



The Sharing Place
Food Bank

Over 25 Years of Sharing

December 2015 Newsletter



A Letter from the Chairperson

Over 25 years ago, The Sharing Place was envisioned as a stop-gap measure to fill in a poverty gap. But 25 years later, the needs of the community have continued. Sadly, Food insecurity is not going away. We are working to make that shift happen, as we say “one bite at a time”

We are grateful to our community for joining us on this journey, to make an impact on each other’s lives, to share food, and to share so much more. Our staff, volunteers and donors care and it makes a big difference in the lives of others.

When we ask our patrons what helps most, although they are thankful for the food, they are most appreciative of the smile and welcoming approach The Sharing Place offers. It is not easy to walk in our doors and ask for help, we want to ensure everyone feels compassion.

I believe we can make a difference. I also believe that we are shifting our model away from a traditional food bank to a community and sharing space for all.

Please join us on this journey. As neighbours and fellow citizens of Orillia we can secure healthy food for all.

Kathy Manners.

Visit our website:
sharingplaceorillia.org



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/sharingplaceorillia



Follow us on Twitter:
[@TheSharingPlace](https://twitter.com/TheSharingPlace)



**2015/16 CANIBRUNNING
SNOWFLAKE SERIES
PRESENTED BY
ROTORACT/ROTARY**



Dates:
November 29 - 5K Run
December 13 - 5K
January 5K/10K Run
January 10 - 5K Run

10:00 AM start time at Couch Park on Jarvis St.

“Are you looking for a **fun, healthy** way to **support** the Sharing Place this winter? Join us at the Snowflake Series, Canada’s only winter running series! This year it’s going to be even bigger and better – organized by Rotoract and Rotary. 5K and 10K runs starting at Couch-iching Beach Park. The Sharing Place will benefit from the proceeds! For dates, registration and info go to:
<https://sites.google.com/site/snowflakeseries/>

Farewells and New Beginnings

Christine Hager retired this fall from The Sharing Place. As our Executive Director, Christine was the kind and compassionate face of our organization. We are glad that, even in retirement, Christine remains committed to working on local issues like food security and poverty advocacy. We wish her well!!



Christine Hager prepares a cart of brown-bag lunches to hand out to the food bank's school-age clientele.
Roberta Bell.

In the coming weeks, we will be welcoming Miranda McSorley to the Sharing Place family. Miranda will be taking on the new role of Development Manager. She will be fundraising, strengthening bonds with our donors and supporters, and helping to raise the profile of the important work we do at the Sharing Place.

Christmas at Thor Motors

Get in the Christmas spirit with Thor Motors! After the fun and success of last year's event, the dealership is again hosting a community Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12th, 1:30-4:00. The Orillia Vocal Ensemble will be singing seasonal favourites, there will be activities for the kids (including a visit from Santa), and light refreshments for all. Donations to the Sharing Place will be accepted (and encouraged!!).

Quick Facts!

- We are seeing an increase in food bank usage by students, as well as individuals who are working part-time or full-time.
- In the past year, we have provided an emergency food supply to 15,589 people, - 1/3 of whom are children under the age of 18, another 1/4 of whom are ages 18-30, and another 1/3 of whom are over the age of 50.



The Orillia Vocal Ensemble sings for The Sharing Place food bank on Saturday December 22, 2012. The group contributed food and \$2,500.
Sara Ross



Elaine Welbourn

Christmas Hampers

One of our favourite traditions at the Sharing Place is the Christmas Hamper. This year, we are once again distributing 600 hampers, each designed to include all the fixings for a pancake breakfast and a turkey or ham dinner. Cathy and Georgette, two of our dedicated volunteers, start in January, putting aside special treats for the hampers. All the hard work is repaid when recipients return after the holidays with appreciation and stories of how the hampers made Christmas even more special.

Human Interest

The Sharing Place's mission is: Sharing food with hope and dignity to build a healthier community. Food bank volunteer, Clayton Johnson took this mission to heart, helping his own health while sharing food with our community. Clayton lost 158 pounds (and has kept it off!) and then donated an equivalent weight in food to the Sharing Place. Paul Abernethy of Abernethy Foodland stepped up and matched the food donation. **Thanks Clayton and Paul!**



Elaine Welbourn

Our Amazing Volunteers

Poverty runs deep at the core of our beautiful Sunshine City. We see evidence of it now and again, but for the most part, it's kept out of the public eye. Most of us who are lucky enough to live above the poverty line cannot possibly fathom the circumstances that the poor are forced to live in, every single day.

I say "most", because there are some who do not choose to look the other way. Instead, they choose to help by donating, advocating, or – if we're lucky – volunteering.

The Sharing Place has a team of 50 to 60 devoted volunteers who comprise our distribution teams, as well as our Board of Directors. Collectively, these two groups put in countless hours to ensure that our clients are receiving the absolute best care possible. For our distribution team, that means working hands-on at the food bank, assembling orders and distributing to clients so as to address hunger at its very core.

For our Board, it means working tirelessly to advocate for our clients in the community, and to help guide the organization in the right direction so as to help address the broader issue of hunger and poverty in Orillia.

In addition to these core groups, of course, there are countless others working behind the scenes –

Quick Facts!

• For over 25% of our households served, the amount of money left over after paying rent is less than \$250 per month. This meager amount must cover utilities (heat, hydro), transportation, groceries, and hygiene items. Another 11% of our clients have no reliable income to speak of.



• Despite common misconceptions surrounding food bank reliance, 57% of registered clients of The Sharing Place have accessed our services less than five times in the past year.



Elaine Welbourn



Elaine Welbourn

whether it be picking up donations around town, delivering food to shut-in clients, taking part in special events, hosting food drives and fundraisers, or sitting on various committees.

The Sharing Place would not exist without its amazing volunteer base, and I would like to extend my gratitude towards each and every one of them as they continue to work together to improve our community.

Sincerely,
Shawna Ballik
Operations Manager



Elaine Welbourn



How To Make A Difference!

The Sharing Place depends entirely on the community for contributions of food and money. Without these contributions we would be unable to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are finding, as are other local charities, that our dollar donations are down very significantly from last year. Furthermore, food donations are also down very significantly. The Orillia community for the past many years has very generously supported The Sharing Place, and we are asking the community once again to please help us. **We need you.**

Call (705) 327-4273 or visit 22 West Street S.
Online at www.sharingplaceorillia.org
Mail to The Sharing Place Food Bank
P.O. Box 743 Orillia, ON L3V 6K7
Food donation drop off (call ahead)

I am donating:

\$20.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: \$ _____

My monthly donation is:

\$10.00 \$20.00 \$50.00 Other: \$ _____

Payment methods:

Cheque
Direct deposit

Please issue a tax receipt to:

Name

Address

City Prov. Postal Code

I would like to be kept up to date:

Email

Phone Number

Charitable number: 131482291RROOO1

Top Ten list of food items to donate

1. CEREAL
2. DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS : ENSURE/BOOST
3. Peanut Butter
4. *Canned Fish: Tuna / Salmon*
5. CANNED MEAT: HAM OR CHICKEN
6. **Canned Vegetables**
7. *Low Sodium Soup*
8. *Pasta Sauce*
9. Peanut-free school snacks
10. Hygiene and paper products

Our New Board Members

Kathy Manners, Chair • Peter Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
• Chris Hazel, Vice-Chair
Susan Clarke • Anderson Charters • Mike Jones • Judy
Burton • Scott Weiler • Norm Sinclair
Gini Stringer • Kathi Shropshire

Location: 22 West Street South
Mailing Address: Box 743 Orillia, ON L3V 6K7



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705-327-4273