

Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge

VOLUME 2,
SPECIAL DONOR ISSUE
FEBRUARY 2008



A Year in Review

Since 1989, when Interfaith Food Bank first began supporting those less fortunate, we have been responding to increasing needs of our clientele with increased supports from within our community. Over time, the need to adjust the means by which we conduct these activities has become a very relevant issue. 2007 was a year of transition for Interfaith Food Bank as our staff and volunteers adjusted to several changes in our operational procedures in an attempt to make the most efficient use of our time and resources. We value the commitments of those who continue to support us in our mission to recognize the human dignity of those in need and to provide food and access to services and resources generated from within our community.

Over this last year, we have made improvements to our client screening procedures to ensure that resources are distributed to those who can demonstrate genuine need for our support. We have updated our accounting system and inventory tracking procedures, and have made physical changes to our facility to allow us to work more efficiently. Working collaboratively with other agencies and charitable organizations in Lethbridge has also allowed us to limit duplication of services to those we serve, as was demonstrated through our joint efforts with the Lethbridge Food Bank and the Salvation Army this Christmas.

2008 will continue to be a year of progress as we make use of the Wild Rose Quarterly Grant Funds we received in January. This funding will allow us to solidify policies and procedures and to explore various means of sustainable funding. Our Board of Directors will also embark in strategic planning this year, which will allow us to assess and evaluate our activities and determine our future courses of action. We will continue to gather input from all of those who have an interest in the way we operate, including staff, volunteers, clientele, and most specifically, our donors.

Accountability to our donor is one of the values we hold most dearly, and we believe not only in using the supports provided by our community wisely, but also in informing our donor of where their dollars are spent. By generating resources from within our community, Interfaith Food Bank was able to provide the following services to those less fortunate in Lethbridge during 2007.

- ◆ 5354 Hampers were distributed to assist 7258 Adults and 6114 Children
- ◆ 7056 daily food supplements provided (over and above hamper allotments)
- ◆ 38 Single parent families, including 105 children, received larger than usual hampers for the winter months, thanks to our *Follow The Star Program*
- ◆ 40 Families were provided with supplies for the Christmas Meal and gifts for each family member through our *Adopt-A-Family Program*
- ◆ 589 *Christmas Hampers* were distributed, helping 750 adults and 631 children to enjoy Christmas, complete with Ham or Turkey dinner and gifts for the little ones under 17 years of age.
- ◆ 464 children received backpacks & school supplies from our *Back to School Program*
- ◆ 104 Clothing vouchers were distributed to clothe 131 adults and 100 children
- ◆ 394 Diabetics were assisted with their special dietary needs
- ◆ 269 Infants were assisted by our *Infant Feeding Program*
- ◆ 139 Pregnant mothers received additional food during this crucial developmental stage
- ◆ 62 Birthday bundles allowed parents to offer something special for their children on this special day
- ◆ 262 new clients were added to our database

We are so very grateful that we have been able to provide this assistance to the members of our community who need it most, and recognize that it is truly a community effort that allows us to support each other in this way. It is comforting to know that access to programs such as those offered at Interfaith Food Bank can really make a difference for those we serve. Thank you for helping us to help the hungry.

Call for Directors

Are you a community minded individual interested in making a difference within our city? Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge is currently accepting applications for positions with our Board of Directors.

Qualifications Required: Interest in the organization and the services we provide; tact and the ability to work with others; time and willingness to serve; knowledge of the community; and skills and knowledge which can support the Board process. **Time Commitment:** Nine Board meetings per year, each meeting lasting approximately 2-3 hours; Committee meetings as required; Special meetings required for Board orientation, strategic planning and Board development. **Interested parties are encouraged to contact our office for a confidential application package.**

MOST WANTED FOOD ITEMS

Canned Fruit
Vegetables
Canned Meats
Salmon / Tuna
Canned Soup
Soup Mixes
Canned Pasta / Stew
Spaghetti Sauce
Unsweetened Juices
Baby Food in Jars
Infant Cereal
Baby Formula with Iron
Canned Tomatoes
Canned Pork & Beans
Peanut Butter / Jam
Macaroni & Cheese
Hamburger Helper



Drop off your
contributions
between 8:00 am and
4:00 pm, Monday to
Friday.

Thank you for your
continued support!

INTERFAITH FOOD BANK

1116 3rd Ave. North
Lethbridge AB T1H 0H6
Phone: 320-8779
Fax: 328-0521
Email: intrth@telus.net

How YOU Can Help!

Interfaith's Wish List

The following non-food items would assist us in working more efficiently and to make the most of our human and/or financial resources:

WAREHOUSE

- Commercial floor scale
- Portable Shelving
- Pressure Washer
- Chest Freezer (no larger than 64"x23"x35")
- Utility Carts
- Pallet Wrap & Dispenser
- Hardware gift certificates so we might purchase General Maintenance Supplies

ADMINISTRATION

- Wireless Routers (2)
- New color laser printer
- Laminator
- Gift Certificates for Office Supplies

FACILITY

- Fencing Materials
- Furnace/Duct Cleaning
- New truck or assistance with repairs and maintenance

REMEMBER

Volunteers are always needed. If you have a spare morning or afternoon per week, please call us!



INTERFAITH FOOD BANK SOCIETY OF LETHBRIDGE

1116 - 3 Ave. North
Lethbridge AB T1H 0H6
Phone: 403-320-8779
Fax: 403-328-0521
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Upcoming Events

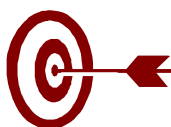
Friends Helping Friends—On Saturday, March 8th, CTV and Canada Safeway will be working with Interfaith Food Bank to restock our shelves after the Christmas season. The event take place 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at all three Safeway locations in Lethbridge. We require volunteers for 2 hour shifts to hand out information and collect donations on our behalf.



Bakeless Bake Sale—Each spring, our annual fundraising mail-out raises funds for food purchases and operational expenses. No need to bake, just enclose a small donation in the envelope provided and send it in your sweet treat to us!

National Volunteer Week—During the week of April 28th—May 2nd we will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Event to thank our amazing volunteers for their contributions to Interfaith. We will be recruiting support from local businesses and individuals for recognition gifts and treats for those who give so freely of their time and talents.

Grow A Row—Think of us this Spring when you are planting your garden! No matter what your harvest, we will gladly accept donations of fresh veggies and fruit. Fresh produce is hard to come by at the Food Bank, and is so necessary for nutrition.



Target Hunger—In June, local LDS churches will run the annual Target Hunger campaign to help restock the shelves of Interfaith Food Bank and Lethbridge Food Bank. Pre-printed bags will be dropped off at every household in Lethbridge. A printed list of our most wanted items will be on the bag, just fill it up and place on your doorstep for pickup!

Whoop-Up Days Pancake Breakfast— On Tuesday, August 19th, Interfaith will host a Pancake Breakfast to kick off Whoop-Up Days! The event will begin at 7:00 am and end at 9:00 am, just in time for the parade. We would love to borrow your grills and coffee urns, and will need donations of disposable plates, cups, and utensils to serve the food.



Friends of Interfaith Charity Dinner & Silent Auction—We had such a great response from our event in October 2007, we have decided to make this an annual event. Be sure to mark **Friday, September 19th** on your calendar! This event will again be held at the Italian-Canadian Cultural Centre, and will include good food and good entertainment for a great cause! We are recruiting substantial goods or services that are likely to bring in significant bids at the silent auction.



Please contact our office if you are able to contribute your time or resources to any of these activities.

We'd like to hear from you!

We know that without the support of our community members, we would not be able to offer the many services necessary for those less fortunate in our city.

If you have ideas, suggestions for fund-raising opportunities, or would like more information about Interfaith Food Bank, please feel free to call, write, or set up an appointment to tour our facilities.

We are a community response to a community need, and we need your input in addition to your contribution of food, funds and free time.

Online?

If you would prefer to receive correspondence from us electronically, we'd be happy to save the stamp! Give us a call at 320-8779 so we can add your email address to our list of contacts.