



# THE COMPASS

Help for Today ♥ Hope for Tomorrow

December 1, 2024

To our community and supporters,

As we near the end of 2024, we at The Compass Food Bank & Outreach Centre reflect on what has been another difficult year in fulfilling our mission to serve our vulnerable neighbors in south Mississauga. Over the last two years, the number of clients we serve has increased by an astonishing 85%. Just last month, the Mississauga City Council took the unprecedented step to declare food insecurity an emergency. This formal declaration is a monumental step in recognizing that food insecurity has gone beyond crisis levels and is not a temporary issue. Today, one in every 13 people in Mississauga turns to a food bank for support—up from just one in 37 five years ago. Mississauga is now the fastest-growing city for food bank use in all of Ontario, and heartbreaking as it is, one in every three of these clients is a child.

Despite these daunting statistics, we still must take time to reflect in a spirit of gratitude. Thanks to the incredible generosity and faithfulness of our many donors, the dedication of over 400 active volunteers, and the resilience of our staff, The Compass is here to meet this rising call for help. It's hard to capture the emotions behind each face we see, each family that walks through our doors, each child we help nourish. With every grocery bag packed, every meal prepared, and every small but significant gesture of compassion, we're working harder than ever to meet the growing needs of our community. Thank you for making that possible!

As we continue the hard work of implementing our five-year strategic plan, we remain guided by four key pillars: **Enhance Client Services, Amplify Advocacy, Grow Organizational Capacity, and Generate Sustainable Funding.** This plan is more than a roadmap; it's a promise to our community—a promise to meet the whole person and support every client's journey toward dignity and stability. Through food programs, wellness services, and access to social services, we aim to wrap around those who need us most. We are committed to being more than a food bank. We are a community, a lifeline, a place of hope, and a constant reminder that our neighbours are not alone.

In the spirit of Christmas, we look ahead to celebrating its enduring message of hope—a hope that resonates in every meal served, every story heard, and every life touched by your kindness. We could not do what we do without friends like you who believe in the mission of The Compass – *help for today, hope for tomorrow*. Thank you for standing with us, for making it possible to keep answering the call, and for helping us ensure that each client who comes to us finds compassion, support, and a path forward. Thank you so very much for your faithful support.

With deepest gratitude,

John W. Nyholt  
Board Chair – The Compass