

## The year in review

In 2010, we changed our Vision to better reflect the direction developed through our strategic planning process. We view Food Security from two lenses: good food is a basic building block for good health, and the main cause of hunger in our communities is insufficient income. Our programs and activities strive to address these concerns as stated in our Mission: *York Region Food Network offers programs, raises awareness and promotes policy changes for increased access to affordable and nutritious food produced within a sustainable food system.*

Our Do the Math Challenge in October brought high profile community members together who committed to undertake the challenge of eating solely from a food bank hamper for five days. Participants blogged about their experiences and raised awareness of the difficulties faced by people living on a low income. We need responses to poverty and hunger that go **beyond charity** - to eliminate the deep poverty that forces reliance on food banks.

Dedicated volunteers provide incredible energy and skills to support our public awareness campaigns. They also cook, garden, clean, conduct surveys, sort food and more. Their contributions help create the warm and welcome environment in our programs.

Our core staff team was enhanced over the year with four enthusiastic Katimivik volunteers: Shoshana Okano, David Ayotte, Chris Swank, and Olivier Madore; and Mike Hayes, our capable summer student. We were also able to bring Brittany Stalker back to help with the Fresh Food Guides and our Healthy Living Hub project.

Our Board of Directors has developed a strong plan of action to strengthen our agency core competencies and to provide leadership around food security issues in York Region. We are excited about the potential for positive change.

**Jacqui Locke, Chair**  
**Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director**

## Thank You

York Region Food Network would like to thank the more than 160 individual donors who supported our operations and administration. Without your support, day-to-day operations would be impossible.

We would also like to thank the following for their financial and in-kind support:

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 605485 Ontario Limited | Nature's Rainbow          |
| Acushnet Canada        | North Toronto Chinese     |
| Battery Direct Ontario | Baptist Church Melville   |
| cpi card group         | Mission                   |
| Empty Bowls            | Ontario Secondary School  |
| HVGardenland Nursery   | Teacher's Federation      |
| Lafarge Aggregates &   | Plats du Chef             |
| Concrete               | PricewaterhouseCoopers    |
| Leapfrog Business Net- | Canada Foundation         |
| working                | St. Andrew's Presbyterian |
| Markham North Wel-     | Church Aurora             |
| come Centre            | Unionville High School    |
| Miller Compost         | York Regional Police      |
| Mount Albert United    |                           |
| Church                 |                           |



United Way  
of York Region  
Member Agency



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OF ONTARIO

*Finding answers. For life.*



Ontario



# Annual General Report 2010

*for fiscal period ending  
December 31, 2010*

## Program Highlights

### Fresh food

- Our community garden program continues to thrive, providing almost 200 families and organizations with the opportunity to grow their own vegetables. As a pilot program, Aurora community gardeners were offered an extended growing season allowing further soil amendments in preparation for the 2011 season. Growing interest in community gardening is especially evident in Markham where for the second year in a row, demand for garden space exceeded availability. Summer 2010 marked the last season for Newmarket gardeners at the Eldred King Parkette. We appreciated the support of York Region in providing that land for 10 years and look forward to our new partnership with the Town of Newmarket and the garden located near the Magna Centre.
- Backyard garden kits were distributed to 43 young parents through the ABC (All Babies Count) prenatal program.
- The Fresh Food Partners Gleaning Program provided 15 trips to 7 farms, where 414 participants had the opportunity to harvest fruits and vegetables at the close of the growing season.
- YRFN produced Cultural Guides to Fresh Food for the Chinese and South Asian communities in York Region highlighting stores, farmers' markets and on-farm markets where local fruits, vegetables, and meats are sold.

### Healthy Living Hub

- At our twice monthly community kitchen program, participants come together to prepare and eat healthy and delicious food on a budget.
- On Wednesday mornings, everyone is welcome to drop in for a breakfast prepared by enthusiastic volunteers.
- We also laid the groundwork for the launch of our monthly Good Food Box in January 2011.



### Public Education and Awareness

- Our Do the Math Working Group, part of the provincial Put Food in the Budget campaign, continues to be a strong voice in support of the \$100 per month Healthy Eating Supplement. During the "Do the Math Challenge", blogs and newspaper articles by people who tried to eat a diet that social assistance recipients can afford, brought attention to the difficulties faced by people forced to rely on food banks. The 'challengers' talked about loss of dignity, inadequate nutrition and social isolation.
- We coordinated the Daily Bread Food Bank Annual Survey of People who Access Food Banks at 6 food banks in York Region. These surveys tell the stories of people living in poverty and contribute to our annual Hunger in the Midst of Prosperity Report.



### Food and Fund Redistribution

- With the help of dedicated volunteers, we have a weekly program to redistribute reclaimed food to thirteen agencies and organizations which support people living on low income.
- In partnership with local food banks we promote and support the spring and fall food drives in York Region.
- Through the Ontario Association of Food Banks we partner with the CBC Sounds of the Seasons fundraising campaign to support our food banks.
- In 2010 we were able to flow funds for grants to two food banks.

## Treasurer's Report

York Region Food Network is grateful to all our donors and supporters for their contributions which help us make a difference. The continued support of the United Way of York Region has provided a solid financial foundation to our organization and programs.

In 2010, we embarked on several exciting new projects and developed new partnerships. The Heart and Stroke Foundation has supported our Do the Math Working Group through Spark grants. Our cultural guides to fresh food, in partnership with the Greenbelt Foundation, allowed us to develop new connections with the local farming community. Our provincially funded Healthy Living Hub project has strengthened the relationship among 510 Penrose visitors and organizations.

We value community involvement in our programs, as it provides added strength and effectiveness as we build healthier communities together.

### At a Glance

|   | 2010      | 2009      |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Total Assets  | \$170,140 | \$216,068 |
| Current Liabilities   | \$10,424  | \$52,321  |
| Net Assets  | \$159,716 | \$163,747 |
|   |           |           |
| Total Revenue   | \$189,615 | \$232,070 |
| Total Expenditures  | \$193,645 | \$189,809 |
| Excess (Deficiency)   | (\$4,030) | \$42,261  |
| <i>Complete Audited Financial Statements are available on request</i> |           |           |



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