



COMOX VALLEY FOODBANK

neighbours helping neighbours

Reducing poverty and food insecurity by distributing food and basic necessities to community members in need.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Comox Valley for your incredible generosity and support throughout the first half of 2023. Need has been increasing steadily; March, in particular, was a record month for client visits, food rescue, and volunteer hours -- we served over 3300 visits and rescued over 77,000 lbs of food (with less than 1% eventually going to the garbage) with the help of 570 hours volunteered. Our capacity to meet these demands is possible with support from local organizations and individuals who are committed to reducing food insecurity and poverty.

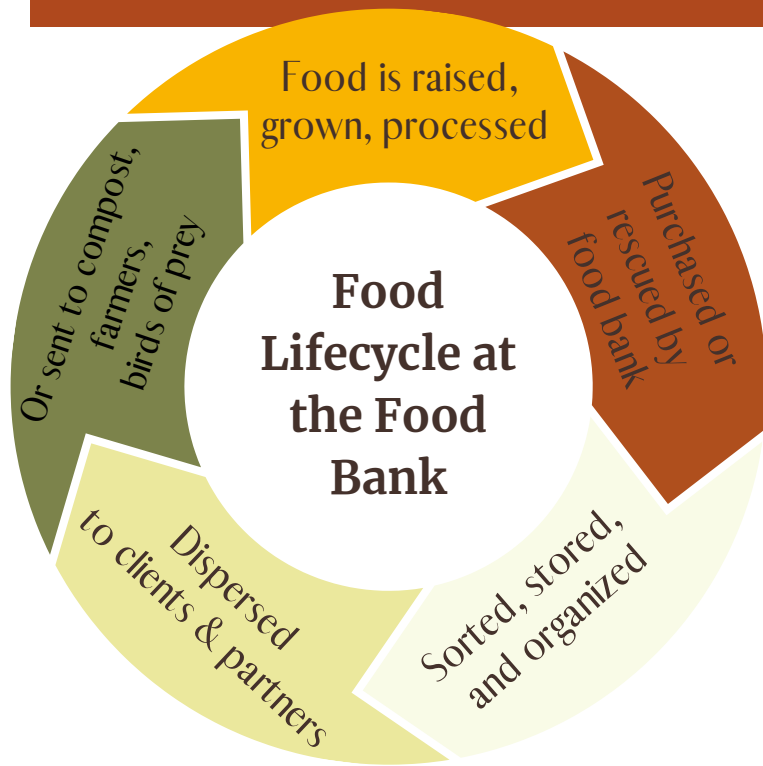
PARTNERSHIPS

We are pleased to announce some new working partnerships that will allow us to expand our offers and capacity to support people in need. Working with Gunter's allows us to provide more local meat options. Our partnership with Arden Farm means that we can grow and harvest our own squashes. And our developing partnership with Comox Valley Arts will focus on engaging the community in meaningful art projects around the food security movement and the values of the Food Bank. Please reach out to us if you have aligning mission and values and would like to work together!



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

So far in 2023, we have focused on: Gathering data and feedback to better understand the food-related needs of the community; increasing communication with volunteers and stakeholders; formalizing routines in the new location; increasing awareness of the work of the Food Bank throughout the community and accessibility to food service for English-language learners; increasing relationships with local farmers and food producers; building the groundwork for the next strategic planning process.



REDUCING FOOD WASTE

By rescuing and distributing food and basic necessities to individuals and organizations through the Valley, we are actively committed to reducing waste across the food lifecycle. Our **new kitchen space** will allow us to more effectively portion, preserve, and prepare foods for distribution, as well as partner with local organizations that are working to increase the availability of hot meals for those in need, such as Sunday Station. There will be some new volunteer opportunities in this space as we look to preserve some of the summer produce for the winter months.

FUTURE PLANNING

We are committed to a hunger-free future and addressing social issues that arise from food insecurity and poverty.

Future projects:

- CV Arts Partnership Project: working to create storytelling art in the client bay and on the storage cans outside
- A larger refrigerated vehicle will be purchased with support from Food Banks BC.
- Renovate parking lot to include more storage space
- **Community Open House: August 11th 2023, 2pm-5pm** - **You're INVITED!** Details to follow on our socials.



TOUR VIDEO

Alongside local filmmaker, Scott Bell, we now have a [tour video](#) showing a visit to the Food Bank. We hope this will build awareness of the services that we offer and reduce anxiety and uncertainty for those using the Food Bank. By July 2023, we will have versions of the video translated into 5 different languages to increase accessibility to the services and process. For more information, visit our website: comoxvalleyfoodbank.ca and register for future newsletters. For weekly updates, follow us on [Facebook](#) and Instagram ([@cvfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/cvfoodbank)). Send us a message or give us a call (1-250-338-0615) to have a conversation about food security.