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To: neiljthomson@rogers.com
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August 2026

Kanata Food Cupboard Summer Update

A Message from Our Interim Board Chair

September marks Hunger Action Month, a time to raise awareness about food insecurity and the role communities can play in addressing it. Demand for food assistance continues to grow, including here in Kanata, but so does our community's response. Guided by our new 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, we are investing in the programs, infrastructure, volunteers and partnerships needed to meet that demand. None of this happens without our donors and community partners. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more responsive Kanata Food Cupboard and ensuring that support is there when local families need it.



Lynn Barclay
Interim Chair, Board of Directors

Planning for the Need Ahead

Increasing demand requires more than responding month by month. That's why KFC has invested in strategic planning and standards to ensure we have the people, programs, systems and community support needed to continue providing reliable access to healthy food into the future.

This year, KFC received **Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence** accreditation, recognizing that our policies, practices and operations meet national standards for food bank service and accountability.

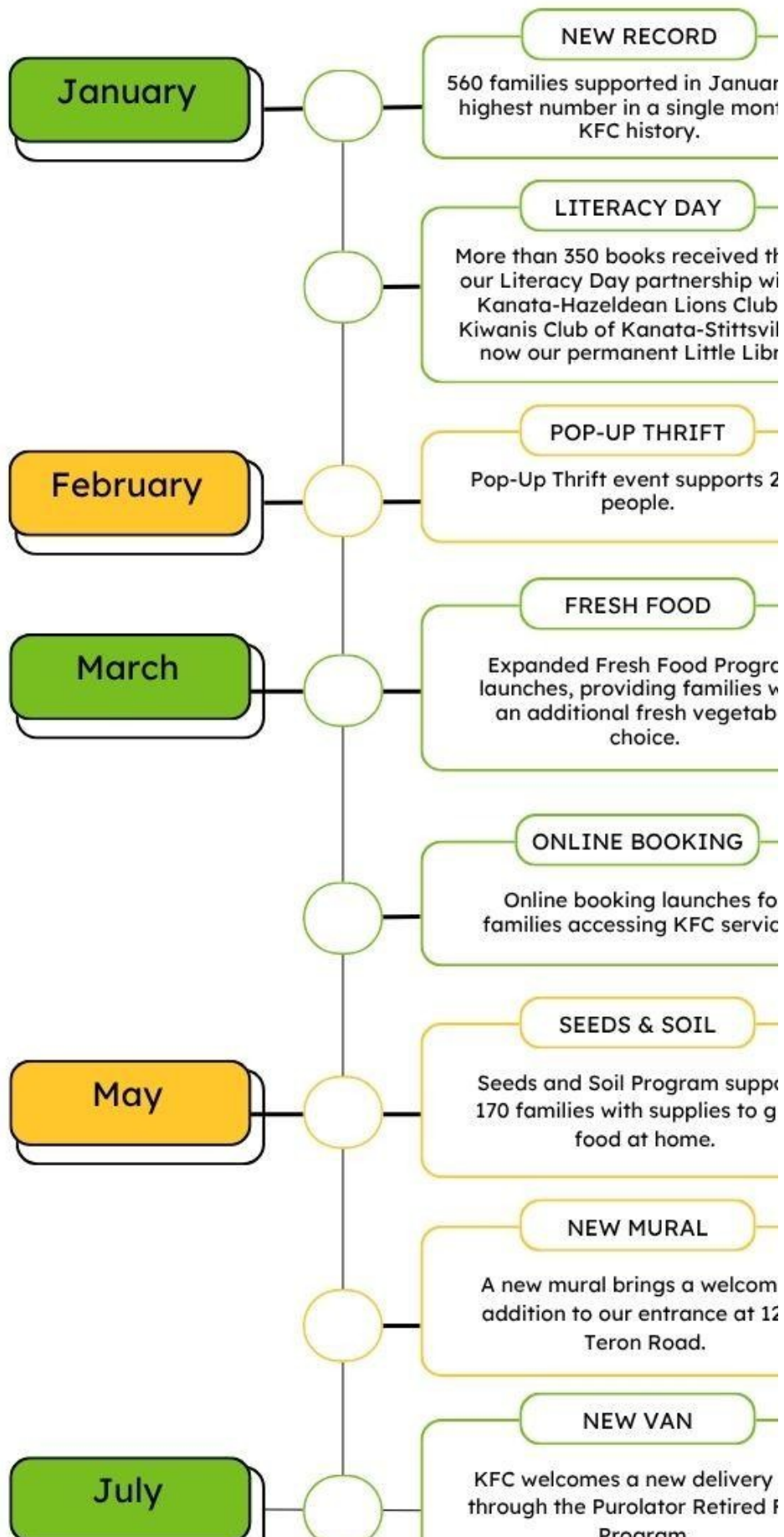
We also delivered the **2025–2028 Strategic Plan** with a focus on four priorities: expanding our capacity to meet growing need, continuing to build a strong and diverse volunteer community, adapting programs as community needs evolve, and strengthening awareness and support for food security in Kanata.

Many of the changes highlighted in this newsletter, from investments in food storage, to expanded programming and community partnerships, are already advancing these priorities. **Learn more about our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan** (<https://www.kanatafoodcupboard.ca/strategic-plan/>)



A Record Number of Families Turning to KFC

In January, the Kanata Food Cupboard supported **560 families**, the highest number served in a single month in our history. It is an important indicator of the pressure many households in our community continue to face. It also reinforces why we are investing now in our capacity to serve more people efficiently and reliably. From expanded fresh food and storage capacity to transportation, online booking and seasonal programs, much of our work this year has focused on ensuring KFC is ready to respond as the need for food assistance grows..



A New Van Helps Us Keep Food Moving

This July, KFC received a delivery van through **Purolator's Retired Fleet Program**, a pilot initiative providing retired vehicles to food banks facing transportation needs. Transportation is an essential part of food banking. Our volunteers collect donations from businesses and community partners and deliver food assistance to community members who cannot regularly travel to our warehouse.

Adding the Purolator van to our fleet increases our capacity to move food where it is needed and gives us another important tool as the volume of food moving through KFC continues to grow.

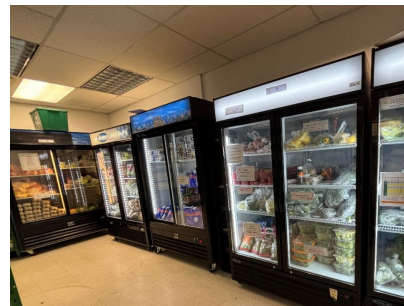
Thanks to Purolator for investing in food security and putting this vehicle to work for our community.



More Fresh Food, More Choice

This spring, we expanded our **Fresh Food Program** to give families and individuals a greater variety of nutritious food choices, including more healthy and culturally diverse options. Two new refrigerators in our store area have significantly increased our cold storage capacity. This means we can stock a wider selection of fresh foods and accept more rescued food from community partners.

For the people we serve, the result is more choice and greater access to fresh, nutritious food. For KFC, it means making better use of available food, reducing waste and increasing the amount of rescued food we can put to good use.



Building Capacity with a New Walk-In Freezer

A new 10' x 14' **walk-in freezer** is another major investment in our ability to respond to increasing demand. This additional capacity allows KFC to safely accept and store larger quantities of frozen food from donors and food rescue partners. It also allows us to offer a greater variety of food while making it easier for our volunteers and staff to organize and manage inventory efficiently.

Investing in infrastructure has had a direct impact on how much food we can rescue, how efficiently we can operate and how reliably we can serve our community.

Pop-up Thrift Events Continue to Grow

Food is our core focus, but we also look for practical opportunities to help families stretch household budgets further. Our February Pop-Up Thrift event welcomed approximately **250 people**, and our August event grew to **290 people**. Donated clothing and household items were made available to participants at no cost. In August, we also held our first **Pop-Up Top-Up event**, providing additional fresh food and grocery items to **65 people**. These events help put useful donated goods directly into the hands of community members while complementing the food assistance KFC provides throughout the year.

Growing Food for our Community

The KFC Garden is now in its fourth year, thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who plant, maintain and harvest it throughout the growing season. Located in Dunrobin, the garden has already produced bok choy, spinach, radishes, dill, garlic, garlic scapes, squash, zucchini, beans, peppers, tomatoes, leeks and eggplant this year, with more still to come. Every harvest adds locally grown fresh vegetables to the mix of food we purchase, receive through donations and recover through food rescue. It is one more way our volunteers are helping us increase access to nutritious food for local families in need.



Helping Students Start the School Year Ready

This August, 843 students registered for our Back-to-School Program, which helps families manage the added costs that come with a new school year. With community support, KFC is helping students start September with the supplies they need to participate and learn with confidence.

Get Ready! Kanata Bites & Delights Returns October 5

This fall, Kanata Bites & Delights returns to Brookstreet Hotel for an evening that brings together local restaurants, beverage providers, and our community in support of the Kanata Food Cupboard. Guests will enjoy food and drink tastings, music and a silent auction, with proceeds helping KFC respond to growing demand for food assistance in Kanata. Last year's event raised **\$27,000**, and this year we are aiming even higher. Every ticket purchased, sponsorship, and auction contribution helps strengthen our **School Snack Program**.

Monday, October 5, 5-9 PM, Brookstreet Hotel. Learn More and get tickets. [Bites and Delights](#)

KANATA BITES & DELIGHTS

October 5 | 5–9 pm
Brookstreet Hotel

Celebrating the finest in local cuisine in
support of the Kanata Food Cupboard

Join us for an evening of
tasty bites, entertainment
and networking



Help Us Grow Our Community

The strength of the Kanata Food Cupboard has always been the community behind it. As demand grows, bringing more people into that community will be increasingly important. Please consider **forwarding this newsletter to a friend**, neighbour or colleague who would like to learn more about food insecurity in Kanata and the practical ways our community is responding.

Thank you for continuing to work alongside us.

Kanata Food Cupboard | PO Box 24011 | Kanata, ON K2M 2C3 CA

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