

# Annual General Report 2018

*For fiscal  
period ending  
December 31, 2018*



**York Region  
Food Network**

*Food for Health ... Food for All*

## The Year in Review

Food related issues have come into focus in the media like never before and at York Region Food Network, this interest is reflected in increased participation in our programs and events. Our staff team grew by two during the year as we welcomed Chantal McCallum as our Garden to Table Coordinator and Sarah Epp as our Youth Engagement Coordinator. Students Dallyn Cann, Catherine Chiao and Nicole Di Giuseppe enriched our programs over the summer months.

Volunteers continue to contribute vital person power and expertise to our organization and programs, from our Board of Directors providing governance and fundraising acumen, to corporate groups arriving as teams and providing hours of labour in gardens or the kitchen, to

individuals who come every week or month to help prepare food, wash dishes and pack Good Food Boxes.



In 2018, we were excited to receive Systems Change funding through United Way Greater Toronto that allowed us to establish the York Region Food Council, a diverse community partnership that supports a local sustainable food system and healthy food policies. With health and social justice at the core, we

look forward to increasing awareness of the importance of healthy food policy as part of a vibrant and thriving community.

We have also seen a global increase in youth participation in advocacy work. With the help of a Seed Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation we have begun to explore ways to more fully engage youth in food and social justice issues.

As we collectively continue to push for a system that will ensure people's basic right to food is met, our programs create a welcoming and inclusive environment for people to come together, foster friendships, build skills and create space to break down barriers.

*Rebecca Kopel, Chair*  
*Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director*



## Skills

***Food skills education at York Region Food Network is circular: from field to plate to field.***

- We coordinated 2 allotment gardens with 161 plots, and 4 communal gardens.
- We collaborated with the City of Vaughan in engaging over 1200 residents in local food activities.



- In October 2018 YRFN rolled out a new series of youth programs funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to enhance youth awareness of the food system while developing food skills through hands on kitchen programming.

- Learning food skills is always fun in a group. We partnered with 11 organizations both at our home kitchen in Aurora and in other kitchens throughout York Region to offer 92 classes.
- Composting is a brilliant way to build soil health. Vermicomposting is regularly incorporated into our programs and our worms even take field trips to schools.



## Nutrition

***Healthy eating is the first line of defence against chronic disease. Our programs prioritize nutritious and whole foods in everything we do.***



- Over 60 workshops delivered meals to children, families, multicultural groups, adults and seniors highlight cooking nutritious food from scratch.

- Our Community Cooks groups prepared over 1400 ready-to-eat healthy meals which were distributed through Canadian Mental Health Association in Aurora.



## Access

***Sharing good food through our breakfast drop-in, Good Food Box and gleaning programs supports our education and advocacy programs to ensure that we “respect, protect and fulfill the right to food”.***



- 1501 Good Food Boxes full of fresh local produce were purchased by 583 customers
- We ran our drop-in breakfast for 50 weeks and served over 1100 breakfasts

- 4 bus loads of gleaners picked strawberries and fall vegetable crops, and local farms donated over 7500 pounds of squash, beets, potatoes, and apples. And we received and distributed 20,000 garlic scapes!
- Over 350 people 'borrowed' seeds from our library.



## Policy

***We launched the York Region Food Council, an initiative that seeks to change how York Region residents understand the food system and access to food. Made up of a cross-sectoral group of organizations, decision-makers, and community members, this Council educates, promotes food system initiatives, and facilitates food policy development.***



- 3 articles published in the local media to advocate for basic income, the right to food, and the importance of local agriculture.
- Held 15 workshops and events, with 373 people in attendance.
- Engaged 24 community organizations in conversations, events and activities.



## Funders



**United Way**  
Greater Toronto

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation  
An agency of the Government of Ontario.



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario  
Relevé du gouvernement de l'Ontario.



**Ontario**

**Canada**

**York Region**

## At a Glance

	2018	2017
Total Assets	284,143	144,523
Current Liabilities	175,191	79,155
Net Assets	108,952	65,368

Total Revenue	463,218	415,845
Total Expenditures	419,634	428,635
Excess (Deficiency)	43,584	(12,690)

*Complete Audited Financial Statements  
are available on request.*



## **Thank You**

York Region Food Network would like to thank the 300 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***  
***Approved Appraisal Service***  
***Argosy Securities Inc.***  
***Aurora-Business.com***  
***BMO***  
***Bertram Family Fund at Toronto Foundation***  
***Best Buy Woodbridge***  
***BrokerLink***  
***Brooks Farm***  
***Canadian Tire***  
***Dell***  
***Desjardins Insurance***  
***Doug Coates Farm***  
***Enbridge Inc.***  
***Home Depot***  
***Honda Canada***  
***Investors Group***  
***Nature's Rainbow***  
***Ontario Power Generation Inc.***  
***Real Canadian Superstore***  
***Reesor's Farm***  
***Rogers Communications Canada Inc.***  
***Round the Bend Farm***  
***Sharon Orchards***  
***Springboard Strategies***  
***The Appraisers Consulting Group of Canada Inc.***  
***The Cutting Veg***  
***UNFI***