

## Thank You

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 350 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:

*19th Avenue Farmers Market*

*605485 Ontario Limited*

*Alexander Mackenzie High School*

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*Bertram Family Fund at Toronto Foundation*

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*Greenbelt Fund*

*Nature's Rainbow*

*Norseman Inc.*

*Ontario Power Generation Inc.*

*Reesor's Farm*

*Round the Bend Farm*

*The Cutting Veg*



# Annual General Report 2017

*For fiscal  
period ending  
December 31, 2017*



*Food for Health ... Food for All*

## The Year in Review

Transformation continues to be a theme at York Region Food Network in 2017. We have seen growth in programs, activities and revenues along with increasing community engagement. We said good-bye to Tricia Richens and welcomed Chef Maxine Knight to the staff team. Old and new Board members have been active in fundraising and developing communications and branding strategies. Our team of summer students, Dallyn, Danielle, Emma, Hayley and Shaelyn strengthened our social media presence, enriched our children's programs and helped build community in our gardens.

We piloted new programs that proved very successful. Our Kids in the Kitchen programs give children an opportunity to develop skills and confidence in the kitchen,

and our senior's Art Garden Café program brought culturally diverse seniors together to share food and explore their creative sides. Our Community Cooks pilot program showed the benefits of food skills training, sharing healthy food with community partners, and the principle of food waste reduction. Culinary Traveller, in partnership with the Aurora Public Library, has been in high demand since its inception.



The enthusiasm, innovation and creativity of staff is reflected in continuing demand for all our programs. We are building strong relationships with several community partners, and the broader community. Food does indeed connect all of us and healthy, local food provides benefits to individuals, community, the environment and the economy.

**Rebecca Kopel, Chair**

**Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director**

## Funders



**United Way  
Greater Toronto**



**Canada**



## At a Glance

	2017	2016
Total Assets	144,523	189,587
Current Liabilities	79,155	111,529
Net Assets	65,368	78,058

Total Revenue	415,845	262,719
Total Expenditures	428,635	266,540
Excess (Deficiency)	(12,690)	(3,821)

Complete Audited Financial Statements are available on request.

## Policy

### **Health and Social Justice:**

*Food Fight: advocating for health and social justice* brought together over 75 government staff, social service agencies and advocates. This event provoked a community discussion about food insecurity in York Region, and the role of emergency food programs, social service agencies, academics and government in addressing this problem.

### **Education and Skills:**

York Region's 2017 *Seedy Saturday* was held at the Newmarket Community Centre. With over 500 residents in attendance, this event launched the garden season with access to lots of local heirloom seeds, food and education.

*Food 4 Change: Back to Basics* was truly a community event, with 60 residents coming together to learn about the connection between health, food literacy and food waste.



## Skills



York Region Food Network's Seeds for Change Urban Agriculture Program offered 96 workshops/engagements for community gardeners and residents in 2017, attended by over 875 people.

Community Cooks trained participants in safe food handling, cooking and baking techniques. In 2017, this program held 7 accreditation trainings, including YorkSafe Food Handling, Smart Serve and First Aid/CPR.



In partnership with Healthy Kids Community Challenge Aurora and Georgina, 20 food skill workshops were facilitated to 420 youth and students. Kids in the Kitchen cooking classes were piloted, benefiting 37 children.

In partnership with the Aurora Public Library, we launched the extremely popular Culinary Traveler. In this hands-on cooking class, participants created delicious recipes from around the world.



## Nutrition



Community Cooks prepared ready-to-eat healthy meals for social service agencies in York Region. Since the launch of this program, over 600 individual meals were distributed in 2017 through Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Aurora.

York Region Food Network operated 7 community gardens in 4 municipalities across York Region. Over 460 food-growing residents were served.



## Access



- In 2017, 2642 boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables were sold through our Good Food Box Program to over 500 residents.

- We offered weekly breakfasts, with over 1000 meals enjoyed.
- Our evaluation of Community Cooks dug deep to identify future opportunities for YRFN to support social service agencies in their quest for good food for their clients.
- To showcase the local food sector and make it easier for consumers to access York Region grown foods, we launched Local York, a digital guide with stories and recipes featuring locally produced products.
- Through our Good Food Hub, we held monthly community kitchens in partnership with Blue Door Shelter.



- In 2017, we offered 3 gleaning trips to 137 participants.

