

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

In 2007, the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard (GEFC) completed its 19th year in operation. It assisted over 400 families a month with their emergency food needs.

### **Volunteers**

The GEFC has many groups of supporters who collectively allow the GEFC to achieve its goal of alleviating hunger in our community. At the core of the GEFC are its more than 100 dedicated volunteers who perform all the functions required to deliver the program. They serve on the Board of Directors, as interviewers, as sorters, as distributors of food to clients, in picking up donations, in fundraising events, entering data into computers, maintaining the data base, making repairs to the building and as administrative support. These volunteers collectively contributed 10,000 hours of their time in 2007.

### **Churches**

The church community contributes food and cash to the GEFC through regular donations. It is these donations that supply great stability to our program. They give us the comfort of knowing that our cupboards will be filled on a regular basis throughout the year. I want to thank all those at the Annunciation of the Lord Parish, Rothwell United Church, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, Good Shepherd Parish, Greenbelt Baptist Church, Epiphany Anglican Church, Orleans United, Bethany United Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, St Helen's Anglican and Pine Grove Bible Church for their efforts.

### **Businesses**

The business community continued to provide major support for the GEFC. We received a significant contribution from our corporate sponsor, Telesat. The GEFC received excellent support from local grocers and food suppliers. This year Herb and Spice has become a regular donor of fruits and vegetables. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the need to buy fresh or canned fruits and vegetables and in a significant savings. In 2007, Zellers Gloucester kindly asked the GEFC to set up a donation station for its clients in Zellers. The largest donors of food in 2007 were Loblaws Orleans, Herb and Spice, Loblaws Gloucester and McCartney Farms. Without the support of these four businesses, we would not be able to meet the needs of our clients to the extent we do.

We also received considerable and regular donations from Dove Tail Collections, Starbucks, Treats and Orleans Bakery. In 2007, Kettleman's Bagels and the Bagel Run began making regular donations.

### **Schools**

Again in 2007, the school community supported the GEFC with food drives during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. As well, a special thanks goes to Henry Munro Middle School for making regular donations of food and money throughout the year.

### **Magical Village**

The agreement between the Gloucester North Lions Club and the GEFC in regards to the Magical Village continued in 2007. We were very pleased to receive a share of the receipts totaling \$5,000, as well as donated food items.

### **Other supporters**

Numerous service clubs, community groups, scouting and guide groups, government offices, businesses and others ran food drives, raised money for the GEFC or donated funds. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 2007 supporters: Knights of Columbus, The Ottawa Artisans Guild (formerly Gloucester Craftsman's Guild), the Aquafit Ladies, the Ladies Auxillary Branch 632, Direct Buy Employees, Mews Chevrolet, MCI Employees, Walter Blair's donation of paintings for auction, RBC Volunteer Grant, BMO, Common Thread Quilt, Team Ottawa, Tai Chi Society, Canada Border Services, Brown's Cleaners, Microtech, United Way, Curves, NRC, Correctional Services, Ministry of Revenue, the Ruban Family, Choirfest, the Gloucester Allotment Gardeners Association and the Zimmerman Family Fund through the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued efforts of Toni Mili of Nerds on Site for volunteering his time to deal with all matters relating to GEFC computers. Thanks are due to Jean Coutu Pharmacy in Orleans for continued support of the GEFC with donations, a food drive and a BBQ, to Devine's Transfer and Storage Ltd. for providing the moving truck and staff to pick up the food donations from schools before the Christmas holidays, and to those companies that allow the GEFC to place coin boxes in their establishments, including Canadian Tire. From Shoppers Drug Mart we received donations of non-food items, for which we are grateful.

### **Elected representatives**

We would like to thank our elected representatives for their efforts on our behalf in 2007. Councillor Bellemare of Ward 11 Beacon Hill - Cyrville kindly included the GEFC as a main beneficiary of his community BBQ held at the Gloucester Centre. He was instrumental in obtaining gifts from local businesses for the GEFC raffle and silent auction. At the BBQ we also had a book sale and ice cream.

Thanks also go to Royal Galipeau, the MP for Ottawa – Orleans. We appreciate his efforts in promoting the eligibility of nonprofit organizations to receive grants for hiring summer students in 2007.

### **Government funding**

The GEFC received funding from the municipal and federal governments. Our grant this year was \$37,187. Ottawa staff in all their dealings with the GEFC have been professional, prompt and considerate and have no doubt served this community well. The City replaced our roof as well as planted trees around the building.

We received a federal job subsidy to offset the cost of hiring a university student for the summer as well as a provincial job subsidy to hire a high school student for part of the summer.

### **Fundraising**

A number of fundraising activities took place in 2007. The autumn Direct Appeal Campaign, which targets previous donors, is our largest fundraiser. The Drop Campaign, our other major public appeal, in 2007 targeted the entire area that we serve. Our web site ([www.gefc.ca](http://www.gefc.ca)) continues to be a place for posting details of what is happening at the GEFC and for recognizing major corporate donors. Donors may choose to make donations through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) for which there is a secure link on the web site.

### **Students and student placement programs**

I would like to thank all the students who assisted the GEFC through the different placement programs in which we participate, including: Jean-Marc David from the Human Resources and Skills Development, Student Career Placements Initiative Program; and Julie Dagenais from Colonel By High in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. The GEFC benefitted from these students' efforts and the students gained valuable experience in the workplace. I would also like to acknowledge the regular contributions of students who are required to complete 40 hours of placement with charity groups such as ours in order to graduate from high school.

### **Parade of Lights**

I would like to thank the Parade of Lights organizers for allowing the GEFC to be a big part of their Parade of Lights in 2007. We had a food drive during the parade as well as a float in the parade. Participating in the parade allowed us to be seen by over 120,000 people in a fun and festive way. This remarkable coverage helps us stay in people's minds for when they see GEFC volunteers at a Fill-a-Bus, when they receive a direct appeal and drop campaign letter, or at any other time we are in the community looking for their support with a food or cash donation.

### **Area served by the GEFC**

The GEFC provides emergency food for people who live in the areas with postal codes beginning with K1C, K1J and parts of the K1W and K1B.

### **Final remarks**

The volunteers, donors, churches, businesses, schools and our area politicians have once again come together to find a solution for alleviating hunger in our community. On behalf of the GEFC, I would like convey our most sincere gratitude to all those who acted so that our neighbours can receive help in a time of crises in their lives. Your contribution helps makes this the wonderful community that it is.

David Brault  
Executive Director in 2007