

June 18, 2014



Hello from the President of the Richmond Food Bank Society Board of Directors

We are almost half way through 2014 already and another Annual General Meeting for the Richmond Food Bank Society is already upon us. As President of the Board of Directors, I have the task of leading our Board of Directors in making sure that the mission of the Richmond Food Bank succeeds: to be a caring organization that provides food assistance, advocacy and related support to community members in need.

When we look back over the last 31 years, the Richmond Food Bank can proudly say we've stayed true to our mission while we've grown and provide more and better quality food and service to more people today than ever before, more than doubling what we distributed just six short years ago. The Richmond Food Bank provides Richmond residents with healthy food choices and connects our clients to services that address the root causes of poverty, making it a dynamic hub that connects people, food, and services that are essential to health and well-being – the hallmark of a caring community. We currently serve over 1500 people on a weekly basis and provide approximately 30,000 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 180 regular volunteers who are the backbone of the Food Bank, and the mission driven work of our staff. For everyone's efforts, we are all truly grateful!

Our records show that about 55% of our weekly clients are temporary users, usually suffering through a personal or job related crisis, but also that almost a third of our clients are children in need. Richmond's child poverty numbers are astonishing and we need to continue working very hard to try and help solve this problem, along with other local and provincially based agencies. And we need you to stay in the battle with us.

How can you make a difference? I like to bring up the visual of a three-legged stool. If any legs are missing or shorter than another, the stool can't stand. The Richmond Food Bank's stool legs are funds, food and time. We need all three to keep standing strong. Our total funding each year comes from individuals, corporations, community groups, foundations and estates and No Funds come from any level of government. For every dollar we receive, we collect and distribute \$6 worth of food, diapers, formula and other items that are needed by our clients. Food donations come from our retailers, farmers, producers, wholesalers, as well as individuals. Time can come in the form of volunteering at the warehouse, participating in our events, organizing fundraising drives for your workplace or club, "liking" our Facebook page, and sharing the information on our newsletters and blogs.

We thank you for your valuable donations, time, and efforts throughout the year. With continued contributions of funds, food and volunteerism, we'll keep on fighting. On behalf of your Richmond Food Bank Board of Directors, I thank all of our loyal supporters, volunteers, and staff and we wish everyone a safe and sunny Summer and rest of 2014!

Warm Regards,

Richard Rand

President of the Board of Directors