

QUARTERLY Impact Report

POSSIBILITY
PARTNERS

FALL 2023

**"Thank you for your Thanksgiving note.
Speaking about Thanksgiving traditions, my family do not have one,
but I adopted a practice to give to your organization to practice my
Christian faith during this season of giving and thanks."**

– message from a YSM donor, after receiving our Thanksgiving email



6,300
meals served during
the Thanksgiving
season

7,424
bags of groceries
distributed at our
Food Bank

Your kind and continuing giving makes all we do possible.
Thank you for ensuring struggling Toronto neighbours had a special
meal and community connection at Thanksgiving.

YSM
YONGE STREET MISSION

FOOD INSECURITY

A growing concern in our city

An increasing number of community members need to visit Yonge Street Mission's Food Bank these days – **from 2021 to 2022, the use of the our Food Bank increased by 247%.**

That fact is not surprising given the current economy. Most neighbours in need are dealing with unaffordable housing, un- or under-employment and insufficient social assistance. Global inflation has also increased the prices of food and most goods, adding to the pressure on community members, as well as on the resources of YSM's Food Bank.

All the mentioned factors contribute to rising visits to our Food Bank: **YSM plans to serve 4,098 households, representing 9,969 individuals, during the coming Christmas season.**

We offer neighbours in need access to nutritious foods and basic household supplies, and offer services in ways that reaffirm each visitor's worth and dignity.

YSM's Food Services, encompassing our Food Bank, as well as meal programs at our Evergreen Centre for Street-Involved Youth and Bridge's Community Support Services, help provide relief, a sense of belonging and let community members in need know we care about them, and are available to support them, whatever their needs.

The value of your support

Let me tell you about a YSM community member, Peyton*, who grew up in a challenging home. When she was young, her parents struggled with addiction to tobacco and alcohol, often leaving young Peyton* and her siblings



Record numbers of Toronto neighbours are now relying on food banks like YSM's, to sustain themselves and their families.

to manage for themselves – at times there was little or nothing for them to eat, as their parents spent funds earmarked for ensuring their children's welfare on cigarettes and alcohol.

One day a neighbour shared how YSM had helped him and his family when they couldn't afford groceries, and that is when young Peyton* realized she could seek help at YSM, and receive healthy and balanced foods to sustain herself and her siblings.

To Peyton*, YSM was far more than just a Food Bank. As she shared, *"the staff who attended to me were kind, non-judgmental, and they made me feel loved and valued."* Through her Food Bank use, Peyton* also learned about other YSM programs, which added significantly to the support her family received.

That long-past, kind and fullsome support extended to Peyton* and her

siblings during their childhood are why today she gives back by volunteering at YSM, as an important and hands-on opportunity to help others. As she explained, *"I want to help other struggling children the way YSM helped me and my siblings. That support made a world of difference to us."*

We are in difficult times, ones which present YSM with a clear opportunity to be of critical service and support to growing numbers of Toronto neighbours in need.

Know none of our work would occur without you kindly journeying with us as a committed **POSSIBLITY PARTNERS** supporter – your kind and compassionate monthly giving makes a vital difference to those we serve.

Should you have any questions or needs as a POSSIBLITY PARTNERS donor, feel free to reach out to Akudo by email to: aanyanwu@ysm.ca or call (437) 255-5452.

* Community member's name changed to protect their privacy.