



CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS UNITED IN ACTION SOCIETY

Annual Report

April 2020-March 2021

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Our History

The CANAVUA is a dynamic hub that connects people, food and services that are essential to the health and well-being of our community. Founded on April 24, 2010, by Dicky Dikamba, CANAVUA has continuously provided nutritious food for our neighbours in need and volunteer s opportunities. Hundred families were served on the first month. Today, CANAVUA serves an average of 1200 people every week. We provide nutritious grocery assistance through our food truck at four different locations, grocery parcels delivery service, breakfast and lunch programs, and by supplying community partners with food for their programs. The CANAVUA Food Bank relies entirely on our community donating food, money, and time to help our neighbours in need. We are a community based and food service organization with a volunteer board of directors. The CANAVUA is a member of Community Food Centre Canada, Edmonton Food Banks, Second Harvest and Leftover Foundation. We also hold membership with many communities' organizations

Message from the President

As President of the Board of Directors, I have the task of leading our Board of Directors in providing oversight for activities relating to financial, ethical and legal governance so the organization is well equipped to advance its mission to be a caring organization that aids, advocacy, and related support for community members in need. As we review the past year, the CANAVUA can proudly say we've stayed true to our mission while we continue to provide more and better-quality food and volunteer service to people in need. We currently serve over 2,200 people on a weekly basis and provide approximately 20,000 lbs. of food each week, thanks to the generous contributions of funds and food from our community, time from our amazing team of more than 230 regular volunteers and the mission driven work of our staff. We are truly grateful for everyone's contribution in completing another successful year. Each year our total funding comes from three level of government, individuals, corporations, community groups, foundations. For every dollar we receive, we collect and distribute \$6 worth of food, diapers, formula and other items that are needed by our clients. On behalf of your CANAVUA Board of Directors, I thank our loyal supporters, volunteers, and staff for your valuable donations, time, and efforts throughout the year. We hope you continue to support our mission as we work towards a caring community where no one goes hungry. Warm Regards,

Renée Vincent Tshibula

President of the Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

The recent approval of the Canadian Red Cross COVID-19 Emergency Support for Community Organizations Granting Program in our neighbourhood is by far, a step in the right direction. It is a welcome reaffirmation of the fact that empathy, compassion and concern for the most vulnerable in our society is still alive. We are constantly reminded of this spirit at the CANAVUA in the way our community comes together to support not only our neighbours without a fixed address, but also, our neighbours on fixed pensions, our neighbours struggling with unemployment, mental illness, addictions, chronic diseases, disabilities or our neighbours who have simply hit some hard times. In 2020, we were able to serve a total of 4957 unique clients 47,407 times throughout the year. Every household was able to receive quality perishable and non-perishable groceries each of the 52 weeks that we were open. We registered 452 new families who accessed the CANAVUA community food truck for the first time. These individuals had a place to turn to when their resources to acquire food were limited. We forged partnerships with Community Food Centre Canada, Second Harvest, Edmonton Food bank, Leftover Foundation, Sysco and brought in more perishable food products such as meat, dairy and produce for the people that we serve. Perishable food recovery will be at the forefront this year because fresh food is something that has been requested most by our clients and it is also something that will have a long-lasting impact on the health and well-being of our clients. We are adding value to our work each day by providing grocery assistance to our most vulnerable neighbours in times of their need. Our work here is never done without the help and support of our donors, volunteers, staff and community partners. I urge you to join us as we continue with the work entrusted to us, create more community champions and provide opportunities for more individuals to engage and add value to their lives.

Sincerely,

Dicky Dikamba
Executive Director

Activity Report 2020 – 2021

Adding Value to our Work

Values define who we are and what we do. They guide us in our work and embody the myriad ways in which we engage our donors, volunteers, clients and the community. Over the past year, we strengthened our programs, streamlined our operations, increased our fundraising efforts, participated in learning opportunities and continued to add value to our work.

Redefining our Values:

We revisited and redefined our values at our Strategic Planning Session held in November 2019. These values are concise and continue to represent what we believe in. These redefined values will guide us in the months and years ahead.

- Respect- We treat everyone with compassion, trust and dignity
- Service- We seek innovative ways to better serve the community by providing safe and healthy food
- Cooperation- We work together with organizations and individuals towards a common goal
- Accountability- We strive to use donations, funds and resources in a transparent, efficient and responsible manner
- Advocacy- We provide an active and respected voice for the most vulnerable in our community

Highlights of the year:

Year 2020 marked 10 years of the CANAVUA s existence in the community. It was founded on April 24 in 2010 by Dicky Dikamba, to promote and enhance volunteerism in our community ant to address hunger in our community. One decade later and with the ever-changing dynamics of our society related to factors such as high cost of living, poverty, homelessness, mental illness, addictions, and unemployment the need for food and related support still exists. With the help of our community, we continue to be a valued source of receiving and sharing the bounty of nutritious food with our neighbours in need. Our food recovery work was given a huge boost by generous grants from Canadian Red Cross COVID-19 Emergency Support, ATB Financial, Edmonton community Foundation, Government of Canada. We were able to acquire a community food truck, freezers, expand our walk-in grocery service, replace our old vans, purchase gardening tools and supplies and invest in food recovery equipment. As a result, we have been able to recover, store and share about 30% more perishable food than the previous year. Through our participation in the Canada Summer Job program three of our young employees mentored by our Executive Director Dicky Dikamba, played a very active role on the team and increased our capacity to deliver programs. We recruited Mika Liu as volunteer food service coordinator and worked on a contact list of food donors to strengthen our perishable food recovery effort and the community food truck in conjunction with Sheglows CWSSA women organization.

Staff participated in various professional development opportunities throughout the year and added value to their personal and professional growth and learning.

- Erick Niamien : Food Bank Transformation Course through Community Food Centres of Canada
- Tina : Volunteer Management Certificate course and Food handling certificate

We are constantly learning and looking at ways to add value to our work better serve our people and our community. It is through the collective and tireless effort of our farsighted pioneers, generous donors, dedicated volunteers and able staff that the CANAVUA Society continues to be a well-respected and valued name in the community for our neighbours in need.

Programs:

Our **food delivery and Distribution Program** at all four locations continues to serve new and existing clients with grocery assistance. We served a total of 780 unique individuals who received the food bank an average of 12 times throughout the year. Out of the total number of households served, 33% were first time registrants. In addition to our regular clients, we also serve close to 19 different community organizations with food assistance and churches.

We expanded **the Food rescue Program with Leftover Foundation** to include fresh milk and bread offering for all our clients. However, due to an increasing demand (and need) for more perishable food, we increased our spending on this nutrient rich commodity.

One program that really took off the ground this year was our **CANAVUA Community Food Truck** at three different location (Bonnie Doon , Fort Road, Winterburn village). With generous donation of Edmonton Food Bank Sysco, Second Harvest and a very timely grant from Red cross, Community Food Centre Canada we were able to transform our mobile infrastructure spaces into a hub of sharing love in neighbourhood , skill growing (cooking) and community building.

The School Meal Program is not operating due to Covid restriction in school. This program was initiated in partnership with Conseil Scolaire centre Nord in three different schools

Our volunteer placement program helped more than 35 community organizations in their need of volunteers (Casino, Noel multiculturel, Journee d' echange culturel)

Health Navigator program

Important non-food support was made possible through collaboration with Red cross which include Health Services and helped us to hire a nurse to provide on-site flu inoculations, as well conducting home visit, providing blood pressure clinics and health information. 89 Patients participated this program

Our Clients

Our clients are the driving force behind all that we do. When we look at our values, it is to ensure that our clients are getting a high level of service, respect and cooperation from our volunteers and staff. Our accountability and advocacy work also revolves around them. Whether it's offering bread to all the households or increasing our fresh produce offering, ensuring continuity and consistency during our grocery distributions or connecting our clients with community resources, we constantly endeavored to provide a dignified and welcoming experience for the people who turned to us for their grocery needs. In 2020, we registered 500 new households in our CANAVUA Community Food Truck program which is equivalent to 2,165 new people who received fresh and hot meals for the first time. Overall, we served a total of 4,957 unique clients. About 29% of the people, we serve are children under 18 and about 15%

are seniors over the age of 65. The average number of visits per household is 28 times per year which indicates that not everybody accesses our service all the time. There might be individuals who turn to a food bank every single week but for most of the people, they come to us only when they need us.

Our Volunteers

Adding value to our work and helping us grow are our volunteers. Over 230 active volunteers helped us out with picking up donations, sorting, repacking, distributing, driving, cleaning, reorganizing and serving on the board. We built a sense of connectivity and camaraderie among our volunteers by organizing various events and volunteer socials throughout the year. We organized the national volunteer week in partnership with Volunteer Alberta during April 2020 which was extra special this year due to Canada's Covid restrictions. We were streaming online event and handling out certificate signed by Minister of Community and Social services Rajan Shownay .

Since it was our 10th year anniversary, we wanted to make it really special for our volunteers and wanted to express our sincere appreciation to each one of them for adding value to our work. We are grateful to Volunteer Alberta for their partial sponsorship of our appreciation event held online

We nominated our volunteer Kazir Coulibaly the "Volunteers award" hosted by the government of Alberta.



Setting up fruits and vegetables for clients.



Volunteers distributing food to vulnerable families.



Friday fruit and vegetable distribution.



CANAVUA's volunteers make a difference in the community!

Donors and Community Partners

Several community groups, local businesses, supported our work with monetary funds and food. Student from Mac Ewan, Norquest, University of Alberta, Campus Saint-Jean coordinated food drives and hosted creative food distribution initiatives throughout the year to reroute client delivery system for the food bank. We were the recipient of the Community Food Centre Canada's 2021 Community Award and named as "Good Food organization".



We thank Eric Niamien, our food bank driving coordinator.

Communications and Outreach

We played an active role in the francophone community fighting against food insecurity. Our nomination as “Good Food organization “also allowed us to network and share best practices with other food bankers from throughout the province. Our Participation on different committees allowed us to share information about our work and our services with the different non-profits throughout Edmonton.

We reached out many community leagues who shared information with their members at our main location during our grocery distributions and food truck location.



CANAVUA actively partners with many community organizations.



Collaboration is at the heart of our many on-the-ground efforts.

Statement of Operations

We are grateful to all the individuals, businesses, and foundations for supporting our work in 2020. It is through their valuable donations and contributions that we were able to expand and strengthen our programs and provide better quality food to an increasing number of individuals who accessed our services.



A bounty of food for our low-income clients!



We also offer meats and eggs to our clients



Fresh and healthy food is part of a dignified diet.

With Sincere Thanks

Thank you to each and every member from within and outside the CANAVUA -our dedicated board of directors, our pro-active staff, willing volunteers and generous donors who helped us help our neighbours in need. With your help we will continue working towards-our vision of a community where no one goes hungry.





Edmonton's Food Bank is a cherished partner!



CANAVUA receives bread from Second Harvest and Leftovers Foundation twice a week.



Our volunteers serve meals in the community food truck every Wednesday.







One of the delicious meals we prepare in our food truck!





Food truck delivery drivers.



CANAVUA served hot meals at the Westview Village trailer park.



Our volunteers make a difference in the lives of others!



WE THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS AND PARTNERS!

L'HEURE EST AU BÉNÉVOLAT !
TIME TO VOLUNTEER!

