



Newsletter

Fall 2025

It's the most wonderful time of the year, in our new home!



Maggie and Karen cut the ribbon to open our new location

After months of hard work, we opened our new 379 Jane St. location on November 13th.

Everyone was very excited to come inside (and not line up outside) and be able to have some choice over what was received. Everything went smoothly and we were very pleased to still serve 300 households but never have a line up outside. We have also expanded our service days to include Thursday afternoon and evening to accommodate the schedule of more clients. Having flexible access to our space opens up many opportunities for us down the road as well.

Our volunteers have done an amazing job transitioning to the new space and adjusting to different roles. They are enjoying more personal contact with our clients and the warm atmosphere we have created.

At this time of year, we kick off our Holiday Fundraiser. We look forward to the support of many of you so we can make the holidays a bit brighter for our clients. The funds raised help purchase shopping gift cards and a few special treats to mark the holidays. Thank you for your

generosity and support.

Wishing everyone the best of the season!

Warmly,

Karen, Maggie and Mary Anne
Coordinators, Bloor West Food Bank



Rose and Catherine ready to serve clients



Mark, Tania, Gabriel, Susan and Michael



Venise and Badri

Community Support - it takes a Village!

- In September, our **annual Theatre Night fundraiser** was a full house and **raised over \$5,000** in support of the Bloor West Food Bank. Partnering once again with The Village Players for a special performance of 'Bus Stop' by William Inge.
- Congratulations to our incredible run team that participated in the **Toronto Waterfront Marathon 5k**, and raised **over \$18,000!!**
- **Pointe Dance Centre** held a bake sale for us and raised more than \$2000
- A huge thank you to neighbourhood supporters such as **High Park Tenant's Association** and **Sanagan's Meat Locker** for continuously having BWFB top of mind when raising funds for the neighbourhood.
- Thank you to **Baka Cafe** for generously donating all of their fridges and freezers when they closed, ensuring we have the refrigeration we need in our new location.

We are also deeply grateful for the generous food drive contributions from **St. Cecilia's Catholic School, 85th Old Mill Toronto Cub Scouts, Runnymede Public School, St. Pius X Catholic School, and Toto Canada.**

Your ongoing support strengthens our work and nourishes our neighbourhood.



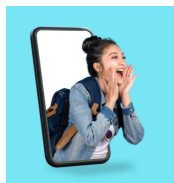
Volunteer Spotlight: Mary & Leisa

This month, we're shining a spotlight on Mary and Lesia — two incredible volunteers at the heart of our intake team. They show up each week with compassion, patience, and a true love for helping others.

From welcoming new clients to supporting neighbours across our community, their kindness brings calm to one of our busiest areas and helps create a warm, dignified experience for everyone who walks through our doors.

Head to our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) to read their full interview.

Thank you, Mary & Lesia, for everything you do for BWFB and for our community. We're so grateful for you!



Wanted: Delivery Drivers

We're looking for help delivering weekly grocery drop offs to those clients who can't make it in to the foodbank themselves.

[Email for more information](#)

A Warm Welcome in our New Home

🌨️ On November 22nd, the community came out in full holiday spirit to support the Bloor West Food Bank 🌨️

Bloor West Village BIA hosted their annual "Santa in the Village" event. They generously donated the proceeds from the photos with Santa to the BWFB and also encouraged food donations to be dropped off.

Baby Point Gates Business Improvement Area hosted their annual "Baby It's Cold Outside" holiday event. We took the opportunity to host an Open House to showcase our new location to our new community and had the amazing caricature artist, Hector, "drawing" people to our space. We even had an early visit from Santa!

Thank you to our teams of food bank volunteers that helped out and to both communities for such wonderful support!



Don't Miss our Upcoming Events!

BLOOR WEST FOOD BANK

Holiday FUNDRAISER

A donation of \$25 helps support one local family this holiday season.

EVERY DONATION OF \$25 ENTERS YOU IN A DRAW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

A PAIR OF FLOOR SEAT TICKETS* TO THE TORONTO RAPTORS

*Tickets are for the January 11, 2026 game vs. Philadelphia 76ers

WAYS TO DONATE

In-Person: 379 Jane Street
Thursdays 11am-6:30pm | Fridays 10am - 3pm

eTransfer: info@bwfb.ca

Website: www.bloorwestfoodbank.ca

All donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. Donations must be received by December 18th to be eligible for draw.

DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

EMPTY Bowls

2026

JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS SOUP,
A GREAT CAUSE AND
CHOOSE A POTTERY BOWL TO KEEP!

SAVE THE DATE
FEB 28, 2026
6-9 PM

TICKETS ON SALE JAN 2026

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BLOOR WEST FOOD BANK

Thank you to our Renovation Team!

Our new home at 379 Jane St had been empty for more than two years and needed significant work before we could welcome our clients. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we received more help than we ever imagined. Thank you to everyone who donated time, skills, materials, labour, and boundless energy to get us ready and open on schedule. We truly couldn't have done it without you!

Gillian Ritchie from Red Square Team for representing us in securing our lease and donating her full commission.

Tom Fjalkowski from TAFBuilt. Tom is a local general contractor who donated his time and connected us with skilled tradespeople and handled many small details. We are incredibly grateful for his support and expertise.



Moldy Remediations Inc. Yosvir gave us reduced pricing for mold remediation.

Matt Machado, First Choice Plumbing. Donated all of his time

and parts to install our washrooms and kitchen area.

Canadian Wire Wizards are an incredible team of electricians who gave a great deal on their labour fees and tackled a massive job to get things cleaned up and safe. The fridges are running and the place is bright and warm thanks to their hard work.

Toto Canada for donating and delivering 2 new toilets for the volunteer washrooms and held a food drive in our honor at their company event.

Downtown Lumber for donating doors, trim, door knobs for washroom doors.

Weston Tile for giving us reduced rates on the exterior tiles.

Marcin Kozuch for donating part of his time to install baseboards.

Olympia Tile for giving us reduced rates for the baseboards.

Centennial Drywall for supplying material & labour at cost.



Acart, specifically Katie Flynn. For donating all of our wire shelving and cart systems and helping us move it and reassemble it in our new location.

Carpenters Roy Obermeier, Brian van de Valk, Richard Gregory, Kyle van de Valk, David DiCorpoy, Paam Senviboon and Mike Roy for getting walls and floor rebuilt.

Prime Time paint (Peter Fortier) for donating paint for the space.

Painters Christien Edgecombe, Paul Greco, Don Rulli, Victor Sekretes and Don Parkes for wall prepping and painting in the upstairs rooms.

Winston Johnson and his crew who donated their painting services for the extensive labyrinth of basement rooms and finishing the upstairs areas.

Rob Stonehouse for expertly installing our Ikea kitchen area and making Karen's vision of a slide to get things downstairs, a reality.

Justin and the team at Home Depot Stockyards for donating and delivering 2 bathroom vanities, 5 faucets and our utility sink.



Thank you to our Supporters!



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