



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life Standing Committee
FOOD BANK PROJECT REPORT
September 2021-June 30, 2022

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

The 2019-2021 national theme *Care for Our Common Home* fueled the Food Bank Project which began in September 2021, and the current national theme, *Catholic and Living It!* gave councils an opportunity to celebrate their faith with the project ending in June 2022. Many parish councils embraced the project which resulted in outstanding results. Contributions to food banks in Canada were boosted through this project.

Pounds of food collected:	38,557	Monies to support a child:	\$71.40*
Monies donated to food banks:	\$43,319	Volunteers at food banks:	27**
Monies donated to Mary's Meals:	\$3,395		

* Mary's Meals reports it costs \$26.40 for a school year to feed one child.

** Many volunteers were not reported.

The pandemic did not deter parish councils from finding creative ways to collect food items. Collections were held at various times during the year, i.e., Advent and Lent, which included support from parishioners and Knights of Columbus. Councils also worked in tandem with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to provide support to the needy. In addition to donating food, some councils donated gift cards, clothing and toiletry items, sponsored a family and collected toys for children for Christmas.

Councils and members that participated in the Food Bank Project also reported:

- Starting the project at various times (March, May, June).
- Collecting food at several meetings (three or four).
- Holding a weekend food drive or multiple food drives. For example, one council held a drive from June 25-26, 2022, that resulted in a collection of 700 pounds of food. Another council had multiple food drives, with its first and second collections given to Oscar's Place & Homeless Shelter and its third collection given to Aurora House (women's shelter).
- Collecting food as a special project, such as a two or three-week Lenten project or for Advent.
- Some councils partnered with the Knights of Columbus or the parish to participate in the project. One council held a parish-wide food drive in memory of Fr. Matthew George for his dedication to helping the poor and hungry.
- One council reported having a food bank in its church and served approximately 90-110 individuals and families weekly.
- Many councils reported members made monetary and food donations on their own at various times throughout the year.
- Some councils specified where donations were sent, including to Agapé Table, Daily Bread Food Bank, Dew Drop In, Every Women's Centre, Grace's Place, Underground Gym and a local veteran's food bank.

- Monetary donations and gift cards were also made to local food banks, Food Bank National (overseas), Operation Christmas Tree and various other organizations. One council noted it donated \$100.00 to Kits for Kindness at a local school to provide lunches on weekends. Another council explained that its reported dollar amount of donations did not include those sent by e-transfers or online direct deposits and that its total food collection did not include “walk-in” donations.
- One council reported donating more than 275 loaves of bread.
- One council planned to add Mary’s Meals to its regular donations when able.
- Councils went above and beyond collecting food, with one council reporting it donated 628 lbs. of clothing. Another donated soap bars, 26 boxes of Kleenex, 18 rolls of paper towel, 36 rolls of toilet paper and hygiene products for women (razors, toothbrushes, cotton swabs). One council sponsored a family and held a Dignity Drive by collecting sanitary and period products for a local shelter. Councils contributed to Christmas baskets and collected toys to give to children at Christmas time, while one parish council donated toothpaste, toothbrushes, little girls’ outfits and dog sweaters. Several councils reported collecting and donating personal care products.
- One council reported a beef farmer donated 50 one-pound packages of hamburger.
- One council delivered seven or eight truckloads of food to eight different food banks in the area over a six-month period.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide councils and members as they continue their faith journey *Catholic and Living It!* as Jesus taught them.

Respectfully submitted,



Faith Anderson
National Chairperson of Community Life

In an audience with Italy’s Food Bank Foundation in 2015, the pope twice stressed that we need to “educate humanity, to recognize the humanity in each person, in need of everything” and called on volunteers, when meeting the needy, not to forget “that they are people and not numbers, each with their own burden of pain that sometimes seems impossible to bear. Bearing this in mind, you will always remember to look them in the eyes, shake their hands, see in them the flesh of Christ and also help them to regain their dignity and to get back on their feet.”