



Annual Report of the Chair of the **Food Sharing Project** **2008-2009**

The 2008-2009 school year was a year of some growth for the Food Sharing Project. By the end of the year, our breakfast, lunch and hearty snack programs fed over 3500 children daily in 112 programs at 73 elementary and secondary sites in the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. As in the past, our program has continued to be generously supported by our volunteers and by the financial contributions of our many community partners.

We are grateful for the strong commitment demonstrated by both of the school Boards for which we provide programs. In a time of drastically reduced budgets, the Limestone District School Board and Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board continued to contribute to the salary of our program Co-ordinator. The trustees, senior management and staff of the Limestone District School Board support the Food Sharing Project at the Central Office level through the Communications Department, Financial Services and the Distribution Centre.

The provincial government has continued to support nutrition programs through the Student Nutrition Program administered by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The Food Sharing Project is one of four providers of school nutrition programs in the south-east region of Ontario. Throughout the school year, much-needed funding was directed our way to support food and equipment for our programs. MCYS also contributes to the salary of our Administrator and Community Development Coordinator. An additional portion of targeted funding created another full-time position to assist in the enhancement of morning meal programs in designated high needs neighbourhoods.

The United Way continued to be a very supportive partner this year and the funding received continued to help us expand programs. During the United Way campaign, interested employees of both school boards were encouraged to set up a payroll deduction plan through the United Way and many employees took advantage of this arrangement. Through a one-time grant, office equipment was able to be upgraded.

Our partnerships with the Partners in Mission Food Bank and Stock Transportation have continued to be integral to our success. The Food Bank supported the Project with donations as well as help from staff and volunteers. Stock Transportation continued to deliver the weekly food orders to our city programs using three school buses and their volunteer drivers. Without the support of Stock Transportation and the efforts of these individual drivers, the delivery of food to schools would be very costly.

A number of significant donations were received from community groups and individuals this year. Various church groups made donations or organized food drives for our programs. We received two very large donations from a family who wished to remain anonymous and also received generous donations from individuals who directed funds to Food Sharing in lieu of birthday and Christmas gifts as well as thank you gifts at weddings and retirements.

In December 2003, the Kingston community lost one of its well-loved citizens with the sudden passing of Zal Yanovsky. His wife, Rose Richardson, and some of their family and friends created the Zal and Rose School Breakfast Fund to honour his memory. The Community Foundation of Greater Kingston administers this endowment fund and the Food Sharing Project receives a yearly financial gift from the income it creates. The fund was launched at a breakfast on December 13, 2004, the first anniversary of Zal's death. In March 2005, we were further saddened by the death of Rose Richardson.

The fifth annual Zal and Rose School Breakfast Fund breakfasts were held in December. Over the course of two days, Kingstonians were treated to delicious breakfasts, as both Chez Piggy and Pan Chanco Bakery opened their doors to celebrate the memory of Zal and Rose. On the mornings of the breakfasts, guests drop a donation envelope into a basket to contribute to the growth of the fund. In a typical year, Food Sharing is presented, at the breakfasts, with a cheque for the interest which is generated by the endowment fund. Due to the economic times in the fall of 2008, very little interest was actually earned and a decision was made by the guests at the breakfasts to donate the proceeds from the donation baskets directly to Food Sharing. The Food Sharing Project was overwhelmed by the generosity of the breakfast guests and gratefully accepted a cheque for almost \$15,000.

A very special relationship exists between the children of three local elementary schools and the staff of Pan Chanco. Three times a week, the lucky children who attended the breakfast programs were treated to freshly baked foccacia bread and muffins, delivered to their door from the bakery. For three years, Zoe Yanovsky, owner

of Chez Piggy and Pan Chanco with the generous support of her staff, has continued to provide this wonderful donation of baked goods to our children.

Our 16th annual Talents and Treasures Auction was outstanding! The auction is our major fundraiser and through the untiring efforts of our Past-Chair, Tanis Fairley, the unprecedented amount of \$31,000 was raised. The donations we received from school staffs and school councils, the senior management and trustees of the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, local businesses, community groups and individuals were essential to the success of this entertaining evening. Our location at Bayridge Secondary School, provided us with the space we needed to properly display the many beautiful donations we received and to comfortably accommodate the huge crowd of loyal supporters in attendance. The administrative and caretaking teams at Bayridge Secondary looked after our every need and once again, our dedicated auctioneer, Alicia Gordon, did a wonderful job.

We were fortunate to have the continued support of school communities again this year. Our *Children Feeding Children* program, which involved local schools in the collection of nutritious cereal and juice continued to be very successful. Throughout the year, many schools responded to our need. Schools also made financial contributions with proceeds raised at holiday concerts, cafes, plays, and barbeques. Many school councils also made generous donations to the Food Sharing Project on behalf of the programs which operate in their schools. The success of the Food Sharing Project can be attributed, in a large degree, to the commitment of School Board employees and we thank them for their generous support.

Our Board members have always been sensitive to the issue of the closure of our programs at the end of June. We know that the children who come to our programs during the school year continue to need support in July and August. In honour of the memory of Sandra Davison, our long-time Treasurer, we provided nutritious snacks to over 600 children who attended summer literacy and numeracy camps in the Limestone District School Board.

The Food Sharing Project team grew by one full-time position this year. Through the work of the Personnel Committee, job descriptions and titles were streamlined and brought in alignment with MCYS guidelines and a new position was created. Pam Richmond continued to do an outstanding job managing our ever-expanding program as the. She worked many hours to keep on top of each program and to efficiently manage the needs of all, while meeting numerous deadlines related to our Ministry funding. Pam also worked very hard to visit programs, write grant proposals and maintain an excellent working relationship with our various community partners. Dave Mortenson, the Operations Coordinator, continued to efficiently handle the ordering, purchasing, packing and delivery of food as well as supervising our crew of warehouse volunteers. In March, Amy Patterson was added to the team as the Assistant Administrator and Community Development Coordinator. Pam, Dave and Amy are indispensable to the Food Sharing Project and The Board of Directors is truly grateful for their continued dedication.

This year, the David Parry Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to the Food Sharing Project was presented to Doug Strahan, Doug and James Whitelaw who are weekly volunteers in the warehouse, Sandra Swan and Sue Leggett who run a wonderful program at their school and Tom Turcotte, who as the caretaker of his school, quietly supports the daily organization of the breakfast program. Shirley Hulley, a Kingston artist who donates an original painting to the Talents and Treasures Auction every year was also recognized with this award. These recipients truly symbolize the dedication and generous nature of our friend, David Parry.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and our over two hundred volunteers for their support, hard work and commitment. As we look to the future, establishing new community partners, enhancing our community profile, and managing our growth will be major goals for the Food Sharing Project. There are always challenges ahead for organizations such as ours but I am confident the Board of Directors, our volunteers, and our community partners will meet them successfully.

I believe it takes a community to feed a child; a community of caring individuals and we are fortunate to have a community which is dedicated to feeding children in schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Moore, Chair
October 8, 2009