



## COVID 19 YEAR END REPORT

# Building a Caring Food Community



Reporting for the period March 2020 - May 2021

## **Acknowledging our Responsibilities Living on this Land**

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection (GWFC) is honored and privileged to work on ancestral and unceded homelands of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Coast Salish peoples. As a non-Indigenous organization, we acknowledge our responsibility in building respectful and caring relations with both Indigenous communities and the land while continuing our work to decolonize our work and food systems.

## **Building a Caring Food System in Our Community**

The GWFC believes that a healthy food system is a key social determinant in supporting the health and well-being of all residents in our community, and in particular, those most vulnerable. We achieve this through a community development approach that values education, information and skill sharing, social engagement, and the creation of grassroots community food security initiatives that build an accessible, just and sustainable food system for all.

## **Britannia Community Centre - an Essential Partnership**

Britannia Community Centre is host agency to the GWFC, providing a range of necessary resources i.e. staff supports, office and program space, admin and with whom the GWFC has worked with as equal partners in our COVID Emergency Food Delivery Program. Britannia is committed to the wellbeing, sense of belonging, joy, and empowerment of everyone in our community as stewards of spaces that support social connection, creativity, recreation, reconciliation and the realization of the full potential of people and communities.



## COVID 19: Shifting our Food Security Focus

COVID 19 has revealed critical weaknesses in our food system, whether the vulnerability in our global food supply chains or the severe food inequity as it has affected lower income and communities of color disproportionately. This reality has led to some very important discussions around food systems change so urgently needed at this time.

Upon COVID lockdown (March 16, 2020) the GWFC paused most all programming and in partnership with Britannia Community Centre shifted it's energy into our Emergency Food Home Delivery Program. People who were afraid to go outside had little means of accessing food and we were concerned that elders and seniors, individuals with compromised health, and low income community members had limited access to food.

With most social services, community food programs and food bank depots closed, long food lines, and slow grocery delivery we jumped into action, deeming food access an essential service. Within days, our Emergency Food Home Delivery Program was up and running and we were, and still throughout COVID, one of only a few organizations in the city delivering high quality, healthy food boxes to people's home, ensuring people stay safe at home.

The GWFC along with Britannia were well positioned to take on this work. After years of community development work, we had established deep relations with community members, fostered collaborations with dozens of community organizations, funders and businesses, and engaged hundreds of volunteers over the years. This capacity was widely drawn on to support community members experiencing hardship from COVID.

More importantly, this experience has confirmed for us that we have a rotten food system but the COVID pandemic has only deepened our resolve to push for food systems change and poverty reduction legislation that would see all community members with equitable access and the means to purchase food of their own choosing.







## **COVID 19 Emergency Food Home Delivery Impact by the Numbers**

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection may be a small organization, but with the support from Britannia Community Centre and the wider community we have made a big impact. This program has supported 630 households or roughly 1900 individuals throughout East Vancouver over the past year ensuring barrier free food access while significantly lessening their stress during these difficult COVID times.

### **11,000 Food Boxes**

delivered to date with a focus on highly nutritious food heavy on fruits and veggies ensuring that people stay healthy during the pandemic.

### **375,300 Lbs**

of food with 60% purchased and 40% donated or recovered food that has been distributed.

### **8485 Volunteer Hrs**

clocked by over 200 community members that have graciously offered their time to help sort, box and deliver food.

### **50+ Collaborations**

working together to support community members through the most dignified means, not just through referrals, but in funding and food procurement efforts as well as strategic planning around food systems change.

### **43 Businesses**

have donated food, including roughly 10,000 prepared meals.

### **\$285,815**

funds raised through partner support, the Canadian Government COVID Food Relief Fund, various funders and hundreds of community members.



## Volunteers Represent the Best of Community

Our Emergency Food Delivery Program would not be possible without the many community members who have committed hundreds of hours of their time to help run this program. Some have been with us every week this past year showing up without complaint and simply putting the work in. They demand our recognition above all else.





# Community Stories of Impact

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*In July I had a series of small strokes, severe anemia to the point my nails all spooned, hair fell out, I could no longer breathe. I couldn't walk. I required transfusions, iron infusions my blood count was so low from malnutrition. Covid protocol was tight during that period.. after a week in hospital, I came home to nothing in the fridge.. The GWFC program rushed in to help me, immediately.. Having a variety of veggies I had to learn preparation and storage.. caught myself googling for recipes and freezing tips.. it kept me active even though I was confined to my home. Due to Covid shut down there were no services available to me for rehab.. except for this one.. I received healthy foods, a break from social isolation waving to volunteers at the doors. There are so many seniors, and families that need to eat good healthy food as medicine.. I would not have survived this pandemic without this food delivery program. - Food Recipient*

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*We would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your wonderful volunteers for all the hard work and dedication in organizing the food boxes for our families.....As you know we work with families that come to Canada as refugees with children 0-6 years old. Many of our families are on the poverty line and are struggling with the current economic climate. The food boxes you provided have supported them to meet the nutritional needs of their children and themselves. Many of them have challenges in accessing grocery stores/food programs due to the fact they often have to take a few buses to get there as well as take their children with them.....When we delivered the food boxes to them, the reactions that we received were priceless. One single mum with a special needs child was in tears with gratitude. Every family appreciated and was extremely thankful for the food donations. Quote from one family "Thank you for the wide variety of fresh and nutritious food, we feel blessed that people are thinking of us at this time.".....On behalf of our agency we would like to thank you for supporting our most vulnerable families during this difficult time.  
- Manjit Garcha, Circles of Care and Connection, Mt Pleasant Family Centre*

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*Thank you to all the staff & volunteers of the GWFC/Britannia food distribution program for their hard work. Notably, the program offers compassion and care for others, such as myself. I am homebound in a wheelchair suffering immunological health condition which makes it difficult to access healthy food. With my medical (multiple health challenges) I have at times felt overwhelmed by COVID-19 restriction impact, social isolation & depression. The benefits that I have received from the program have really helped especially the delivery of food directly to my home, nutritious healthy food (lots of FRESH fruits & vegetables). They have even included bone broth & bone marrow to aid my bone loss & teeth deterioration as well as extra dietary supplements. The program and all the volunteers have a BIG HEART! Please continue to support the food distribution program for I personally benefitted from this outstanding, fruitful program. - Food Recipient*







## Thank you Funders and Donors

Special thank you to the hundreds of community members who donated generously and which ensured an immediate COVID food delivery response before government funding kicked in. And to the Government of Canada Emergency Food Relief Fund and the United Way of Lower Mainland. Finally, a big thank you to the many local businesses who continue to donate generous amounts of food.

### Community Donors (\$20 - \$500)

Mia Amir, Darlene Arseneault, Tom Baker, Michelle Baudais, Sandy Bauer, Rachel Barker, Liz Barnett, Pauline Barrett, Mairy Beam, Michelle Beda, Theresa Beer, Mati Bernabei, JP Bertain, Paula Bethune, Ryan Bird, Kiko Blake, A. Born, Lynn Booth, Brandon Bowersox-Johnson, Sean Bowles. Steve and Sharon Boyce, Susan Boyd, Rummen Braich, Julie Brassard, Wendy Brooks , Bugz Brown, Carole Brown, Graeme Brown, Leona Brown, Maya Bruck, Carol Buchanan, Ruhamah Buchanan, Ateret Buchman, Heather Buitenhuis, Heather Burpee, Aubrey Butcher, Amy Butler, Brian Butt, Patti Cameron, Roxanne Cave, Yee Chan, Susie Chang, Lina Chang, Niki Chara, Mary-Ann Charney, Lorraine Chisholm, Geok Choong, Donna Clark, Marian Collins, Nicole Combe, Melanie Conn, Angela Contreras, Audrey Cook, Gail Cryer, Axo Curcu, Patricia Dabiri , Monica Dare, Paolo Davanzo, Paula Davies, Rhys Davies, Marcia Dawson, Jessica Dempsey, Olive Dempsey, Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, Marina Dodis, Tran Duong, Jill Earthy, Eastside Family Place, Laurel and John Beacham and Emes, Kyleen Ennis, Svetlana Ershov , Catherine Fallis, Amy Farahbakhsh, Kim Feltham, Scott Fenton, Christopher Fleck, Miles Ormiston Finch, Mae Ormiston Finch, Food on the Table BC, Heather De Forest , Melva Forsberg , Alexa Fox , Amy Fox, Rebecca Fox, Vairdy Frail, Stacy Friedman, Tomoko Fujita, Carolyn Gameau, Jodie Gauthier, Dorothea Gedder , Jennifer Gibson, Steven Gibson, Linda Gorrie, Hiromi Goto, Kasari Govender, Surya Govender, Sandra Greene , Robert Greig, Helen Griffiths, Lisa Hale, Sarah-Jane Hamilton, Lily Harris, Sandra Harris, Michael Harstone, Karen Heaps, Valerie Hebden, J Hochu, Joy Hofer, JQ Clothing , Kirsten Hagemoen, Catherine Hembling , Kate Henderson, Heather Hoiness , Ally Horan, Susan Horning, Angela How, Pat Howard, Cheryl Howrigan, Jason Hsieh , Katie Hume, Sandra Hyslop, Daniel Irvine, Denise Isomura, Erica Isomura, Yoo-Mi and Mark Lee/Jacobs, Zed and Janie, Sonja Karlson, Emily Keller, Mary Lynn Kellogg, Margo Kendall, Pauline Kendall , Clare Kenny, Kristina Kernohan, Megan Kidston, Anna King, Preet King, Kyla Kinzel, Alexander Kirby, Leslie Komori, Amy Kong, Devon Kroeger, Elisabeth Kushner, Barb Lando, Cindy LaResser, Cecile Larochelle, Kelly Lau, Judy Lea, Jessica Lebowitz , Ruth Leckie, Caroline Lee, May Lee, Fred Leonard, Belinda Li, Linda Li, Sam Li, Stephanie Lim, Trixie Ling, Duncan Lock, Sandy Louie, Rowan Lupton, Cassandra Ly, Cabot Lyford , Jennifer Lynch, Cathy Macdermott, Madeleine MacIvor, Donald MacPherson, Teresa Maddison, Wayne Maddison, Hailey Mah, Ryan Maier, Eric Marcuse, Shirley Marcuse, Ian Marcuse, Julie Marr, Jennifer Marshall, Sonia Massaro, Jeni Mastin, Yuki Matsuno, Jody Max, Kate McC, Anne McDonal, Maya McDonald, Arlene McLaren, Nancy McRitchie, Shelley Milstein, Amanda Mitchell, Paul Mittendorf, Minshu Mo, Patty Moore, Tara Moreau, Eileen Mosca, John Mosca, Paul G. Mosca, Diana Mounce, Lisa Murray, Olivia Murray, David Myers, Caroline Nelson, Nguyet Nguyen, Patricia Nichols, Mia Nickel, Heidi Nutley, Jessica O'Brien, Svea Ogilvie, Haruko Okano, Marisa Orth-Pallavicini, Emily Palmer, David Palmer, Ken Paquette, Arthur Scott Parker, Belle Parkinson, Lisa Patterson, Rekha Pavanantharajah, Krishna Pendakur, Timothy Peng, Brenda Penton, Lorelei Pepi , Emilie Perron, Pharmasave on the Drive, Andrew Phillips, Susan Pinkham , Colin Preston, Barbara Pulling, Blair Redlin, Crombie REIT, Mindy Roh, Marty Roth, Gabrielle Rose, Rikia Saddy, Astarte Sands, Oliver Schneider, Rowan Shafer-Rickles, Zena Sharman, Kathleen Sharp, Tamara Shulman, Jessie Singer, Reniers-Smith Family, Robyn Smith, Cecile Steudel, Mitch Stookey, Niki Storr, Amelia Sullivan, Alice Sundberg, Kate Sutherland, Kohei Suzuki, Nancy Sweedler , Brenda Penton, Susan Pinkham, Craig R Poynton, Valerie Raoul, Nora Ready, Blair Redlin, Lidija Rekert, Stephanie Saville, Mary Jane Schuetze, Jessie Singer, Robyn Smith, Jeff Sommers, Cheryl Steer, Niki Storr, Amanda Suutari, Shauna Sylvester, Ananda Tan, Joe Tannenbaum, Kate Tauber, Alison Therriault, June Thomson, Penny Thompson, Sarah Thornton, James Tigchelaar, Vincent Ting, Laura Track, Megan Turnock, Jade Vallentyne. Jennifer Van Evra, Susan Van Gurp, Phil Viaud, Lili Vieira de Carvalho, R W, Barbara Waldern, Ute Warkentin, Marnie Watson, Nina Watts, Yolanda Weeks, Westbank, Tracy Wilkinson, Yasmin Winsor, Glen Winter, Sandi Witherspoon, Carol Wood, Sue Wood, Ellen Woodsworth, Cylia Wong, Julia Wong, Wing-Siu Wong, Robyn Worcester, Amy Wyne, Mamiko Yamashita, Linda Yauk, Sara Yuen, Dylan Zrobek

### Local Food Business Donors

Fractal Farm, Buddah Squash Farm, City of Vancouver Sunset Nursery, East End Food Co-op, Italian Cultural Centre, Save on Meats, Tayybeh Catering, Nut Hut, Eternal Abundance, Pasture to Plate, Havanna Restaurant, Acron Restaurant, Choices Food Market, Vancouver Food Runners, Livia Restaurant, Liquids and Solids, Panne Formaggio, Greater Vancouver Food Bank, Cafe Justica, Cafe Etico, Cobs Bakery, Aji Gourmet Products, Terra Breads, Van Wholesale, Freshpoint, Help Change My City



## Principal Partners and Funders





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