

Program Highlights

Food for Health

- The relocation of the Newmarket Community Garden to the new site at the Magna centre was a resounding success with 65 garden plots available. We are grateful to the Town of Newmarket for their support in getting the garden growing.
- While the Aurora Community Garden experienced its first extended season in 2011, the Newmarket Community Garden was granted the same privilege in 2012. Gardeners were able to plant cool season crops as early as April, harvest cool season crops, such as rapini and kale as late as November, and introduce perennial crops such as garlic and asparagus.
- In an effort to address the ever growing waiting list for our program, York Region Food Network concentrated our attention on attracting municipal support to expand the community garden program.
- We have two great videos to showcase the joys of growing food: Markham Community Garden and Good Food: A Step Away.
- We distributed 831 boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables through the Good Food Box program that started up in January.
- The Fresh Food Partners Gleaning Program provided 7 trips to 6 farms where 285 participants had the opportunity to harvest local fruits and vegetables at the close of the growing season.
- The Wednesday morning breakfast drop-in program was well attended for the delicious food, as well as access to community resources and the collegial atmosphere.

Food for All

- Our Advocacy: Awareness to Action program provided training and support to empower individuals and groups to articulate the need for system changes to address food insecurity in our communities. Food is a basic human right and we need to ensure that people are able to access food without compromising their dignity and self respect.
- Over 1,000 people attended workshops and events held in York Region and, as a result, became more informed of the links between poverty and poor health, and the need to increase social assistance rates to move recipients out of deep poverty.
- We coordinated the Daily Bread Food Bank Annual Survey of People who Access Food Banks at 6 food banks in York Region. These surveys tell the stories of people living in poverty and contribute to our annual Hunger in the Midst of Prosperity Report.
- Our reclamation program operated successfully throughout the year with reclaimed food distributed to more than thirteen agencies and groups.
- Following an information event in November 2011 and a Visioning Day in March 2012, a food charter is being developed in York Region. York Region Food Network, in partnership with community agencies, municipalities and public health, is leading the development of the food charter, a public document that will guide decision-making about our food system and food activities in York Region.

Treasurer's Report

2011 was a year of many opportunities for York Region Food Network. In light of our new Strategic Plan, we have taken to heart our vision: Food for Health - Food for All. The Good Food Box has been a fantastic example of the kind of programs we have embraced in order to reach a wider client base and promote healthy eating while on a budget. We are very grateful to all of our funders and donors for their support of our organization. The strength and stability that these funds provide ensures that more people have access to the supports they require in order to enhance their quality of life.

In 2011 YRFN was thrilled to be selected as one of the participants in the Wild Wild West Hoedown fundraiser. With the help of staff and many volunteers, we were able to significantly increase our fundraising revenues from the previous year.

With the move to our new location, YRFN is looking forward to another successful year in 2012, with an increased capacity to reach out to even more diverse groups.

At a Glance

	2011	2010
Total Assets	192,624	170,140
Current Liabilities	30,718	10,424
Net Assets	161,906	159,716
Total Revenue	230,799	189,415
Total Expenditures	228,609	193,645
Excess (Deficiency)	2,190	(4,230)

Complete Audited Financial Statements are available upon request



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Food for health ... Food for all

The year in review

2011 was a busy and rewarding year for York Region Food Network. As per our Mission, our work and our programs strive to *raise awareness and promote policy changes for increased access to affordable and nutritious food produced within a sustainable food system.*

We are proud to have begun the work towards developing a Food Charter for York Region. A first for this region, a food charter is a document that outlines the values and beliefs about food that a community considers most important. A food charter can be used by municipalities and many others in the community who make decisions about food as a guide to food policies, programs and other actions that are positive for a local food system. Through this exercise we have developed strong partnerships with other like-minded organizations which complement the work that we do.

We are grateful for our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers that help our programs run smoothly. They assist in so many ways from cooking and serving healthy breakfasts for the drop-in, to packing Good Food Boxes, sorting and distributing reclaimed food and doing a variety of chores to keep the community gardens at their best.

We were sorry to say good-bye to staff members Brittany Stalker and Yvonne Kelly who both moved on in 2011. We were delighted to welcome Bronwen Fitzsimons to manage our Healthy Living Hub programs starting in September. Again this year, our staff team was supported by an enthusiastic summer student Charlene Blanchard and four dedicated Katimavik volunteers, Olivier Madore, Adam Duff, Pablo Botero, and Adam Johns.

The Board of Directors has implemented a number of committees this year to improve efforts in fundraising, governance and communication through social media and our website. We are excited to move forward in our new location with a clear and strong direction.

*Rebecca Kopel, Chair
Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director*

Food for health ... Food for all

Thank You

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 175 individual donors who supported our operations and administration. Without your support, day-to-day operations would be impossible.

We would also like to thank the following for their financial and in-kind support:

605485 Ontario Limited
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Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation
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Southlake Regional Health Centre
Unionville Baptist Church
York Region Basketball Officials



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York Region
**Food
Network**
Food for health ... Food for all

Annual General Report 2011

*For fiscal period ending
December 31, 2011*