



2016 Annual North Shore Program Report

Sharing Abundance was registered as a non-profit society in 2008 and has now become a registered charity offering programs in all three North Shore municipalities. In 2015 we served 5,500 delicious meals, in 2016 we served 6,400 meals totally exceeding our expectations.

We offer welcoming places where food and community meet. Our programs address food insecurity and social isolation felt by many members of our community. All of our facilities are wheelchair accessible and close to public transit.

Our programs are as diverse as our communities. All members of the community working or not, families, teens students, seniors, those on disability pensions, homeless, new Canadians and veterans gather as guests each week. Our programs are intergenerational and culturally diverse serving many folks on the margins. Everyone is welcome whether they choose to donate towards the cost of their meal or not. We do not charge for meals at any of our locations. Some of our guests volunteer at programs and many of our volunteers join our guests in meals at their table.

Each program has a chef/program manager who is paid a small stipend to plan, shop, prepare and serve tasty, nutritious meals to our guests while directing a team of volunteers. They also keep a record of the number of guests and meals served at each program. Everyone else involved in our programs is a volunteer. The programs would not be possible without the support of the many dedicated volunteers who help us every week at our various locations. Our volunteers include seniors and students. Everyone else in our organization is a volunteer.

Sharing Abundance is funded by donations from some of our program participants, donors and community partners. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and the District of West Vancouver through their Community Grants program. The Lynn Valley Lions, Mosaic Homes, and the Lynn Valley Save on Foods worked together to provide our turkey dinners at all our locations. The Royal Canadian Legion Branches 44, 60 and 118 have provided support through their gaming funds. Sacre-Davey Engineering and Lawyers West are our corporate donors again this year. Local churches donate as well. Our donors are recognized on our website, social media postings as well as at each location.



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Offering Welcoming Places Where Food and Community Meet



Community partners hosting programs do so without cost keeping our overhead under control. St. Agnes has offered us storage space for most of the food and equipment that has been stored in our homes. This was made possible by a grant from the North Shore Community Foundation.

We are also grateful for the support of Cobs Edgemont Bakery, The British Butcher, West Coast Monograms and the collaborative support with the folks at Table Matters.

SHARING ABUNDANCE LUNCH PROGRAMS

Community Lunch at Branch 118 Lonsdale Legion

123 West 15th Street, North Vancouver every Wednesday at noon

This weekly lunch program is in its third year. The majority of our guests at this program are on the margins and the weekly soup, a choice from three sandwiches, simple dessert and a place to gather out of the cold to drink non-stop coffee or teas is appreciated. Food is prepared under the direction of our Chef/Program Manager Lisa Hemmerle and a team of three to seven volunteers each week. This program ran for eleven months again this year as the need for food is as great as the need for community. There are new faces every week joining the core group of 45-50 guests.

A Seniors' Moment at St. Agnes Anglican Church

530 East 12 Street, North Vancouver first and third Fridays at 11:30am

This program in its fifth year draws people from around the community engaging seniors active in other activities as well as the demographic around the church and beyond. This year we started a collaboration with Collingwood School Grade 6 classes who come to help prep, serve and entertain our guests on a scheduled basis. St. Agnes' kitchen renovation, slated to be completed in August, is almost ready in January. The program was delayed in September and October then moved to St. Catherines' Anglican Church for two sessions with the Collingwood students in the late fall. Seniors look forward to a speaker or entertainer and a delicious hot meal and dessert prepared by Chef Bette Geddes and social time with their friends. Volunteers work with Bette in the kitchen and volunteers work front of the house with the Dining Room Manager on set up, greeting, serving and clean up. We have between 5 - 8 volunteers each session and serve between 30-50 guests.

SHARING ABUNDANCE DINNER PROGRAMS

North Lonsdale United Church

3380 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver every Tuesday at 5:30pm

We are in the fifth year of operating a weekly community dinner program at this location. Guests are served a salad, hot meal and a special dessert. Food is prepared under the direction of Chef/Manager Bette Geddes who manages the program and the five or more kitchen volunteers. The service team of twelve to fifteen volunteers are under the direction of the Dining Room Manager. Guests have favourites which is usually the meal served that day. Bette creates delicious meals around food on sale often using regional themes. She specializes in great flavour, lots of variety and large portions. Several guests volunteer to help with the set up and take out the garbage. We provide an opportunity for approximately 75-90 guests from a cross section of our community to eat together each week.



Branch 60 West Vancouver Legion West Vancouver

580 – 18th Street, West Vancouver every Thursday at 5:30pm

Our West Vancouver program is in its fifth year, the second at this location. The menu closely follows the Tuesday dinner to spare some preparation time at this location. Chef/Manager Bette Geddes works with several kitchen volunteers, the balance are in the Dining Room. This program has at least 10 volunteers each week and serves a salad, hot meal and special dessert to between 35-45 guests.

Christmas Meals

Mid December we served 290 turkey dinners with all the trimmings thanks to our generous sponsors; the Lynn Valley Lions, Mosaic Homes and Lynn Valley Save on Foods. Our number of guests increase for this special meal as do our donations.

Challenges and Opportunities

Serving an increasing numbers of guests and increasing food costs has led to rising costs for all our programs.

Last year we had a \$500 deficit thanks to a one-time memorial gift of \$7,000 from one of our founding board members. We had to use this gift to cover food costs. This has been a wake up call. We have become more focused on making up this deficit for the following year calling on family, friends and the community to donate in support of these programs, looking at new grant opportunities and fundraising options.

On this our tenth year of providing meals on the North Shore, we are at a tipping point. Last year we reached the end of our capacity for growth and now must secure stable, ongoing funding so these programs can continue.

Our partnership with Collingwood School has been a unique opportunity for the students to do focused community service while exploring food insecurity in their community. Mixing seniors and youngsters is always a win for everyone. We hope that this collaboration will continue next fall.

We continue to work with the North Shore Homelessness Task Force and their community partners to address the issues of poverty and homelessness in our community. Our programs are listed on the community resource card supplied to those in need.

We are currently collaborating with some talented, generous friends of Sharing Abundance to produce a brochure to promote our organization, showcase our programs and recognize our donors. We expect this to be available before the summer.

The need for additional programs on the North Shore is great. Our vision is to offer our programs in many communities. We have a nimble, simple and cost effective model that can be replicated anywhere provided the physical and financial resources are in place.

We continue to dream and work towards acquiring a home location, completing the move out of our cars and homes, consolidating our supplies and equipment under fewer roofs and giving us more options for expanding program locations.

Respectfully submitted,

Lizz Lindsay, Volunteer Executive Director