

SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW**



SEPTEMBER 2020

For the first time in the history of Food4Kids Hamilton, we began the school year with 2 program models based on:

1. Kids learning in person at school.
2. Kids learning remotely from home.

OCTOBER 2020

With extensive safety protocols in place, deliveries to schools began for the first time since March 2020.

NOVEMBER 2020

Notes from schools continued to flood our emails.

"His mom is very proud and she's been asking and accepting assistance lately. She can't afford to buy him uniforms and he's growing right now so he's wearing track pants to school. She had to borrow an iPad from the school and we had to give him a backpack and a winter coat. I think they are really struggling right now".

"I wanted to touch base with you to see if you had any thoughts about how to support a particular family. They are struggling specifically with providing food for their student who is very aware of how she stands out food wise (due to poverty issues) with her classmates".

"This kiddo is new to the school so we're just beginning to see how we might provide support. Mom currently accesses the Salvation Army food bank Will connect her with the out of the cold hot lunches on Thursdays starting in Nov. I may reach out through our school foundation for a grant to keep lunch snack stuff here – that the kiddo can make/access. But it's not that sustainable so hoping to figure out something a bit more long lasting".

DECEMBER 2020

Program requests and growth continues:

Every student is sent home for the winter break with a grocery card to help sustain them through the holidays.





JANUARY 2021

Schools announce the temporary & extended closure of in person learning. **ALL** students in our program are switched to the Grocery Card program model.

FEBRUARY 2021

After many years on Whitney Avenue in Hamilton, we begin to look for a new home with 2 priorities in mind:

1. A space that is accessible to our volunteers when loading vehicles
2. A warehouse with storage for food items, packing area and enough room to grow



MARCH 2021

Working alongside our partners at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School and Cathedral High School we begin an extensive survey to help us answer:

1. How can we make our program better for secondary school students?
2. What food items are preferred in the food bags?
3. For students on the grocery card program, do grocery cards help the students gain access to healthy food?

APRIL 2021

With program registrations climbing, we implement assessment criteria to help our schools identify the students that are most in need.

- Level 1: This family has very limited food and the family relies heavily on other sources of free food (CRISIS)
- Level 2: This family requires assistance to meet basic food needs on a regular basis (AT RISK OF BEING IN CRISIS)
- Level 3: This family can meet basic food needs but requires occasional assistance (AT RISK)

MAY 2021

We begin working with our HWDSB & HWCDSB elementary schools to determine where the majority of our grade 8 students will attend in September. This information helps us determine the 4 new secondary schools we planned to support at the start of the next school year.

1. Bernie Custis
2. Nora Francis Henderson
3. St Jean De Brebeuf
4. St. Thomas More

JUNE 2021

Tastebuds Student Nutrition *Summer Partnership*.

With an incredible donation of **\$64,000 in grocery cards**, Tastebuds Student Nutrition helped ensure that every student in our program received bi-weekly grocery cards throughout the summer months.

