

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PARTNERSHIPS POWER OUR IMPACT



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LE
THE **DÉPÔT**
centre communautaire d'alimentation
community food centre



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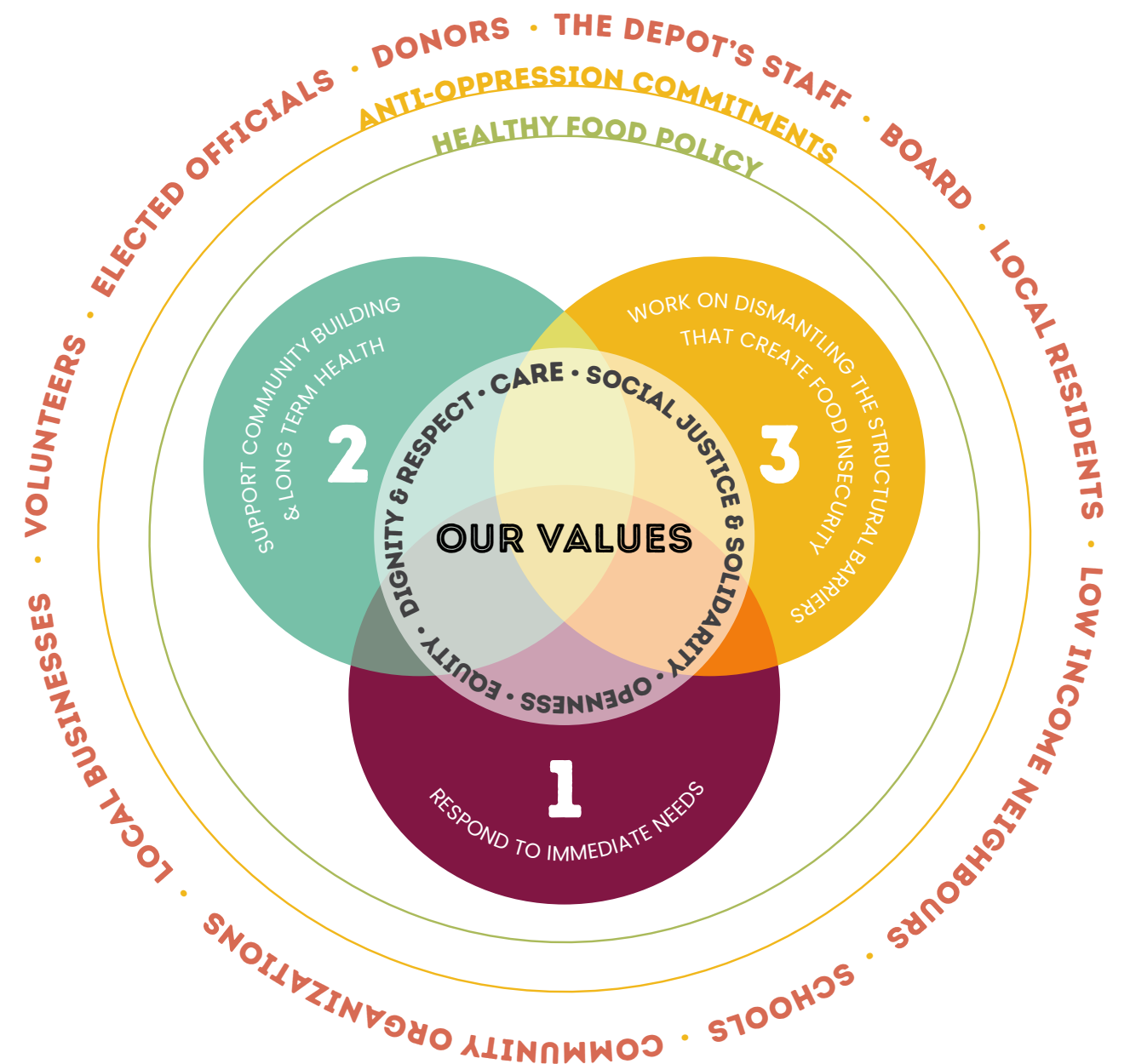
OUR VISION

A thriving and connected community where nourishing food is accessible and realized as a basic human right.

OUR MISSION

At The Depot, nutritious and delicious food fuels solidarity. Our community programs bring people together to grow, cook, share, and mobilize to end food insecurity.

OUR IMPACT AREAS



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As an organization located in Tiohtià:ke (Montreal), The Depot recognizes that it is working on unceded territory. Read our complete land acknowledgement on our website.



WELCOME

THE DEPOT IS A PLACE OF HOPE: THE "ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES" KIND OF HOPE THAT POWERS SOCIAL ACTION AND DRIVES CHANGE.

We see the difference we make in people's lives every day, especially in these uncertain and polarized times. That is what makes it such an honour to serve this organization.

The empathy and care of our many partners is part of the hope that drives our work. That is why, in this year's annual report, we're shining a light on the partnerships that help us move towards our vision: a thriving and connected community where nourishing food is accessible and realized as a basic human right.

With **1 in 4 Canadians experiencing food insecurity**, it is clear that The Depot must work in deep collaboration, drawing on collective wisdom and mobilizing concerted action. This will bring our vision to life.

At the heart of every partnership are the people who make it possible. Nothing would be possible without The Depot's amazing team — staff and volunteers — who roll up their sleeves every day, bringing commitment, creativity, and deep care for the community.

The Depot's board is critical to our governance, ensuring that we are both ambitious and grounded in our work. After 8 years of dedicated leadership, Peter is completing his term as board chair. We're deeply grateful for his service.

Stepping into the role is Susie, a long-time board member and dedicated front-line volunteer. We're fortunate to have such committed leadership guiding The Depot.

In the pages that follow, you'll see some examples of the deep partnerships that power our work: from local organizations who share their expertise, to suppliers who provide nourishing food and materials at reduced cost, to our generous donors. Together, you form the backbone of The Depot.

As you read this, we hope you'll be inspired to continue to roll up your sleeves with us for meaningful change.


TASHA LACKMAN
Executive Director


PETER GUAY
Outgoing Board Chair


SUSAN KESSLER
Incoming Board Chair

OUR BOARD

- Peter Guay
Chair
- Susan Kessler
Vice-Chair
- Carolyn Della Rosa
Treasurer
- Audrey Bernasconi
Secretary
- Adelle Blackett
(June-February)
- Diana Tabatabai
- Edouard Vo-Quang
- Lenny Pinkas
- Melissa Margles
- Philippe Arnold
- Quynh Vu
- Ronald Rudin
- Trudy Wong

OUR FULL-TIME STAFF

- Alejandra Perez
- Anara Kydyralieva
- Brenda Boucher
- Caitlin Hayward
- Cassandra Belliveau
- Catherine Gilbert
- Chai Hebert
- Cristina Cugliandro
- Christine Sayegh
- Dahlia ChanTang
- Daniel Roy
- Foster Salpeter
- Hatem Salem
- Houda Kerkadi
- James Barrington
- Jennifer Brennan
- Jennifer Moran
- Jonathan Kourakos
- Julie Kourakos
- Kim Fox
- Kristen Perry
- Liliana Lopez
- Marguerite Kinfack
- Melanie Romer
- Monica Ayluardo Troncoso
- Natalie Berghuis
- Nicolas Braesch
- Patrick Melillo
- Rachel Schleifer
- Renate Betts
- Sebastien Britton
- Sosena Tilhuan
- Tasha Lackman

OUR PART-TIME / SEASONAL STAFF

- Aisha Abdunnur
- Alexandre Famery
- Andrew Paré
- Camille Nepveu
- Charlie Matthews
- Chloë Fecamp
- Daisuke Tsutsumi
- Elie Tremblay
- Emma McLaurin
- Ghazal Hajzargabashi
- Hamidou Maïga
- Hannah Mills
- Hilary King
- Inès Djeddou
- Jackie Mayhew
- Julia Genberg
- Kate Feldman
- Leonor Ayluardo
- Leti Clark-Bautista
- Mak Ekoué
- Marie-Lise Chicoine
- Mujib Ahmed
- Nico Holzmann
- Oumy Caron-Mondestin
- Rebecca Loadenthal
- Sam Fairbrother
- Sheryl Shore
- Val Rwigema
- Mawce Calaycay

OUR VOLUNTEERS • 350 volunteers, who together contributed 21,000 hours.





A YEAR OF PARTNERSHIPS

JANUARY

The Marché Depot reaches capacity; a waiting list opens for the first time in nearly 40 years. The team innovates, with support from **donors**, to close the list by the end of the year.

FEBRUARY

In partnership with **Bienvenue à NDG**, 22 people join a Les Saveurs du Monde workshop to learn about Ukrainian culture and prepare a dish called varenyky.

MARCH

With new 3-year funding from **Hewitt Foundation**, the Marché Depot extends its hours, welcoming 250 more households each month.

APRIL

In collaboration with the **NDG Community Council**, a free tax clinic processes over 60 households' tax returns in under 3 hours.

MAY

The Depot holds a community consultation with **participants, volunteers, funders, and community partners** to shape our new Community Contribution Model.

JUNE

The Depot builds a pop-up garden at Place Guillaume-Couture, as part of a **CDN-NDG borough** project, paired with seasonal urban agriculture workshops.

JULY

Four market community parties are held throughout the summer with funding from the **City of Montreal**.

AUGUST

Through **Moisson Montréal's** La Faim des Vacances initiative, our snack program receives and distributes an additional 5,000 snack portions.

SEPTEMBER

Boîte à Lunch and Ça Pousse! schedule workshops in **8 local schools** and **3 community centres**.

OCTOBER

The Depot participates in the annual meeting of the **Quebec Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food** as an Executive Committee member.

NOVEMBER

The **CDN-NDG** Plan de développement d'une communauté nourricière is adopted, following strong leadership from The Depot.

DECEMBER

The Social Justice Committee publishes an op-ed in the **Montreal Gazette**, advocating for food as a human right.

RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS

"WE KNOW WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE. RISING DEMAND WILL CONTINUE TO OUTPACE OUR EFFORTS UNLESS WE COMMIT TO LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS AND BUILD STRONG, SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS."

– Tasha Lackman, Executive Director of The Depot

In NDG, nearly 1 in 6 residents live in situations of poverty – almost twice the citywide rate.

These numbers reveal the scale of the crisis, and behind each one is a real person making difficult choices: a newcomer navigating language barriers and unfamiliar systems; a young parent recently laid-off now managing shrinking savings and rising costs; a student juggling tuition, rent, and rising food costs.

From our work on the ground, it's clear the burden of food insecurity is not shared equally. Racialized communities, newcomers, people with disabilities, single-parent families, and those living alone are disproportionately affected. At The Depot, we believe everyone deserves access to healthy, culturally relevant food. Every day, we see the impacts of food insecurity and feel the urgency of this work.

PARTNERING TO MAKE LOCAL FOOD ACCESSIBLE IN NDG

In 2024, we celebrated 10 seasons of Good Food Markets. That's a decade of building a vibrant, inclusive food initiative, with the support of **farms**, **organizations**, and **community members**.

- Most food is Quebec-sourced, and 31% of 2024 purchases came directly from 10 small-scale, local organic farms, strengthening local food systems.
- Our sliding scale pricing model included 3 tiers, making markets welcoming, stigma-free spaces.
- We distributed \$34,500 in Proximity Cards to 113 households, further reducing barriers for low-income participants.

Our Good Food Markets reflect our broader vision: increasing fresh food access while investing in a resilient, inclusive food system rooted in partnership.



INNOVATION AT THE DEPOT

THE SNACKS PROGRAM: A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO YOUTH HUNGER



What began in 2014 as fun, hands-on cooking workshops at local community centre summer camps quickly revealed a deeper need: many children – and even teen staff – were arriving hungry. The Depot responded. In 2018, we formally launched the Snacks Program, combining Boîte à Lunch cooking activities with weekly snack deliveries, distributing over 5,000 healthy snacks that first summer.

Today, the program is a year-round initiative reaching 7 partners:

- **Jeunesse Loyola**
- **St-Raymond Community Centre**
- **Walkley Centre**
- **Westhaven Elmhurst Community Recreation Association**
- **NDG-YMCA**
- **Camp Benny**
- **Head & Hands**

As community partners voiced renewed concerns about hunger, the program adapted. In 2023, we introduced meal kits providing all the ingredients needed to prepare a nutritious, kid-friendly meal, and offered hands-on training for community staff, equipping them to lead these food activities with skill and confidence. These kits do more than fill bellies, they nurture confidence and joy in the kitchen.

Our ability to grow and adapt to emerging needs would not be possible without strong financial partnerships. Since 2022, the **CDN-NDG borough** has fully funded summer camp snacks. In 2024, as demand for the Snacks Program continued to grow, longtime supporters **Merle Wertheimer** and **Sam Hornstein** deepened their commitment to The Depot by funding snack deliveries throughout the school year, helping ensure that hundreds of young people have reliable access to nourishing food, essential to their well-being and growth.

46,000+

NUTRITIOUS SNACKS AND MEALS DISTRIBUTED TO 7 LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

21,000+

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED

20,000+

FOOD BASKETS DISTRIBUTED

8,000

INDIVIDUALS ACCESSED FRESH PRODUCE AND ESSENTIAL GROCERIES THROUGH OUR MARCHÉ DEPOT

750+

NUTRITIOUS MEALS SERVED WEEKLY AT OUR RESTO DEPOT

260+

GARDEN SESSIONS HELD

3

WEEKLY GOOD FOOD MARKETS HELD FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER

350

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

200+

COOKING WORKSHOPS HOSTED

5

BI-WEEKLY MINI-MARKETS HOSTED IN LOW-INCOME SENIOR RESIDENCES (HLMS)



Isabel, Volunteer

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND LONG-TERM HEALTH

2

"I STOPPED TEACHING A FEW YEARS AGO. THOSE WERE MY PEOPLE. NOW I FOUND MY NEW PEOPLE. I COME HERE AND FEEL JOY — THE SPACE FILLS ME UP. WE'RE ALL HERE WITH THE SAME PURPOSE: TO CREATE A WELCOMING SPACE FOR OUR COMMUNITY."

-Isabel, Volunteer

At The Depot, we see food as more than just fuel — it's a catalyst for connection. Through our programs, we create welcoming spaces where people come together to learn, share, and build lasting relationships.

This spirit of connection comes to life in our cooking workshops. Here, newcomers share family recipes, youth gain confidence, families cook side-by-side, and people living alone find companionship over new dishes. These workshops aren't just about food — they nurture belonging, shared experiences, and opportunities for learning and exchange.

Our collective gardens offer another place to grow and gather. Each week, from spring to fall, people come together in green spaces generously provided by **churches, schools, and the borough**. Some are drawn by the prospect of growing their own food, others by the access to green space — and many shared that the garden improved their physical and mental health. Whether learning a new skill or passing on knowledge, participants grow much more than food.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated **volunteers** who bring these spaces to life. They give their time and energy to support food distribution, meals, markets, and more.

"WE LOVE THE DEPOT. MANY OF OUR FAMILIES USE THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THERE AND ADDITIONALLY HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL TRADITION OF GOING THERE FOR LUNCH AFTER OUR WORKSHOPS, WHERE THEY CONTINUE BONDING AND MAKING CONNECTIONS."

- Nadine Collins, Executive Director of Women on the Rise

3 DISMANTLING THE STRUCTURAL BARRIERS THAT CREATE FOOD INSECURITY

"WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE NOURISHING FOOD A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE? A LIVABLE INCOME, A STRONGER LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM, AND A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS."

– Rachel Schleifer, Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator at The Depot

At its core, food insecurity is a question of income. People need enough money to cover rent, bills, and groceries. This remains out of reach for 25% of Canadians. At The Depot, we know that front-line services are essential, but they're not enough. To truly reduce food insecurity, we must tackle it at its root causes: poverty, inequity, and policy gaps.

As a front-line organization, we're in daily contact with people navigating these realities. We hear their stories, witness their challenges, and celebrate their successes. This strengthens our resolve to advocate for a system that better serves everyone.

At the same time, we're connected to a broader movement. Through **Community Food Centres Canada** (CFCC), we're part of a national network of 400+ organizations pushing for a more equitable food future. In 2023, CFCC invited The Depot to lead Quebec's new **Regional Advocacy Hub**, 1 of 6 across the country. With support from the **Definity Foundation**, we hired Rachel in 2024 to deepen this work: building relationships, aligning around shared goals, and connecting national policy ideas to local experience.

Locally, our Social Justice Committee — made up of participants with lived experience of poverty — met over 20 times in 2024. They explored ideas, shared experiences, and took action on issues that matter most to our community. Recognizing the deep connection

between food security and housing, the committee organized several tenant rights workshops to support participants facing housing instability.

We are also committed to contributing to the resilience and inclusivity of our food system. In 2024, we partnered with 4 local organizations — **Head & Hands, Maison Mozaïk, Ti-Frais, and Food Not Bombs NDG** — to pool food purchases, unlocking better prices and greater access to fresh, healthy food through a mutual aid network that shared thousands of pounds of food. Through partnerships with 10 **local farms**, we prioritized sourcing sustainably grown produce for our Marché Depot, mobile markets, and meal program, strengthening ties with the local food economy while supporting community nutrition.

"CHANGE IS SLOW, COMPLEX WORK BY ALIGNING OUR POLICY EFFORTS, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, POOLING RESOURCES, STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, AND AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES, WE'RE WORKING TOWARD OUR VISION: A THRIVING AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY WHERE NOURISHING FOOD IS ACCESSIBLE AND REALIZED AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT."

– Kim Fox, Program Director at The Depot



THE POWER OF YOUR GENEROSITY

"EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US TO BUILD A COMMUNITY WHERE WE CAN ALL ACCESS FOOD WITH DIGNITY."

– Jennifer Brennan,
Development & Communications Manager at The Depot

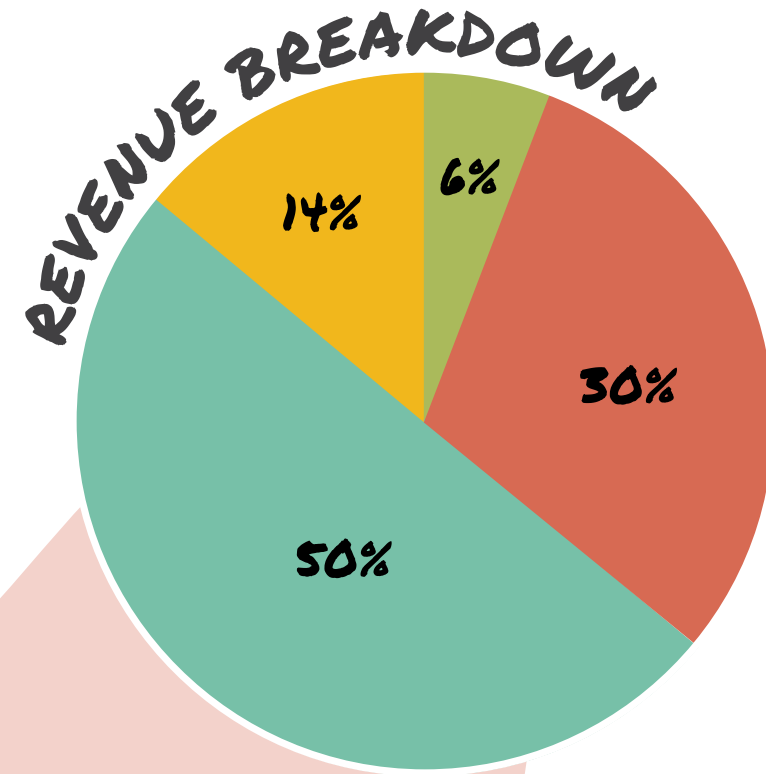
In 2024, The Depot reached a major milestone: for the first time, **individual donors** contributed over \$1 million to support our work – an incredible show of community trust and solidarity.

We also secured several multi-year commitments, including a record-setting \$1.05 million gift over 3 years from the **Marcelle and Jean Coutu Foundation**. These contributions give us the stability to plan for long-term impact.

Our monthly donor community, **The Table**, grew to 243 households, contributing over \$143,000 in sustained support.

More than half of our annual budget went directly to increasing access to nourishing food. We spent \$900,000 on food for the Marché Depot – nearly one-third on fresh produce – and received over \$450,000 in food donations from **Moisson Montréal** and other partners.

Today, it costs \$330,000 per month to run The Depot. Thanks to strong financial stewardship, we've built a \$1 million reserve to protect our services into the future.

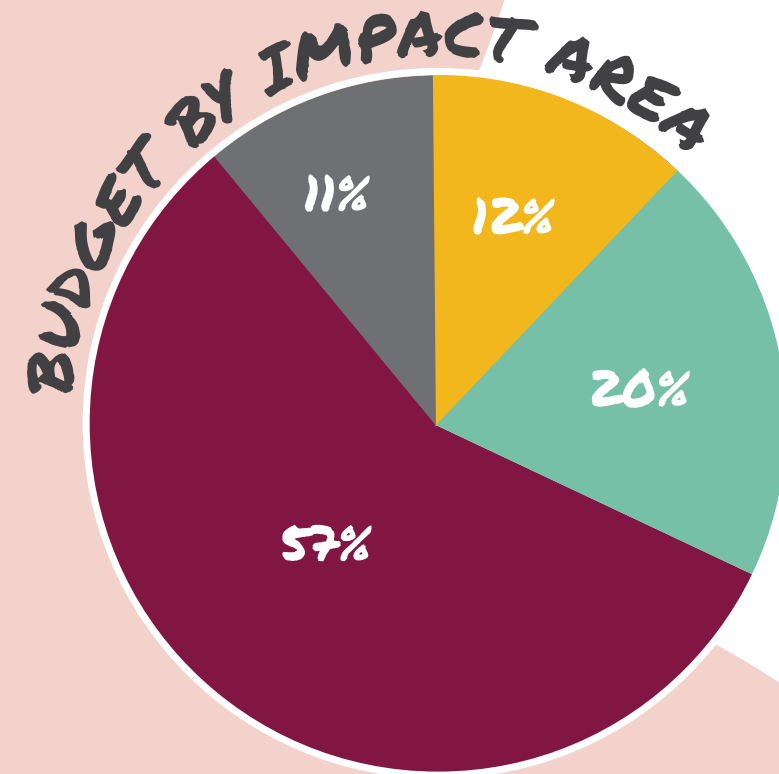


PUBLIC & PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

GOVERNMENT

SELF GENERATED

INDIVIDUALS & CORPORATIONS



RESPOND TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS

ADMINISTRATION

WORK ON DISMANTLING THE STRUCTURAL BARRIERS THAT CREATE FOOD INSECURITY

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUILDING & LONG-TERM HEALTH

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

YOUR GENEROSITY POWERS THE DEPOT

In addition to the donors listed below, none of our work would be possible without the 1,665 individuals who collectively contributed over \$1.3 million.

Together, you help us respond to immediate needs, build long-term community health, and tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

We are so grateful for your solidarity.

\$100,000+



\$50,000+

- Carrefour Solidaire Community Food Centre
- Direction régionale de la santé publique (DRSP)
- Government of Canada
- Hewitt Foundation
- Medavie Foundation
- Merle Wertheimer and Sam Hornstein
- The Peacock Family Foundation

\$25,000+

- Colin Hardie
- Definity Foundation
- Fondation Choquette-Legault
- Gustav Levinschi Foundation
- J. Armand Bombardier Foundation
- Kevin Austin
- Lorne Granofsky
- Marchab Foundation
- Power Corporation of Canada
- Stephen DiTomasso

- The Adair Family Foundation
- The Molson Foundation
- The Orchard House Parent Community
- Trottier Family Foundation
- Zeller Family Foundation

\$10,000+

- Aaron & Wally Fish Family Foundation
- Carol Sector and Gerry Goodfriend
- David and Valerie Shannon
- Fednav Limited
- Fonds Michael Novak & Kathleen Weil at the Foundation of Greater Montreal
- Ivor Wharf
- Julie Shugarman and Ilan Gewurz
- Laurent Ferreira and Leslie Silver
- Lindsay Memorial Foundation
- MakeWay Foundation
- Mar-Kin Foundation
- Marie-Hélène Fox
- PWL Capital - Peter Guay Team
- R. Howard Webster Foundation
- RBC Foundation
- StorageVault Canada
- The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited


- The Malouf Family Fund at the Foundation of Greater Montreal
- The McConnell Foundation
- The Tenaquip Foundation
- Trustees of Mount Royal United Church



\$5,000+

- Aust & Hachmann (Canada) LTD
- Chantal Ares
- Christ The Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Clarus Foundation
- David Khamara and Lindsey Rosenblatt
- Donald Olds
- Douglas MacDonald
- Ernest McNee
- Garry Oberfield
- Ian Stronach and Rosemary Mailas
- Kilgour Lott Fund
- Kippy and Liz Wiegand

- MacDonald Stewart Foundation
- Michael McMurray
- Milton Lackman
- Newall Family Foundation Trust
- Peter and Karen Cooke
- Peter Wiazowski
- Revay and Associates Limited
- Rod Hayes
- The Hylcan Foundation
- Viva Italia Gourmet Foods
- Wendy Sissons



**“There is
no change
without a dream,
as there is
no dream
without hope.”**

– Paulo Freire



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