow Food Banks Canada's safe food handling guidelines.

Additional volunteer opportunities include helping at events such as our annual food drives, Coldest Night of the Year walk and an assortment of other community events. After business hours and weekend opportunities are available occasionally throughout the year.



Volunteer Support:



**10,706 hours of volunteer service
were contributed to Project
SHARE in 2022-2023, which is
the equivalent value of 5.5 full-
time staff persons!**

Project SHARE relies on the generous support of donors, volunteers, third party event organizers and program funders.

We are so grateful for the community support received throughout the year. This support helps us realize our vision to end the struggle against poverty and empower those in need.

THANK YOU!



The Branscombe Family Foundation



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Website: www.projectshare.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 107861338 RR0001

Learn more about how you can
help ensure none of our neighbours
go hungry.
www.projectshare.ca/donate



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Project SHARE
of Niagara Falls