

MARCH 2024

# INSIDER IMPACT

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

LET'S CONNECT



@vanfoodbank



## A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of Spring and the promise of brighter days, we can't help but give a big shout-out to our amazing volunteers - a heartfelt thank you for braving the chilly, wet, and snowy weather during the winter months. Your commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed!

Despite the heavy snowfall in January, your efforts kept us going strong, allowing us to maintain our operations and provide much-needed food support to those in our community. We're so grateful to have such a fantastic team!

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## CONTACT US

Volunteer Team  
volunteer@foodbank.bc.ca

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*Thank YOU for your ongoing  
generosity and kindness!*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT | RISING TO THE OCCASION

In our ongoing efforts to tackle the hunger crisis, it is noteworthy to share that many clients served by the GVFB have been in Canada for less than two years. With English being a second language for most newcomers, it often poses communication challenges, particularly during the registration process to access food bank services.

Fortunately, individual food distribution volunteers like Andy Fung are pivotal in supporting the GVFB team by translating Chinese into English. Here's what Andy had to say in his role as a Volunteer Interpreter:



*"Many GVFB clients do not speak English well and need language assistance. As a volunteer at the Vancouver Distribution site, I have interpreted for Cantonese-speaking clients when they have general questions or when GVFB staff needs information from clients for registration."*

*"After helping clients break through the language barrier, clients always reward me with warm smiles and heartfelt thank yous. I am grateful that I can help clients with interpretation, in addition to my regular food distribution duties."*

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## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE VOLUNTEER INTERPRETER ROLE? SIGN UP TODAY!

The Distribution Interpreter will provide direct translation support during registration and update interviews. Required skills and responsibilities include:

- Must be a minimum of 18 years old.
- Fluent in speaking English and able to comprehend instructions in English.
- Proficient in Cantonese and Mandarin.
- Providing direct and neutral interpretation of sensitive conversations between staff and clients.

Visit the [My Impact page](#) to learn the full details of the Volunteer Interpreter role.



## OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY IS GROWING

Let's give a warm welcome to the newest individual volunteers of 2024! This enthusiastic bunch will support distribution, the warehouse, and the Burnaby community market.

**Next application dates:** May 13th to May 24th and October 7th to October 18th. We encourage you to invite your network and help expand our volunteer community. A link to apply will be available during those dates.



## CELEBRATING AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



In October we hosted our first volunteer outing at Rick Bronson's Comedy House. Thanks to their generous ticket donations, volunteer raffle winners experienced an evening of laughter in New Westminster.

This winter, winners enjoyed the Liberty Wine East Side Beer Fest, Rick Bronson's Comedy Club, Just for Laughs, and KOOZA by Cirque du Soleil. A huge thank you to those businesses for supporting the GVFB Volunteer Program!

## EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

The 2024 National Volunteer Week theme is “*Every Moment Matters*”, and we want to hear from you! Send your most memorable or impactful volunteer experience to [volunteer@foodbank.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer@foodbank.bc.ca). Stay tuned for more details about our Volunteer Appreciation Week event.



# GVFB LATEST IMPACT (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER)

As we wrap up our last quarter, we wanted to share some key highlights:

430

volunteer hours  
building program packs

246

volunteer hours  
administrative support

108

volunteer hours  
building seniors packs

1185

volunteer hours  
warehouse support



702

volunteer hours  
agencies support

143

volunteers went  
through orientation

590

People volunteered  
at the GVFB



8,700

volunteer hours donated

