

# G♥FB

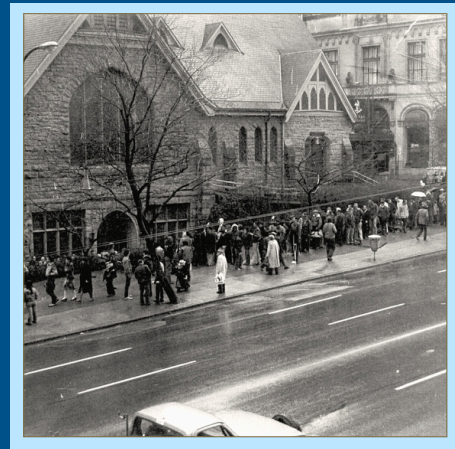
## A TIMELINE

A look at the **Greater Vancouver Food Bank** (GVFB) through time.

1983

### THE BEGINNING

The *Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society* opened as a temporary social service provider, aiding 200 people a month.

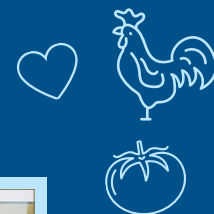


1983

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

The first annual report is released. We release an annual Impact Report and Financial Statement. You can find a digital copy of these reports on our [About Us](#) page on the website.





# 1993

## JOE AVERAGE

Joe Average paints one of our distribution vans. This same van now hangs in our Burnaby warehouse as an art piece!



# 1995

## COMMUNITY DONATIONS

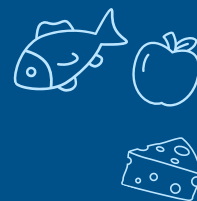
A picture shows a local woman and her child collecting food donations during a parade in Burnaby.

# 1996

## JINGLE BELL FOOD DRIVE

Elementary school students show off their donations for the Jingle Bell Christmas Food Drive, an annual school fundraiser.





## 2000 CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A GVFB volunteer helps pick up donations for the Christmas in July annual fundraiser.



## 2000 VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

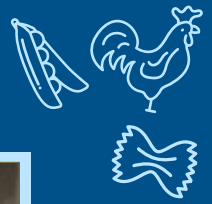
Volunteers help pack food hampers for clients. The GVFB was supporting approximately 8000 visits a week at this time!



## 2003 CANSTRUCTION

Participants for the corporate competition CANstruction are hard at work! All proceeds from this event were donated to the GVFB.





## 2011 COOKING CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER

Local chefs Quang Dang, Ned Bell, and Gennaro Lorio face off in a delicious cooking challenge fundraiser to benefit of the GVFB!



## 2012 GVFB WAREHOUSE

In 2012, the GVFB was serving 9,000 people through 15 community food hubs and 100 community agencies. The picture on the right is of the former Vancouver warehouse on Prior street.

## 2011 CHALLENGING THE SYSTEM

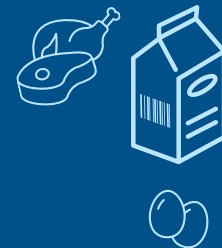
GVFB CEO, Cheryl Carline, saw the need for improvement during her time. "We pick up leftovers from hospitals, hotels, movie caterers, markets and Starbucks stores... There's a lot of good food we could be gathering if we had more refrigerated trucks and warehouse space."



PHOTO CREDIT COLLEEN KIMMETT







## 2013 REEL THANKS

2013 marks the first Reel Thanks Fundraiser in partnership with the Vancouver Film industry. An annual fundraiser, Reel Thanks has donated over \$1.7M to the GVFB in its first 10 years!

## 2016 A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM

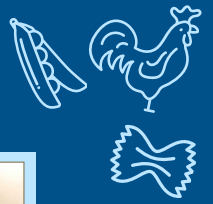
Introducing the Wall of Shame. This wall showcased items donated to the GVFB that were too old, damaged, or not nutritious enough to distribute to clients. This wall helps to educate the public on what items are acceptable to donate to a food bank.



## 2018 SHIFTING FOCUS

At this time, the GVFB still relied on donated food with low nutritional value and distributed very few fresh food items. In 2018, we began to look at ways to leverage our buying power through monetary donations and purchase healthy food.





## 2018

### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

This year marked significant changes in our agency program! To maximize our capacity, the GVFB began to implement annual agency applications. This process helped to open our doors to more community partnerships.



## 2019

### OPENING DAY

The GVFB opened doors to the new Burnaby head office and distribution center on Winston Street, July 2019.

## 2019

### A CHANGE OF PACE

The GVFB welcomed new leadership, promoting David Long as CEO and Cynthia Boulter as COO. This change in leadership marked a significant milestone for the focus of the organization.





## 2020 PANDEMIC PIVOTS

As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the GVFB redesigned client distribution in only 7 days, moving to larger distribution locations to enable safe social distancing. Even with 13 site closures, the GVFB remained open to both agencies and clients throughout the pandemic as a critical service.



## 2019 CREATING SPACE



With the new Burnaby warehouse, the GVFB increased cold storage capacity from 13,000 cubic feet to 64,000 cubic feet! Increasing cold storage by 400% meant that more fresh food could be stored and distributed. Milk, eggs and fresh produce quickly became the top purchases.



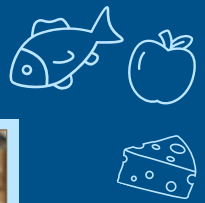
## 2020 ENHANCING NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS

The GVFB updated the nutrition pack program, rebuilding the Preschooler Program (2 - 5 years) and adding a Grade Schooler program (6 - 12 years). We also added a new Baby Steps 1 (0-12 months) and Baby Steps 2 (13-24 months).

Senior packs would be added to the menu in 2021.







## 2020 LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

The GVFB became a certified *Living Wage Employer*, demonstrating a commitment to fair wages, high safety standards for employees, and a better standard of living.



## 2021 REFEED

The GVFB started a new partnership with *ReFeed Canada*, a zero-waste food recovery organization based out of Langley, BC. Working with *ReFeed*, the GVFB could recover high-quality, healthy food for clients while reducing the amount of surplus food sent to the landfill.

## 2021 A NEW HOME FOR AGENCIES

The GVFB opened its second location for Community Agency Partners. This location on Thornton St., Vancouver, allowed us to take on even more Agencies and widen our reach for helping people in need.





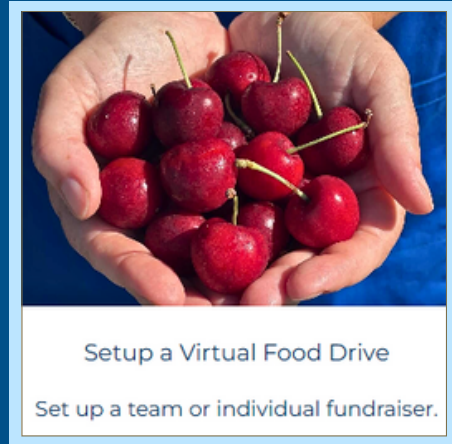


## 2022 BC WIDE SUPPORT

The GVFB partnered with Contour Helicopters Ltd. to help deliver over 14,000 lb of food and supplies to BC food banks affected by the wildfires during the summer months.

## 2022 GOODBYE TO FOOD DONATIONS

This year marked the GVFB's decision to no longer accept food donations from the public. Food drives were stopped due to the large number of unhealthy donations received, the labour-intensive sorting required, and the increased buying power from monetary donations. Our goal was to move to purchasing more healthy, fresh food.



Setup a Virtual Food Drive

Set up a team or individual fundraiser.



## 2022 FOODSTOCK

*Foodstock*, a food bank fundraising festival, debuts its first annual event. A day filled with music, food, beverages and local vendors, Foodstock is a food bank fundraiser that celebrates community.



# 2023

## EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Rethinking Food is released! This short film, produced by Rich&Jay, exposes the broken food system in Canada and shines a light on the partnership between ReFeed and the GVFB. This partnership works to divert healthy, edible food from the landfill. The film won both a Shorty Award and a Telly Award Gold the following year.



# 2023

## GRAND OPENING

A new, highly anticipated long-term Vancouver facility opens its doors! Following seven location moves in only three years, this 10-year lease was a great success. A location in Vancouver, close to public transportation, with enough space to have adequate refrigeration, was a highlight of the year.



# 2023

## BC WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

This year, the GVFB began expanding support for other food security organizations across the province. We also worked with *Food Banks BC* to host a Virtual Food Drive for all food banks in BC. These new partnerships allow fellow food banks to improve their fundraising efforts and create a system of sharing industry food donations so no food goes to waste.





## 2024

### BC FARMER TAX CREDIT

The Farmer Tax Credit begins to bring in fresh food! The GVFB began encouraging farmers to utilize the BC Farmer Tax Credit as part of a new pilot project. When BC farmers donate their surplus crops to a local food bank, they receive an additional tax credit equivalent to 25% of the retail value. This credit benefits both farmers and food banks.



## 2024

### PRESERVATION PROJECT

This year marks the beginning of the GVFB's preservation project, with the introduction of freeze-dried apple chips. This preservation method lengthens an apple's lifespan by 25+ years, keeping 97% of the nutrients. Nutritious and delicious!



## 2024

### SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION

The volunteer team held their first sit-down served luncheon to show appreciation for our volunteers. Our volunteers are the heart of the organization, and we could not do what we do without them!





# PRESENT DAY

*“There’s no shortage of food, there’s just a distribution problem,”*

David Long, CEO.

In the GVFB’s 2024 fiscal year, we supported **27,500 unique lives**, with an average of **15,000 lives supported each month** across Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister, and the North Shore.

The GVFB **distributed more than 8.9M lbs. of food** this past fiscal year, with **68% of all food distributed being fresh, perishable food!** Clients have been receiving **10-15 different items** each week.

We now support **150 Community Agencies and 6 Provincial Agencies**, including housing agencies, women's and children's shelters, transition homes, after-school programs and other provincial food banks.

We could not do any of this work without our dedicated volunteers, who donated more than **50,000 hours of their time annually**—the equivalent of **25 full-time staff!**

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## What is next for the GVFB

Looking ahead, the GVFB aims to have a transformational impact on food banking. Between linking more farmers to their local food banks through cold storage infrastructure, creating a provincial purchasing platform, and connecting clients to wrap around services for career and settlement support, the goal is a healthier population with more sustainable lives.

