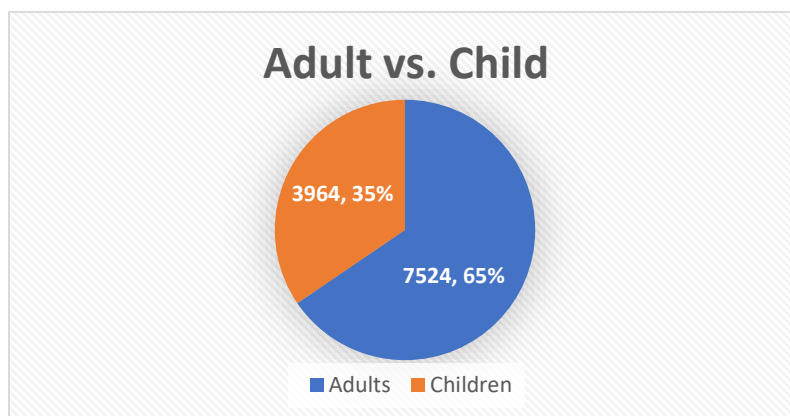
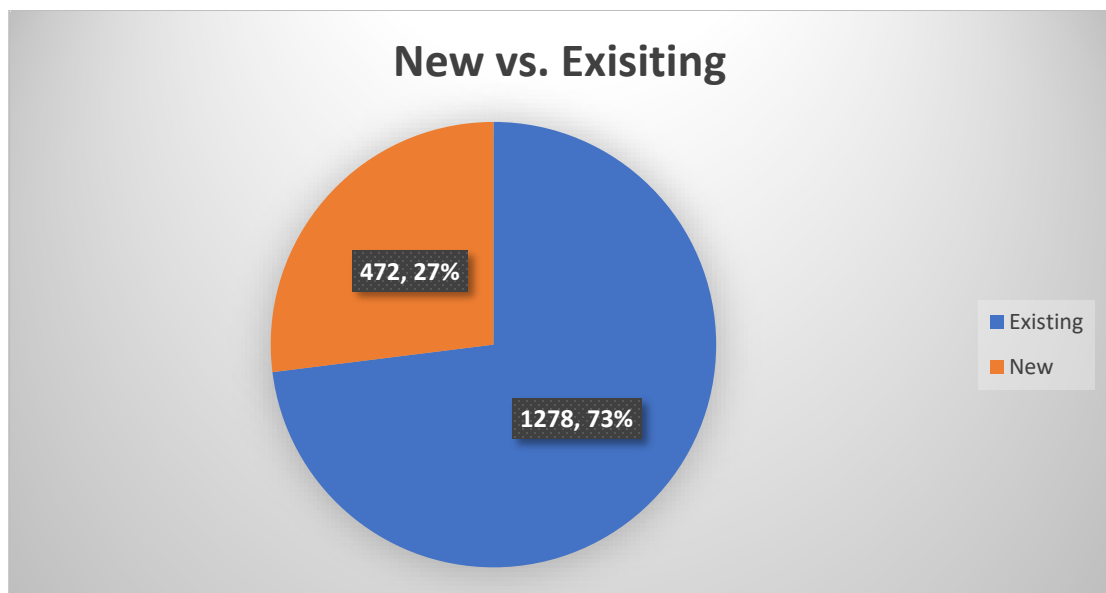


Executive Director's Report

The end of September marked the end of our Fiscal 24/25 year. We held our AGM on October 22, 2025. As always, our financials will be posted on the CRA website. As previously mentioned, it can take up to 6 months for CRA to post financial statements. Therefore, we wish to publish a few points that will shed light on how our last Fiscal year was.

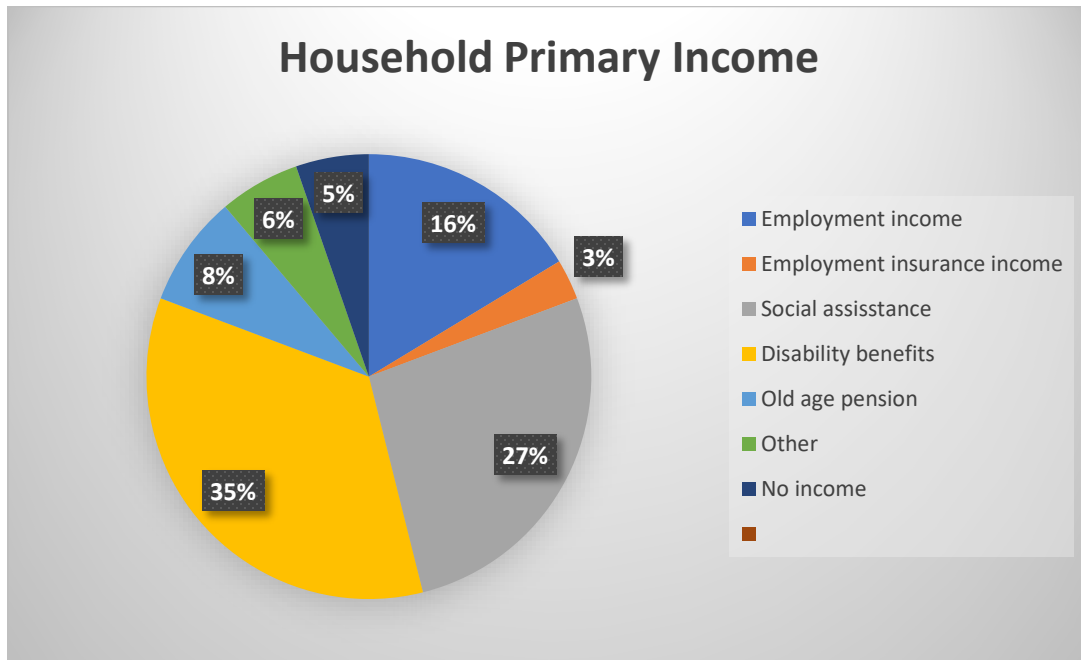
Our clients

- We served an average of 957 clients per month, 35% being children. We served 717 different households and 11,488 total individuals, which includes repeat visits. Compared to the 734 households we serviced last year. We attribute the decrease in households to blended family homes. People are being forced to reside together due to housing costs and general cost of living. Families and/or friends are moving into one household to be able to make rent payments, etc. Included in the total individuals' number, is 472 new individuals that started using the food bank with 1,278 existing clients for a total of 1750 unique individuals.

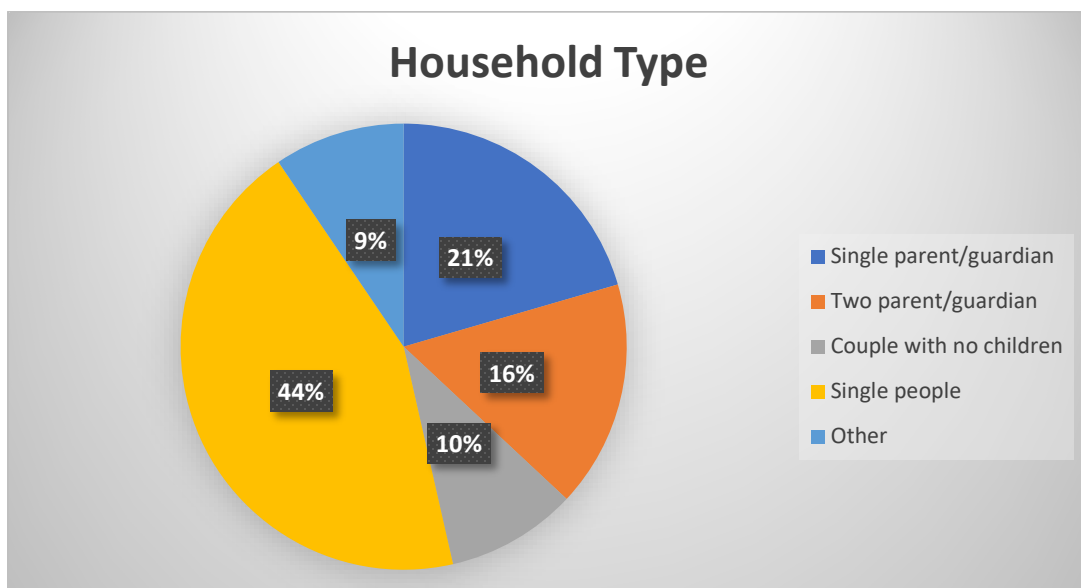


Who we serve

- Out of 717 households, 117 of them are employed whether it be full time or part time. But with the continuous rise in costs for food and housing, they are unable to make ends meet. The rest of the households represented are on some form of benefits and/or assistance, which is considered to be below the poverty line and not enough support in this economy, and 38 households report no income at all.

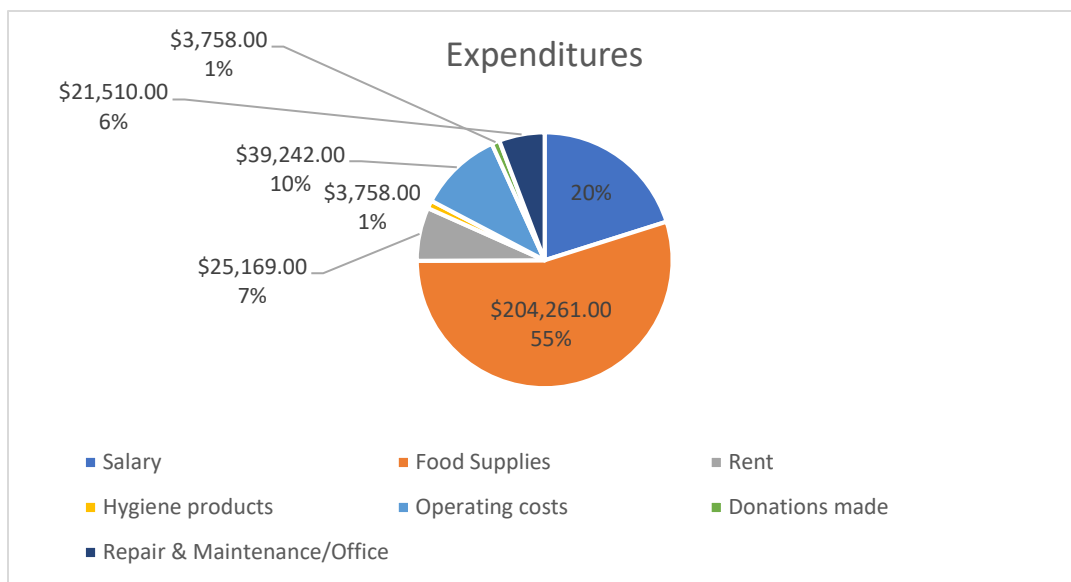


- Single-person households make up the largest group we serve, followed by single-parent households then two-parent households. Majority of households state the cost of housing and food are the reason they seek help from the food bank.



Our costs/expenditures

- This fiscal year, we have spent over \$204,000 on food alone. With operating expenses, our overall expenditures were approximately \$372,000. These costs include rent, Food Banks Canada membership, cleaners, salary, donations to other programs, etc. This represents a small increase in food costs due to a dip in donations this past year. Unfortunately, once again, our costs surpassed our budget from last fiscal year. The funds spent were to supplement the food we received through donations. Between Build a Mountain of Food, CP Holiday Train, the Turkey Trot/Stuff a Cruiser campaign, service clubs, and the community itself, we received almost 68,000lbs in food, which is a decrease from the 80,000lbs we received last year. We continue to see a very high number of clients and therefore our spending has risen exponentially from past years. All our financials are always posted on the CRA website and we use a licensed accountant to ensure our financials are always in absolute order.



- We are eternally grateful for the support we received from Independent, Giant Tiger, Garden Market and Food Basics for hosting us at their stores for BAM. To Chris Craig of RCL for organizing BAM each year, Ford Automotive, YourTV, Impression Printing, Jim Wright and Bob Perrault of myFM for all their hard work during the campaign. But we are mostly grateful to our amazing donors who continue to open their hearts and wallets to us all year round.
- We continue to operate on one salary and approximately 25 to 30 dedicated volunteers. This past fiscal year we had over 3,950 volunteer hours. Our incredible volunteers donate their time and energy, expecting nothing in return. For their kindness and generosity, I hope they know just how grateful we are for their contributions to the food bank. The work they do to support our mission is so invaluable and we are honoured that they choose to help us carry out our mission and values.

Who we serve

- We serve a wide catchment area which includes Smiths Falls, Jasper, Lombardy, Montague Township, Merrickville, Toledo, and surrounding areas. We will serve individuals outside our catchment area when there are special circumstances. Smiths Falls represents about 97% of our clientele.
- We continue to supply the Rideau Community Health Services with emergency food hampers on an as needed basis. We also continue to support six schools in town by providing them granola bars monthly for their breakfast and/or snack programs. Those schools include: Chimo Elementary, Duncan J. Schouler, Montague Public School, Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute, Lombardy Public School and St. Luke Catholic High School.

This report represents our last fiscal year (2024/2025).

This year, we achieved our accreditation and we are committed to uphold the National Standards of Excellence. It was an extremely large undertaking that took over a year to complete with the help of a consultant funded through Food Banks Canada. We are extremely proud of this achievement.

We thank all our incredible donors who help to keep our doors open to be able to serve our community. Without our donors, we would not exist. It is because of our extremely generous donors that we are able to carry out our mission to promote a healthy and strong community by providing emergency help to those in need.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire board of directors for their steadfast commitment to achieving our goals and mission. Their hard work and dedication truly keep the momentum going and is what helped us achieve accreditation. I want to extend my deep appreciation for all that they do.

Natalia Soteroff
Executive Director, Smiths Falls Community Food Bank