

# Annual Report

---

April 2007 to March 2008



# Mike Lysecki

## Message from the Chair



Each year, in the annual report, the Chairperson reports on the development of Hamilton Food Share and often notes an increased capacity in our ability to serve this community. These have been good news reports made possible by the hard work and dedication of the small staff at Hamilton Food Share led by a very energetic and visionary Executive Director, Joanne Santucci.

We continue to process more than 2,000,000 pounds of food through our food recovery program each year. We have increased revenues which allowed our organization to sustain the additional staff needed to meet the current work load and prepare for future challenges.

We have more projects on the go than ever before and changes made in the past year have allowed us to support the myriad of activities that either help the member agencies directly or better support and advocate for our constituents. Although we are on solid ground we cannot ignore the changes taking place around us. Our organization will need to plan and get ready for the impacts that are sure to come from an ailing economy while meeting existing needs given our limited ability to do it all.

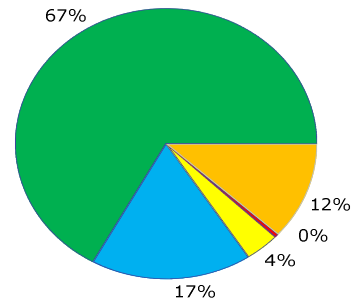
As a Board of Directors, we are very proud of the staff who work tirelessly to meet the demands that inevitably grow each year. Our Executive Director brings forward an increased budget to go farther and to do more things. We have been sensitive to the needs of the community, while we have been mindful of our need to further develop our existing resources and programs. Over the course of the year we have also entertained new ideas and ways in which we can be supportive.

While we continue to work with the Executive Director's Operating Plan we will begin to work towards the development of a new Strategic Plan which will serve us in the upcoming years. As Chair, I am particularly pleased to say that we have mapped out the role of the Board of Directors through new Governance Policies which have been in trial stages this year to be approved by the Board of Directors in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Directors of the Board for their many contributions throughout the year.

I look forward to the New Year as we welcome new members to the table of the Board of Directors who will serve to increase our diversity and strengthen our ability to plan our organization's future.

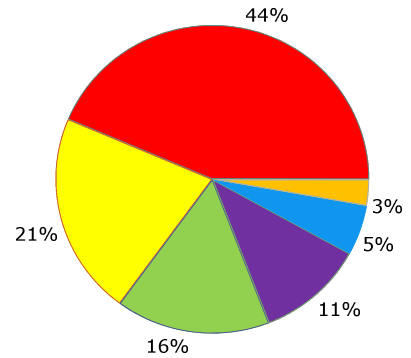
Board of Directors	
Mike Lysecki	Chairperson
Vicki Edwards	Secretary
Kathy Zebruck	Treasurer
Members at Large:	
Rod Lennox	Susanna Pellegrino
Joe Mercanti	Carmen Saliccioli
Alex Moroz	Shendal Yalchin

### Revenue



REVENUE	
Donations and Fundraising	\$571,995
Christmas Hamper Support	\$100,000
Member Dues / Support	\$147,350
Special Project Grants	\$31,540
Other	\$3,490

### Expenses



EXPENSES	
Food Recovery	\$345,148
Food Purchases	\$21,806
Community Development	\$168,513
Resource Development	\$126,168
Administration	\$87,856
Education / Public Relations	\$41,620

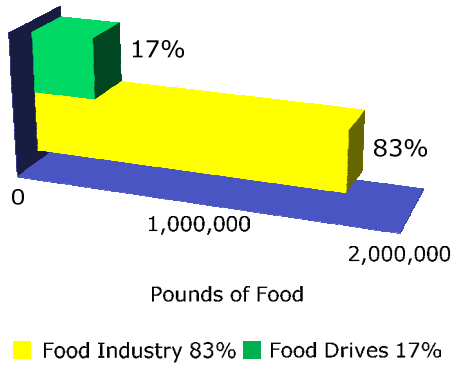




# Food Recovery Program



## Food in by Source

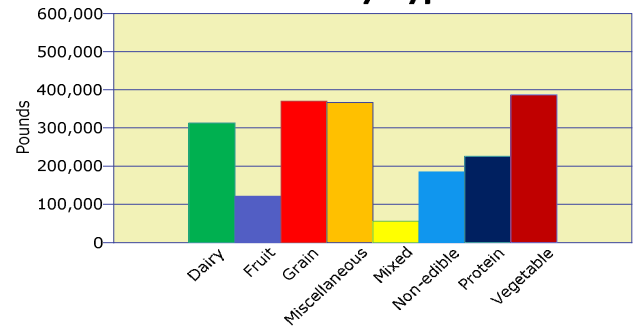


The food recovery program has raised over 25 million pounds of food since it began operations in 1990. This year, 2,025,207 lbs. of food was raised and distributed mainly to our 9 member agencies representing 10 food banks and 7 hot meal programs operating within the City of Hamilton.



- ➔ 17% or 344,285 lbs. of the food procured this year was donated by our local community. Groups, organizations, corporations and individuals organized food drives at their workplace, church, at special events and even donated food in lieu of gifts during special occasions.
- ➔ 83% or 1,680,922 lbs. of the food raised was donated from 5 food recovery systems that partner with the food industry including industrial food warehouses, farmers, retailers and manufacturers.

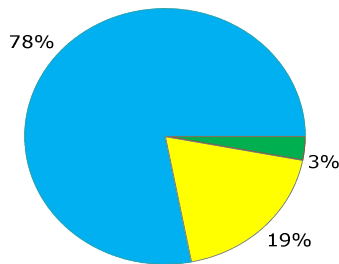
## Food in by Type



## Food Out by Group



- ➔ 1,588,152 lbs. was distributed to local food banks and hot meal programs (member agencies)
- ➔ 378,642 was distributed to Niagara area food banks as Hamilton Food Share extends its services beyond our city borders as a food distribution hub linking the national and provincial food gleaning programs to hunger relief agencies in Hamilton and the Niagara area.
- ➔ 58,413 lbs. of the food raised was distributed to the broader community groups and other food banks.



Food Out by Group:	
Member Agencies	78%
Niagara Hub	19%
Community Groups	3%





# Joanne Santucci Message from the Executive Director

## EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

### Member Agencies

- Good Shepherd Centres
- Mission Services of Hamilton
- Neighbour to Neighbour
- St. Matthew's House
- Stoney Creek Food Bank
- The Salvation Army
- Welcome Inn
- Wesley Urban Ministries
- Living Rock Ministries

### Niagara Regional Hub Food Banks

- Beamsville-Community Care  
of West Niagara
- Caledonia Food Bank
- Fort Erie, Community Outreach Program,
- Dunnville, The Salvation Army Food Bank
- Grimbsy Benevolent Fund
- Partnership West
- Niagara Falls, Project Share
- St. Catharines Community Care
- The Food Bank of Waterloo Region
- Welland Food Bank

### Local Community Groups

- Beasley Nutrition 4 Kids Centre
- Café Adoni
- City Kids
- Food Path
- Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
- North Hamilton Community Centre
- Out of the Cold
- S.P.C.A



During the past year Hamilton Food Share 's food recovery program raised over two million pounds of food that was distributed to emergency food programs across the city. One hundred and eighty food drives were organized throughout the year by our wonderful community network of supporters combined with contributions from forty corporate food donors raised 2,003 pallets of food to feed the hungry in Hamilton. Volunteers added much needed support to our organization dedicating over 4,000 hours from packing and sorting in the warehouse to supporting our fundraising activities throughout the year. This year we also took advantage of our in house expertise and created a new home page and website that was launched mid-2007.

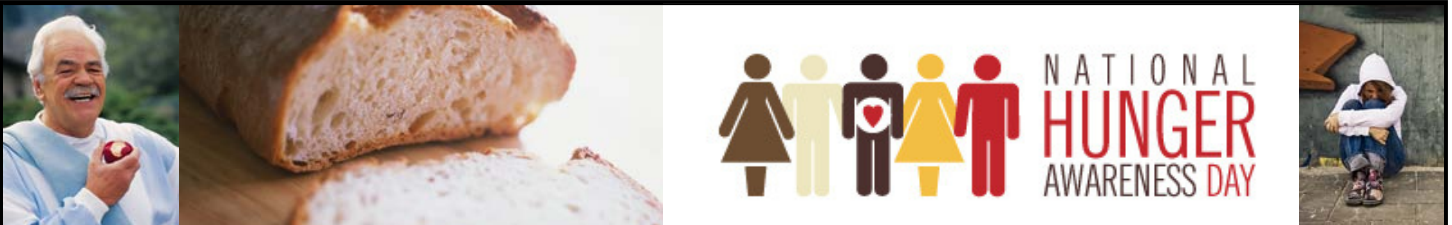
The 2008 Hunger Count showed very little change in the number of people served at emergency meals and food bank programs. Many are as hungry for change as they are in need of sustenance. Poverty has deepened. The uncertain economy, rising food and energy costs have pushed low income households to the breaking point. As food banks themselves struggle to provide emergency supplies to over 15,000 people every month they too have felt the impact coped of shrinking resources and the need to purchase more food. Many times throughout the year food supplies were gone as fast as they were procured. Ironically, there were many emergency food drives held to help emergency food programs.

During the past year, Hamilton Food Share has raised and distributed millions of pounds of food, engaged and led community stakeholders in hunger relief efforts across the city. Yet hunger still persists. There is much work still to do and many challenges ahead. We know there can be an end to hunger by finding the opportunities in the challenge. Looking ahead we will continue to develop innovative ways to source and distribute food to our dedicated front line agencies and create new supports to these vital programs. We know that this is only a means and not an end. Food in and food out is not sufficient to end hunger. We will need to increase our efforts that bring about a greater awareness and advocacy for the people we serve, one that strengthens the growing movement for real change.

We are eternally grateful for the many food and financial donors throughout the year who make our mission possible. Your contributions allow us to do such much. Many thanks to our Special Event Committee, an incredible group of volunteers who launched our first Signature Event "Open House for Hunger" raising net proceeds of over \$50,000. To our Board of Directors whose support and vision enable our organization to keep moving forward I thank you for your unwavering support. To my staff whose unbridled commitment to make a difference in our community continues to be the strength of this organization, thank you for your many contributions all year round. It is through your steadfast commitment that we will find the opportunities that lie in the challenges ahead.

### The Hamilton Food Share Team

Joanne Santucci	Executive Director
*Lois Matton	Business Manager
*Deborah Walsh	Executive Assistant
Amanda Brown	EFAC/HIFIS Project Manager
Rachel O'Reilly	Resource Development Director
*Cassandra Cuff	Resource Development Admin Assistant
*Linda Fraser	Special Events Coordinator
Mona Santucci	Warehouse Manager
Justin Destro	Warehouse Assistant
Kira Scattolon	Driver/Warehouse Support
Mike Radko	Warehouse Support
*denotes partial year	



## Breaking the Bread Tour: A day in the lives of people who go hungry.

**On National Hunger Awareness Day** — It was a day to listen. Food bank users shared their feelings and experiences with us about poverty and hunger. These were just three of the experiences shared with us on that day.

**A Senior:** A woman 67 years old became a widow in the New Year. That's when her brush with poverty took hold. While she and her husband didn't have a lot at least together with both pensions they could provide the basics of life. After his death the household income was cut by 50%. She moved three times unable to pay the rent and utilities plus eat. Even with help she only eats once a day and skips a day here and there so her food will last. She shared feelings of shame and despair at times. She worries a lot, her health has been in a significant decline since New Year. She is grateful for the help of the food bank. It's the only way she can get by.



**A Father on Disability:** This gentleman was injured at work. His disability income amounted to one third of his working income. His family has been immersed in poverty every since. He didn't speak about himself. He mostly talked about his kids. He spoke about the missed opportunities for his children, the indignity they face every day when there is a school trip and they can't go. The isolation they feel because they no longer are asked by their friends to go to the movies or the mall. He shared with me a defining moment in this struggle when his daughter asked him for a toonie for hot dog day. He bowed his head and whispered "I couldn't even afford that". The food bank helps a lot and I'm glad they are there.

**Lone Parent:** Marital breakdown caused this woman to be on her own with three children. She lived in a beautiful house on a wonderful street with tons of kids and lots of trees. She now lives in a one bedroom basement apartment off Industrial Drive. It has two small windows and one of them is blacked out. It's all she can afford. She used to give to the food banks and now she need to use one. The food bank gives her food and helped her with her resume. She finally found a good job. They can move to a better place in a few months. She hopes then, when her children look at her, they can feel proud again. The food banks helped her when she really needed it. She never once thought she would.

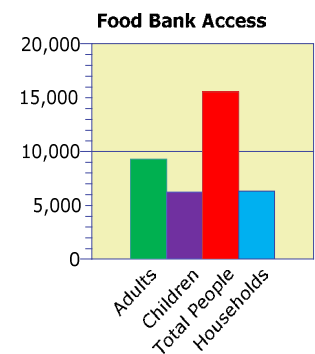
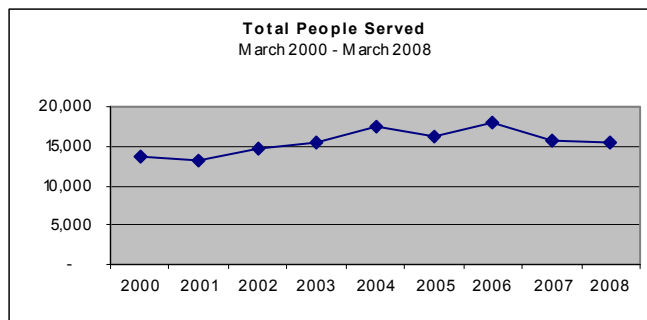


### Our Mission

To diminish hunger in our community by collecting and sharing food and other resources through effective partnerships that strengthen our response to hunger.

### Our Vision

We envision informed communities actively engaged in the elimination of hunger ensuring all community members have access to adequate, safe and appropriate food choices.



**Emergency Food Action Committee:** EFAC will continue with the HIFIS project created to standardize the collection of client data across the city and produce a city wide emergency food program information system. We will work in partnership with the City of Hamilton to complete this project by March 2009. The EFAC committee will be at the table next year with the City of Hamilton utilizing this information to develop a strategic plan for the emergency food sector. The plan will include outcomes that improve service delivery, increase our capacity to respond and better tell the story of the people we serve.

[www.hamiltonfoodshare.org](http://www.hamiltonfoodshare.org)



339 Barton Street  
Stoney Creek, ON  
L8E 2L2  
tel: 905.664.9065  
fax: 905.664.2108