



2026 FALL NEWSLETTER: THE FULL PLATE

- A Deeper Dive: Agencies -

Our Agencies Program

Our Agencies program began in 2012 with a simple goal: help local non-profit organizations bring GVFB food support directly into their own communities. Since then, the program has grown and evolved in many ways, but that original purpose still guides everything we do.

We're proud to partner with our Agencies to reach people right where they are, in the spaces and buildings their communities already know and trust.

167+

Community
Agencies

20

Provincial
Agencies

4.5M lbs

of Food Support
in One Year

What does the Agencies team do?

The Agencies team oversees the daily operations of the Community Markets in Burnaby and Vancouver, manages partnerships and communication with agencies, distributes grant funding, and offers surveys and visits agencies annually.

These relationships help us distribute food well beyond our catchment and into local neighbourhoods where clients are not able to travel to one of our locations.

A Partner Highlight: Watari

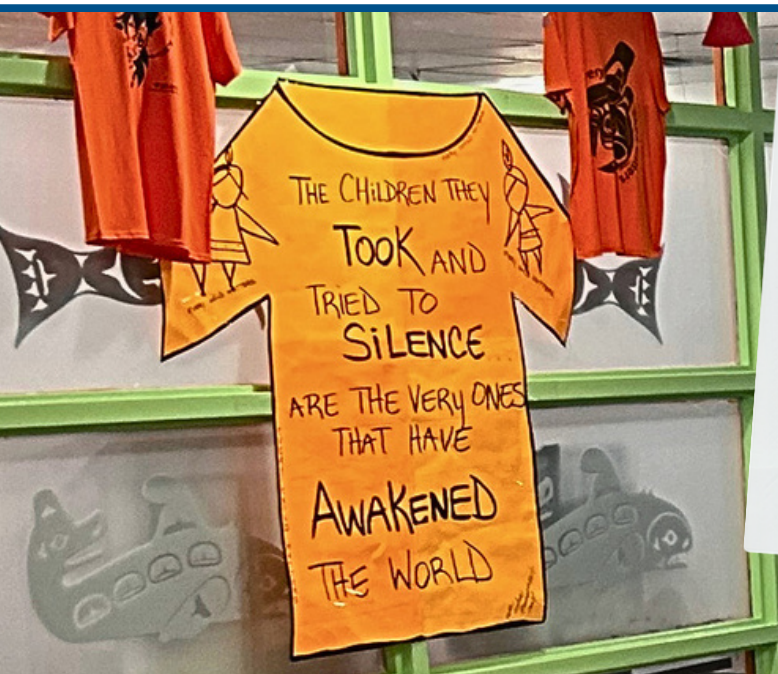
The GVFB is proud to support Watari's mission to address food insecurity, providing fresh and dry goods for their markets.

Watari means "little bridge," and that name says it all. The organization strives to build a bridge to healthier possibilities through innovative, community driven, supportive programming that reaches some of Vancouver's most vulnerable communities, including at-risk youth, unhoused individuals, Indigenous peoples, newcomers to Canada, residents of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings, and elders.

We work closely with Watari on two programs close to our hearts...

- **Indigenous Elders Grocery Program:** we help deliver food hampers to 45 Indigenous elders in the Downtown Eastside neighborhood.
- **Access Without Fear Grocery Program:** we help provide culturally-appropriate food access to hundreds of community members navigating precarious immigration status.

These programs do more than put food on the table. They offer marginalized people something just as vital: community, care, and connection.



Watari at our annual *Fore for Food* golf fundraiser

A conversation with Chuck, Agencies Associate

Chuck works closely with agency partners, helping ensure fresh, nutritious food reached the communities that needs it most.

We asked him why he loves doing what he does:



I love working with our agency partners and seeing the difference we make together in our communities. We can't solve every challenge, but contributing in a meaningful way is something I'm deeply proud of. At the end of the day, I get to go home knowing I was part of work that matters.

I love helping so many agencies and communities, but children and youth have always held a special place in my heart. When young people have the food and support they need, it gives them a stronger foundation to focus on school and build their future, opening doors to college, university, and beyond.

We've heard so many stories about the difference our programs make. This year, one student we supported is graduating high school and heading to Simon Fraser University with seven scholarships. Hearing that means more to me than almost anything else. It's a reminder of what's possible when young people are given the chance to succeed.

