

Serving the
Tri-Region since
1985!

40TH
ANNIVERSARY

parkland
foodbank

Annual Report



Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Parkland Food Bank, it is both an honor and a privilege to reflect on a year defined by growth, challenge, and unwavering commitment. The 2024–25 year was one of our busiest yet, and thanks to the dedication of our Board, staff, volunteers and community, we accomplished significant milestones that have laid the groundwork for a stronger future.

This year, the Board focused on building a solid structural foundation—revamping bylaws, improving governance, formalizing onboarding, and strengthening continuing education. We developed clear, transparent policies and procedures to bring consistency and clarity to all that we do. Recognizing the urgent need for expanded space, we established Capital Fundraising and Building Committees as we begin the exciting journey toward securing new land and a facility that can meet the growing demands of our Tri-Region community.

Amid inflation and declining food donations, we remained focused on our strategic plan—especially our top priority: fostering a skilled and motivated workforce. With the support of a third-party consultant, we've taken meaningful steps to ensure our staff/board feels supported and valued in a workplace built on trust, respect, and collaboration.

Despite the hurdles, the resilience, generosity, and passion of our team and community shine through. And now, we look ahead with great excitement and purpose. Together, we are not only rising to meet today's challenges - we are building a bold, compassionate future for the Parkland Food Bank. We truly would not be where we are without the volunteers, staff, donors, and partners who give so much of themselves to serve others.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we are rising to meet today's needs while building the capacity for tomorrow.



About Us

Society History

Since 1985

August 1985

July was an extremely busy month for the East Parkland Food Bank. Our statistics show that we filled 18 hampers for the needy families, providing assistance for 75 people. We certainly are fulfilling a need in our community!

In 1984 a group of concerned citizens began providing food bank services in the basement of the Stony Plain United Church. As demand for the service grew a search for a more permanent home began, and in 1985 the food bank relocated to Spruce Grove home.

After several more location changes throughout the years, construction began on a new facility for the Food Bank on Madison Crescent. On July 7, 1997 the Food Bank moved into this new location where it has remained since. In 2000 the East Parkland Food Bank officially changed its name to the Parkland Food Bank.

We are indebted to the perseverance of the Food Bank's volunteers and executives throughout the years, and their continual dedication to provide food bank services to their community.



Newsmakers, Stony Plain/Spruce Grove, Alberta, May 13, 1987

The cupboards are bare

The shelves at the East Parkland Food Bank are pictured as Stephanie Shenfield, co-ordinator, found them on a recent Monday morning. Despite help from the Stony Plain Lioness Club and other organizations in collecting supplies to re-stock the shelves, the food bank continues to need the assistance of area residents. The demands for food and other supplies is greater this year than it's ever been, Shenfield said.



Vision & Mission

Donations needed

Food bank heading for trouble

The East Parkland Food Bank is in dire need of donations of food or money. If support from the general public doesn't pick up soon, the possibility of it closing could become a reality said member Cheryl Paul.

It was started in 1984 and is located in Spruce Grove Plaza, 128A Mcleod Avenue.

"It operates totally on donations of food or money. In 1989, 250 hampers were supplied, serving 646 adults and 539 chil-

dren. Within the first four months of 1990, 240 hampers were supplied to 600 to 700 people."

Paul said people allowed to receive hampers are on Social Services Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, low income, disability and pensioners. She added they can receive five hampers a year.

"We give an unlimited number of hampers a year to those on assured incomes for the severely handicapped."

Paul said all those uti-

lizing the service receive an unlimited amount of bread and pastries.

Paul believes the food bank doesn't get any financial aid other than what the public is willing to donate. To qualify for assistance, those in need, have to be recommended by a church and then their names will be put on file.

Paul said one member of the food bank, who looks after the financial aspect, indicated the food bank could be flat broke by the

end of the year if donations don't pick up.

In July there were starters coming in for assistance, included in that figure are nine starters which have returned. The food donations for July totaled 21 and cash donations amounted to \$233.13.

"More pressure and stress is on the Spruce Grove Food Bank, because Evansburg's Food Bank has closed and Onoway's Food Bank might close due to lack of donations."



Vision

We are at the heart of our community where no one goes hungry, so families and individuals can feel empowered, supported, and hopeful.

Mission

To coordinate the collection and distribution of healthy food to people in need within the Tri-Region area and connect them to additional resources in the community.

Our Team



> Board of Directors

Board Chair

Noreen Lang-Bryant

Vice-Chair

Rosetta Taylor

Secretary

Bonny Piska

Treasurer

Ruby Wallis

Directors

Patrick Boily

Taylor Collins

Les Johnson

Greg Northcott

Steve Owens

Rosetta Taylor

Rosetta Taylor



> Staff

Executive Director

Sheri Ratsoy

Community Coordinator

Amanda

Client Services

Levon - Manager

Charyl - Supervisor

Heather - Supervisor

Operations Manager

Jason

Warehouse

Elena

Jim

Vicka

Fleet

Dave

Vincent

Pat



Volunteers

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of our mission – turning compassion into action and transforming communities with every hour they give."

Volunteers: The Heart of Parkland Food Bank (2024)

Parkland Food Bank's volunteers are a diverse, strong, and committed team dedicated to supporting our mission of reducing hunger and building a stronger community.

Their selfless contributions are the backbone of our organization, making it possible to serve thousands of individuals and families across the Tri-Region.

Volunteers embody the spirit of compassion and generosity, donating their time and energy to make a meaningful difference. Whether collecting food donations, packing hampers, speaking with clients, or sorting and repackaging food, their dedication and willingness to lend a helping hand are truly inspiring. Beyond the critical tasks they perform, volunteers also foster a sense of community and connection, creating a welcoming environment for clients and helping extend our reach into the broader community.



2024 Volunteer Highlights:

- 278 active volunteers
- 116 new volunteers joined Parkland Food Bank

We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort, and compassion our volunteers bring, making a real difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity.



Programs

In 2024 Parkland Food Bank was able to directly support 2,034 unique households (5,634 unique individuals) through our hamper programs, for a total of 31,945 individual visits!

01 Monthly Hampers

Monthly Hamper Summary (2024)

In 2024, Parkland Food Bank distributed **9,707** Monthly Hampers. Each household can access one hamper per calendar month, which includes a mix of essential food items and household supplies.

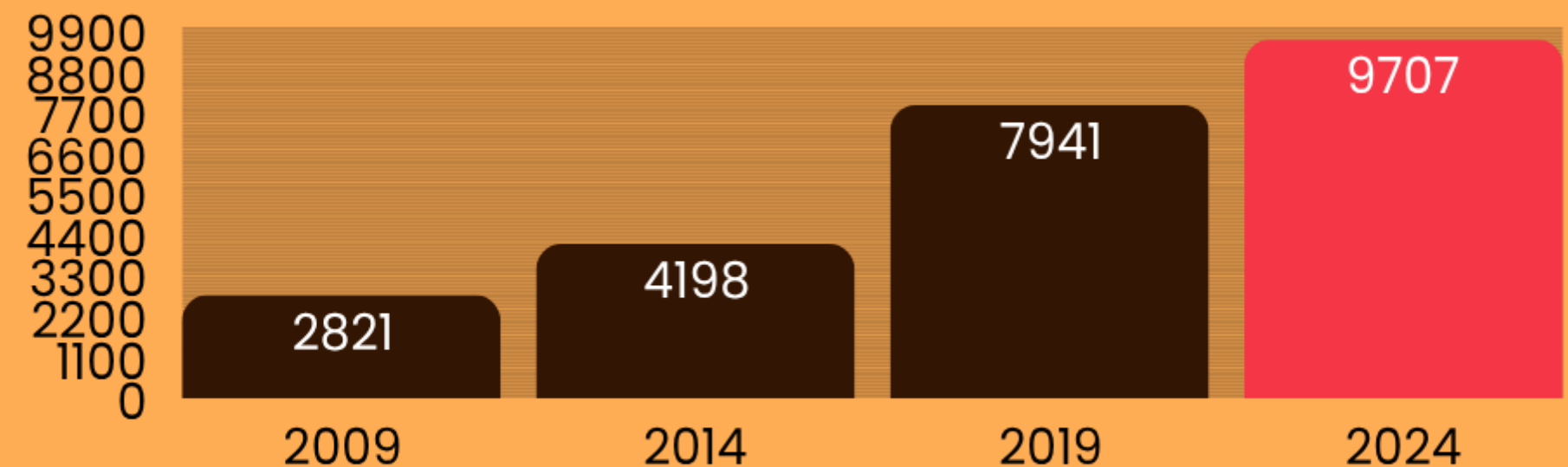
Core Monthly Hamper Items Provided in 2024:

- Pantry Items: \$1,015,040
- Meat: \$350,519
- Eggs: \$80,585
- Milk: \$67,017
- Fresh Produce: Fruits and vegetables
- Bread and Pastries: Bread, buns, specialty bread, pastries
- Frozen Goods: Miscellaneous frozen items
- Paper Products: Toilet paper, paper towel
- Baby Products: Formula, baby food, diapers
- Household Supplies: Laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies

Additionally, gluten-free, non-perishable hampers are available for clients with specific dietary needs.



Delivery Program:
224 Monthly Hampers were delivered to households in 2024.



Programs

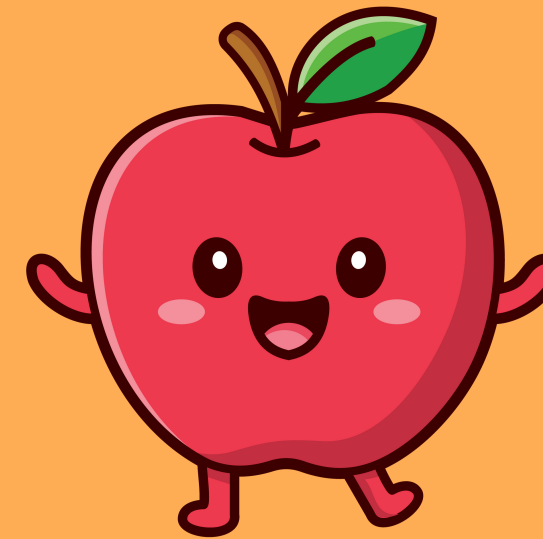
Parkland Food Bank provides food delivery for those who have a hard time accessing the food bank. 495 Monthly Hampers were delivered in 2024.

02 Top-Up Hampers

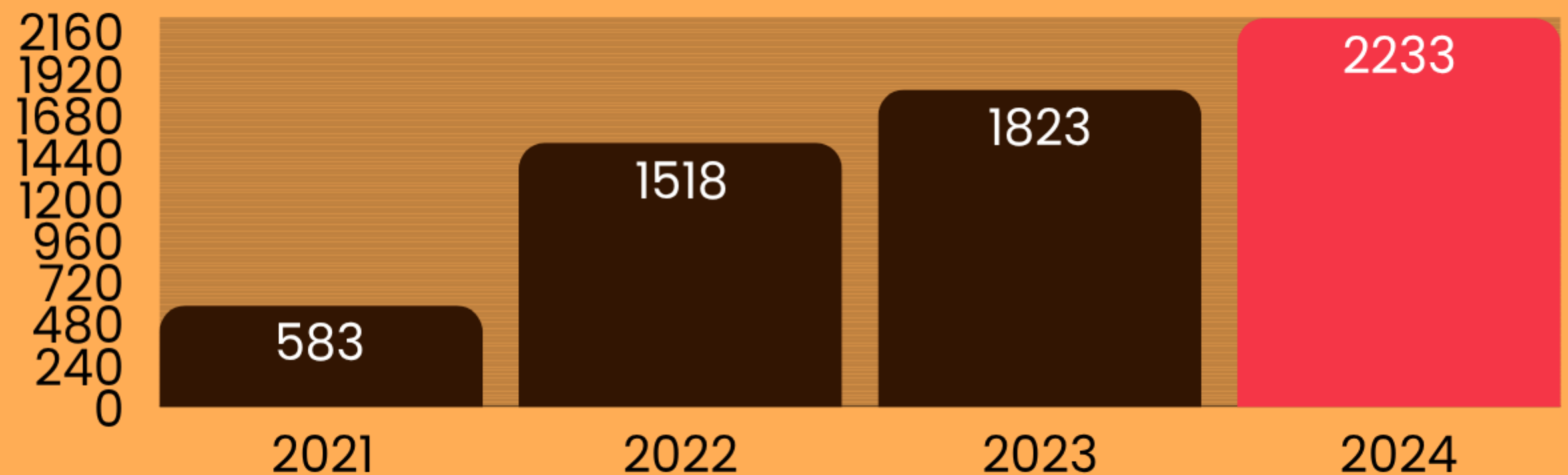
Top-Up Hamper Summary (2024)

In 2024, **2,233** Top-Up Hampers were distributed. Clients can access one of these hampers per calendar month, which includes a selection of items from the client services area, such as:

- Specialty breads
- Cooler and freezer items
- Fresh produce
- Baby products
- Feminine hygiene items



Around 8.7% of people in Alberta lived in severely food-insecure households in 2024.



Programs

03 H2 Hampers

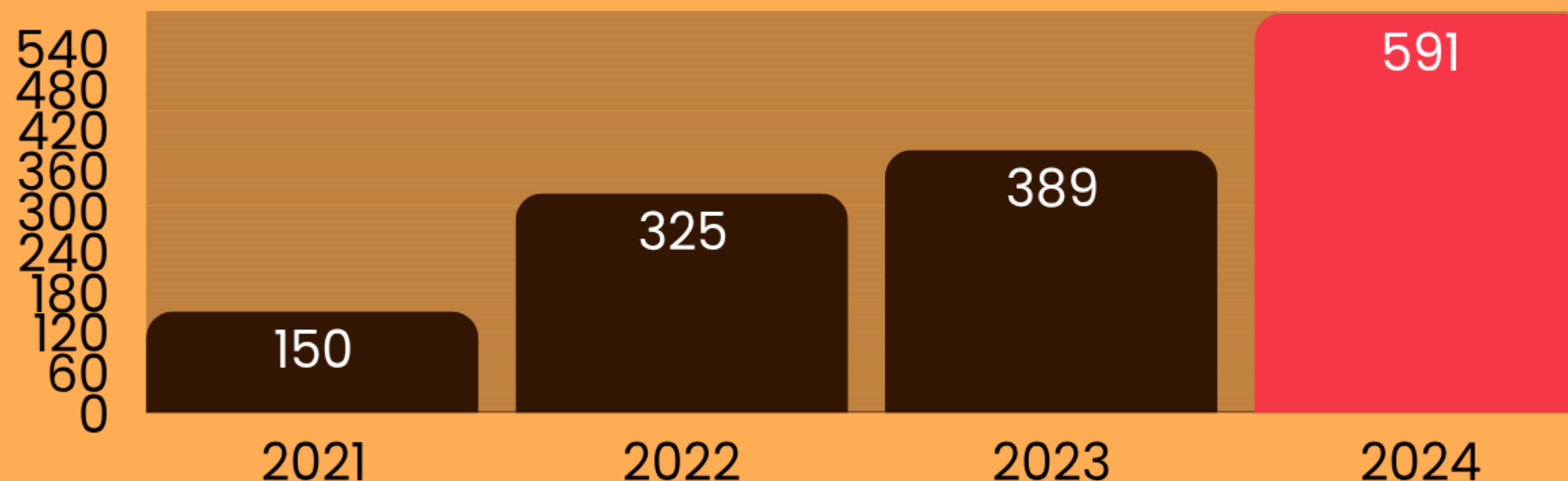
For clients that do not have access to refrigeration or cooking facilities, or may have barriers to cooking meals, we have our H2 Hamper available.

H2 Hamper Summary (2024)

In 2024, **591** H2 Hampers were distributed. These hampers can be accessed once a week and are designed to fit in a large backpack. They contain ready-to-eat foods that require no meal preparation.



Homelessness, often a consequence of poverty and lack of affordable housing, exacerbates food insecurity, as individuals experiencing homelessness face challenges accessing food resources and may have limited ability to prepare meals.



Programs

Parkland Food Bank's Food Hub ensures surplus produce is distributed to other local food banks, church programs, and community agencies, maximizing its impact and reducing waste.

04 Food Hub

Food Hub Summary (2024)

In 2024, the Parkland Food Bank's Food Hub supported **9 Partner Agencies**, providing essential food items to a range of community programs and services. This initiative not only ensures that surplus food is put to its highest use but also offers alternate access points to food, reducing strain on the main food bank and empowering other local organizations.

Food Distributed in 2024:

- **Other Food Banks: 16,046 kg**
- **Other Agencies: 10,821 kg**
- **Churches: 3,098 kg**

In addition to supporting immediate food needs, the Food Hub contributes to programming like meal preparation classes, helping build essential cooking skills and promoting long-term food security.



Who We Serve

Growing Need

By Community

Summary of Parkland Food Bank Use by Municipality

Definitions:

- **HH (Household)**: A single family unit or living group.
- **Ind. (Individual)**: A single person receiving support.
- **Unique**: Each household or individual is counted only once, regardless of the number of visits.
- **Duplicate**: Each household or individual is counted for every visit made.

	2024	2024	2024	2024	5 years	5 years
Municipality	Unique HH	Duplicate HH	Unique Ind.	Duplicate Ind	Unique Ind.	Duplicate Ind
Town of SP	519	2,967	1,488	8,066	2,335	32,568
City of SG	940	5,934	2,604	13,750	4,501	67,189
County of Parkland	390	2,642	1,053	7,455	1,786	32,524
Paul First Nation	86	457	359	1,972	486	6,790
No Address	83	476	96	518	159	1,507
Out of Jurisdiction	16	65	34	184	86	229
Total	2,034	12,550	5,634	31,945	9,353	140,807

Stony Plain	Spruce Grove	Parkland County	Paul First Nation
26% of Households Representing 8% of town population	46% of Households Representing 6% of city population	19% of Households Representing 3% of county population	4% of Households Representing 26% of nation population

Who We Serve

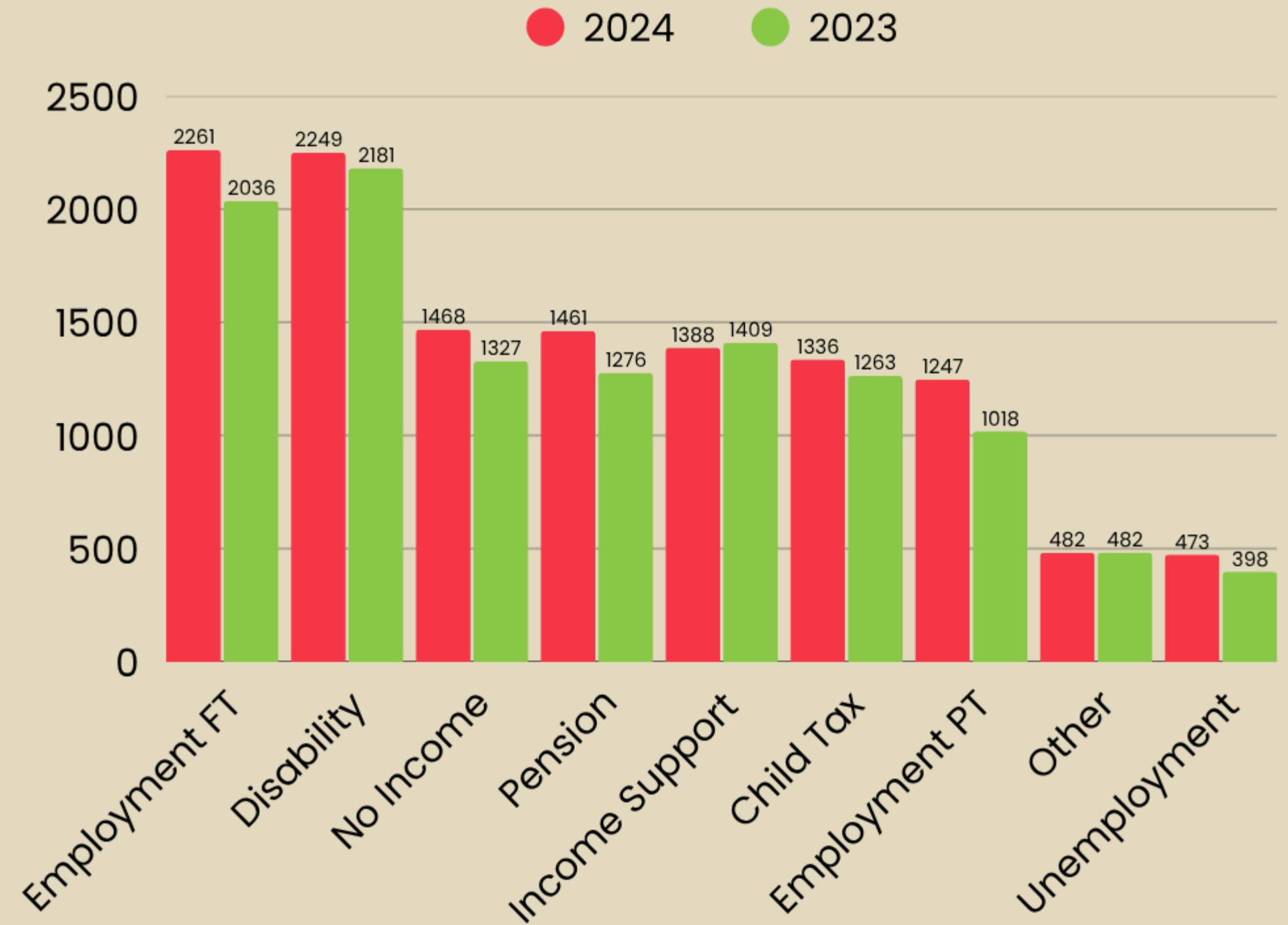
Growing Need

By Income

Client Income Summary (2024)

The chart below illustrates the primary source of income for households accessing the Parkland Food Bank in 2024. Notably, the percentage of clients citing employment as their primary income source increased from 28% in 2023 to 29% in 2024. Among those reporting employment, 18% worked full-time.

This data highlights the ongoing challenge of low wages and insufficient working hours, which continue to push working individuals and families to seek support from the food bank. Despite being employed, many still struggle to meet their basic needs, emphasizing the need for continued advocacy and support for fair wages and stable employment opportunities.



Who We Serve

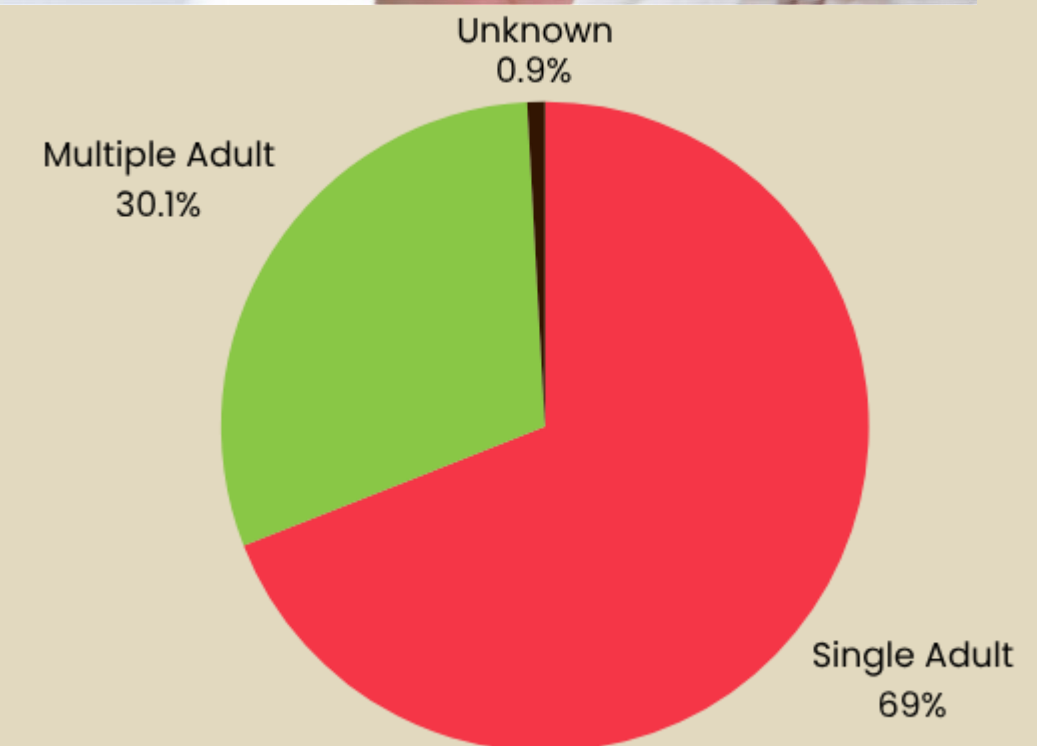
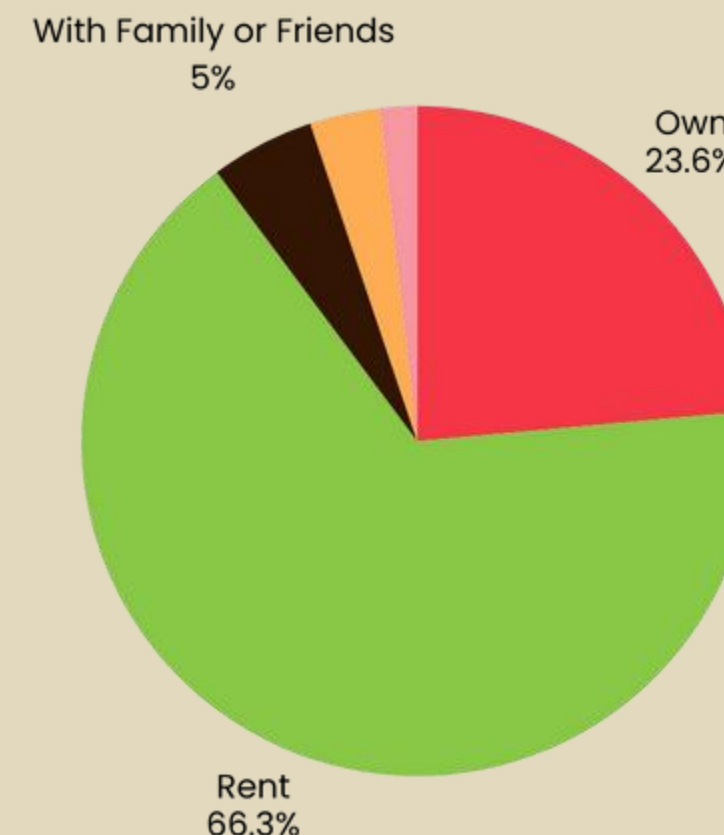
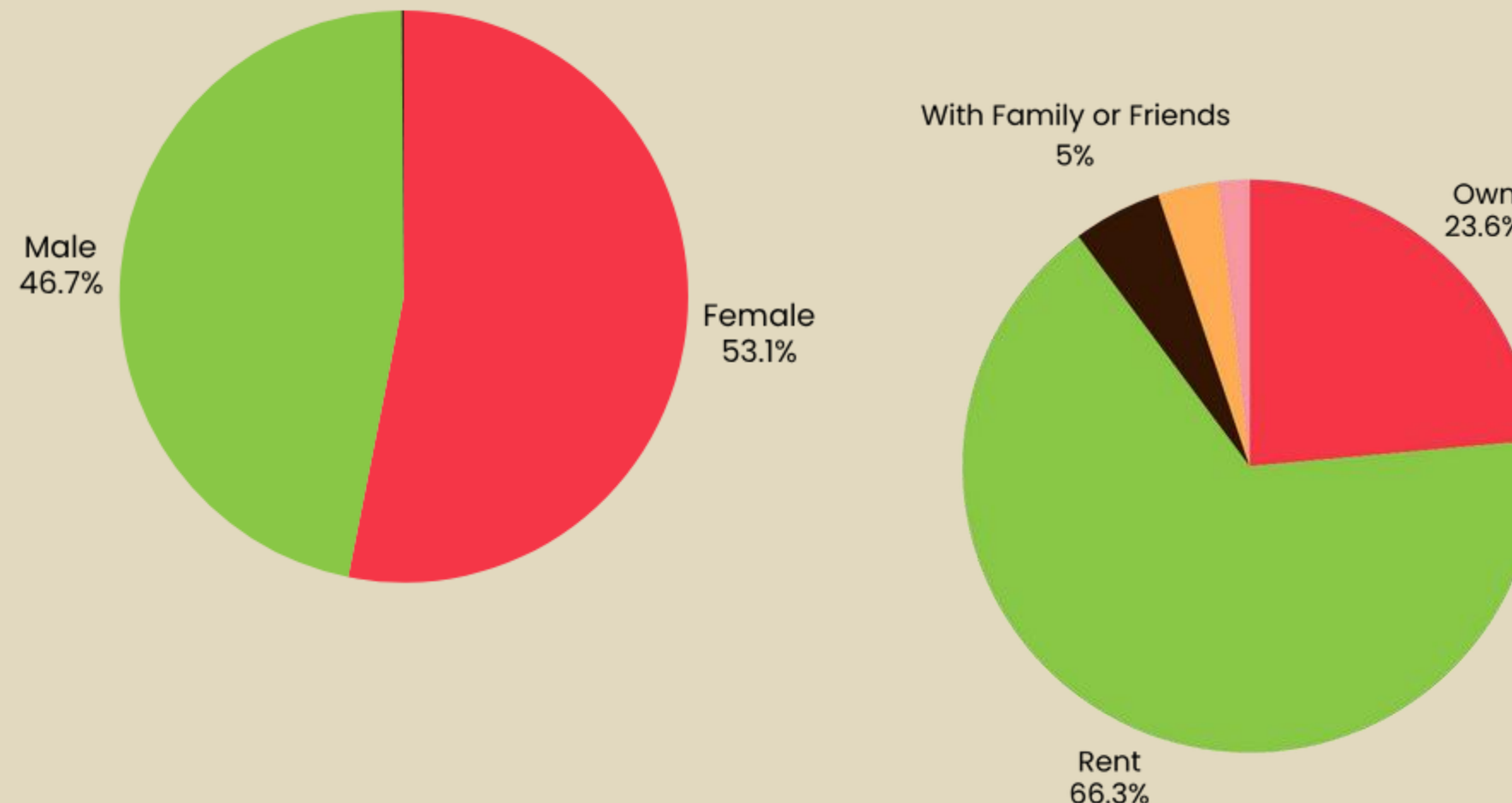
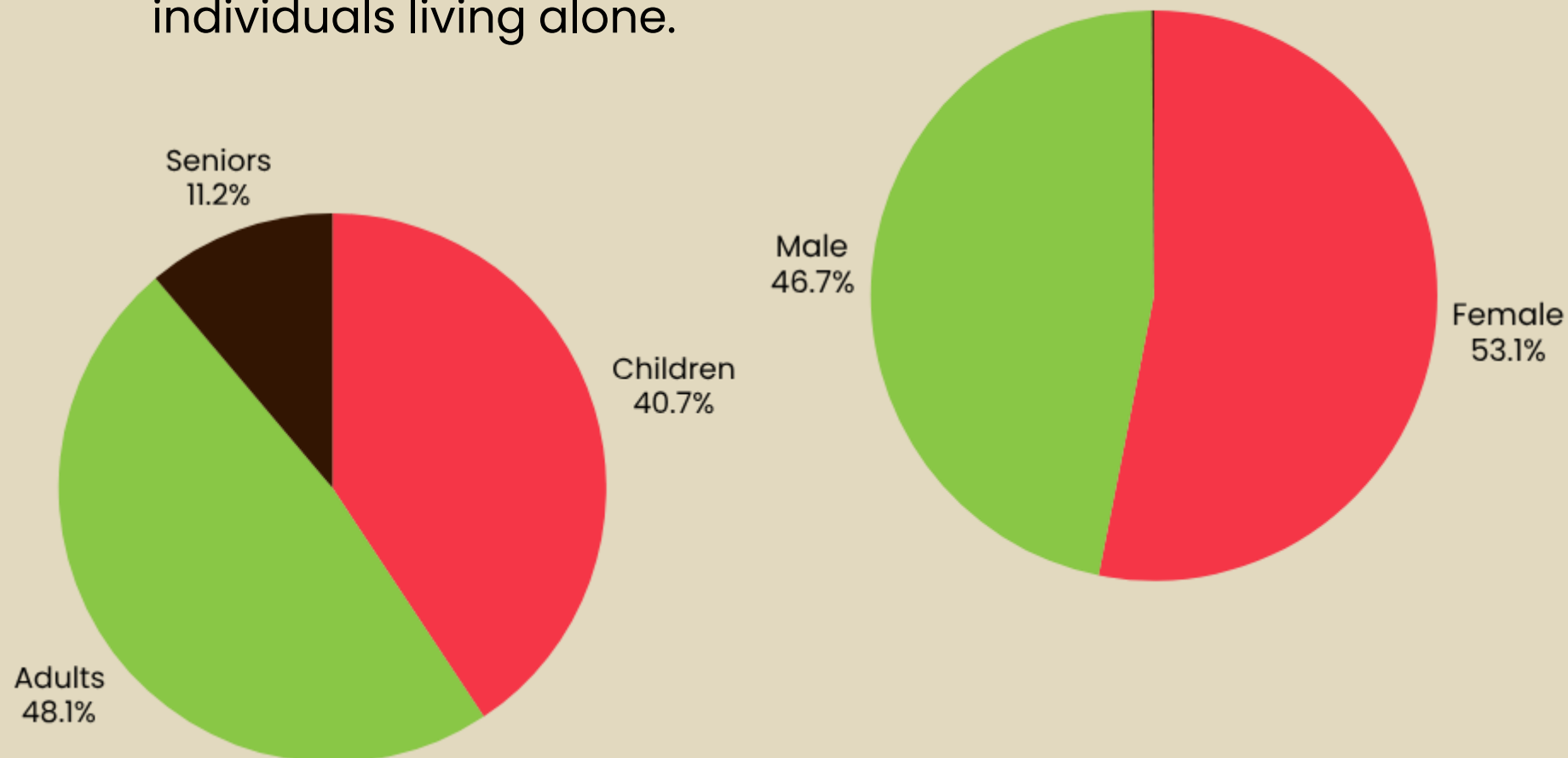
Growing Need

Demographics

Client Demographics (2024)

In 2024, 48% of Parkland Food Bank clients were adults, 40% were children, and 11% were seniors. Housing stability remains a significant concern, with 66% of clients renting their homes, 24% owning, and 5% staying with family or friends.

The gender breakdown shows 53% of clients are female and 46% are male. Notably, 69% of households served are single-adult households, reflecting the unique challenges faced by individuals living alone.



DID YOU KNOW...

1 IN 12

CHILDREN IN OUR
COMMUNITY
RECEIVED FOOD
FROM PARKLAND
FOOD BANK IN
2024

parkland
foodbank



Events

Parkland Food Bank Hosted Events (2024)

Our community once again demonstrated remarkable support through our two main fundraising events in 2024, helping ensure the ongoing success of Parkland Food Bank's mission.

Coldest Night of the Year (February 24, 2024)

On one of the coldest nights of the year, individuals, businesses, and families came together at Jubilee Park, braving the winter chill to walk 2km or 5km in support of our community. Thanks to their dedication, this event raised over **\$78,000** to support food purchases, making a significant impact in the lives of those facing food insecurity.

Parkland Food Bank Golf Tournament (May 31, 2024)

Presented by North American Construction Group, this annual tournament brought together golfers and sponsors to support our mission. Despite uncooperative weather, the event was a resounding success, raising over **\$71,000** to help feed our community.

Thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored, and volunteered at these events. Your support makes a real difference.



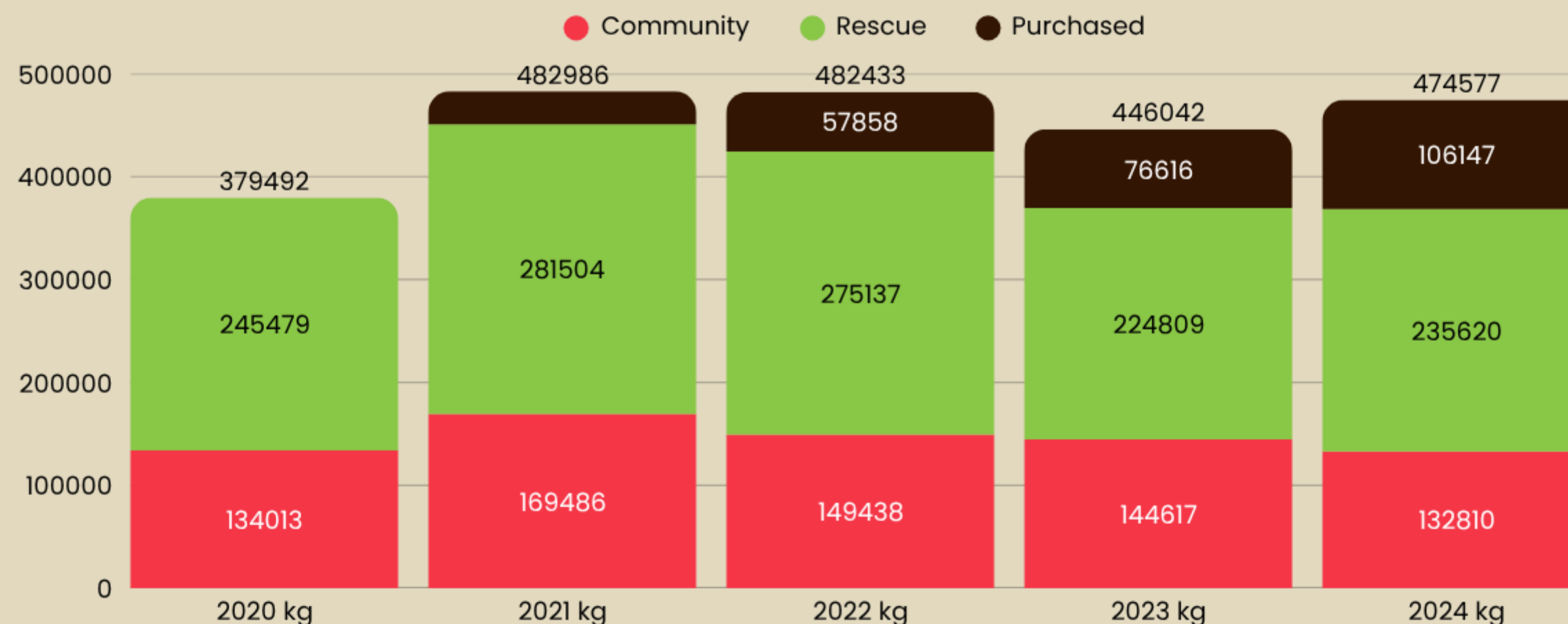
Donations

Annual Food Donations Summary (2022-2024)

Food donations have shown a steady decline in total weight over the past three years, reflecting shifting economic pressures:

- 2022: 149,438 kg (\$2,416,064)
- 2023: 144,617 kg (\$2,105,956)
- 2024: 132,810 kg (\$2,859,263)

While the volume of donations has decreased, the sharp rise in total value in 2024 highlights the impact of inflation, with donors spending more for less food. This trend underscores the need for continued support and innovative approaches to address rising food costs and community needs.



Donations

Community Food Drives (2024)

Parkland Food Bank relies entirely on the generosity of local businesses, schools, and community organizations to provide essential food and financial support to the Tri-Region. In 2024, an incredible **1,167 community events, fundraisers, and business donations** were held in support of the food bank.

These efforts are a powerful reminder of the collective commitment to fighting hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community partners, who continue to make a significant difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity.



2025: January – June

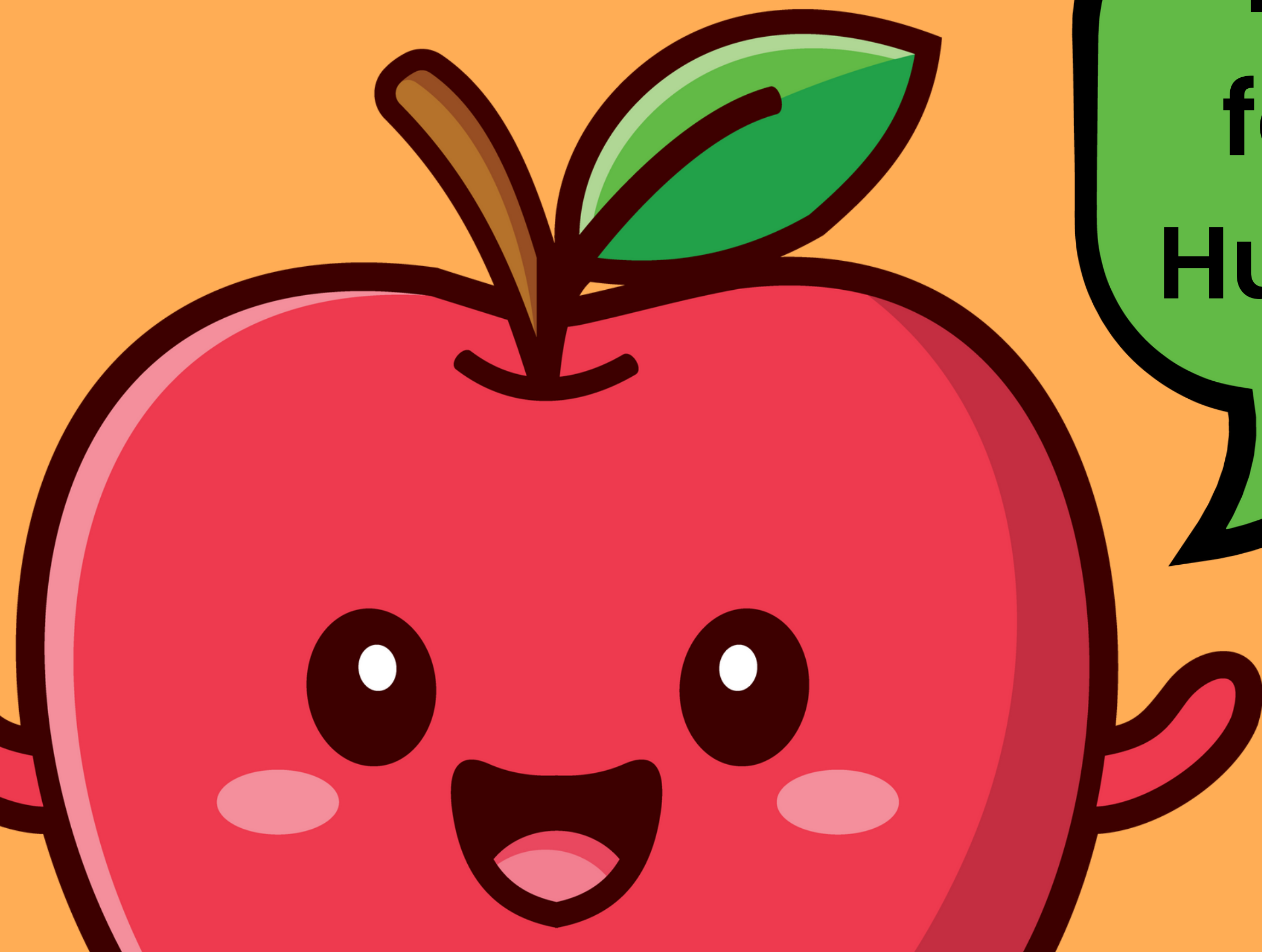
Food Donated (kg)		
2025	2024	Difference
164,480	154,608	+6%

Food Purchased (kg)		
2025	2024	Difference
50,025	48,908	+2%

Individuals Fed		
2025	2024	Difference
17,181	16,396	+5%

Key Strategic Initiatives 2025

- \$1.2 million reserved for land purchase in 2025
- Working toward a highly skilled and motivated workforce comprised of volunteers, board members, and staff
- Building more awareness and community presence to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of individuals and families facing food insecurity in your community!



**Thank you
for being a
Hunger Hero!**