

The Jewish Food Bank

Report 2013-2014



Poverty in the Jewish Community

Most people living on fixed incomes or earning minimum wage in British Columbia (BC) spend 60% of their income or higher on housing, leaving 40% or less to cover utilities, medication, and clothing, as well as food. With the rapidly growing cost of living, and lower economy, more families are having to access Food Banks for help.

- Currently, 16% of a total of 26,195 Jewish individuals within Greater Vancouver live in poverty. Over the last decade, this is a 28% increase.

- The rate of child poverty among children 0-14 years within the local community is 13.4%, above the provincial rate of 10.4%
- About one in six elderly Jews (65+ years) are poor, but women are twice as likely to be disadvantaged as men
- 7.7% of BC's residents are considered "food insecure" and go without or on reduced food intake. "Now more than ever, many British Columbians depend on food banks to survive"

The Jewish population in Vancouver mirrors that of the larger community

Who we help

The Jewish Food Bank supports close to 400 Jewish individuals each year. 100% of households served live at or below the poverty line and 80% of all households spend at least 60% of their income on rent. All clients are assessed and authorized by a JFSA case worker.

We help:

55 children

248 adults

91 senior adults

Jewish children, women-led single parent households, seniors, and the disabled, are most at risk for food insecurity. Barriers for our clients to obtain food include:

- Lower income levels
- Lack of purchasing power
- Not having accessibility to lower priced food stores
- Mobility impairments

Each time clients visit the Food Bank, they receive approximately **2-3 days worth of food per individual.** The amount of food provided depends on family size.

An individual receives the following:

Bread – 1 loaf	Pasta – 1 package	Garlic – 1
Eggs – 1 dozen	Yogurt – 1 item	Lemons – 2
Canned beans – 1 can	Rice – 1 package	Bananas – 4
Canned fruit – 1 can	Salmon – 1 can	Apples – 6
Canned vegetables – 1 can	Tuna – 2 cans	Oranges – 4
Canned tomatoes – 1 can	Sardines – optional	Cabbage - 1
Kasha – 1 package	Potatoes – 4	
Juice – 1 bottle	Beets – 3	Extras: tea, jam and peanut butter
Macaroni and Cheese – 2	Onions – 2	



3,500 hours of service

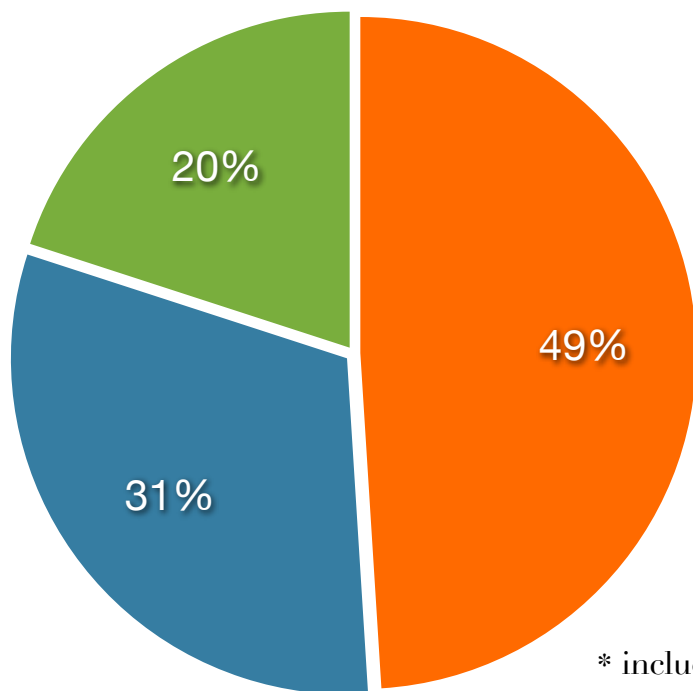
Annually, over **45 dedicated volunteers** provide operational support to the Jewish Food Bank. The volunteers do the ordering, pick up donated goods, set up, as well as deliver to over 40 homebound clients. With additional volunteers for our annual food drives, Project Isaiah, and the newly established Project Sustenance in the spring, volunteers contribute close to **3,500** hours to support this program!



Funding

The Jewish Food Bank is co-sponsored by JFSA and Jewish Women's International – BC. This year the Jewish Food Bank had an operating budget of **\$149,200**.

It is fully funded through the generosity of JFSA donors, the fundraising efforts and donors of Jewish Women's International-BC, gift-in-kind donations of food through various food drive events, such as Project Isaiah during High Holy Days, Project Sustenance in the Spring, and on-going donations collected by community partners. In-kind donations of food make up a value of \$30,000 of the annual budget.



2013-2014 Revenues

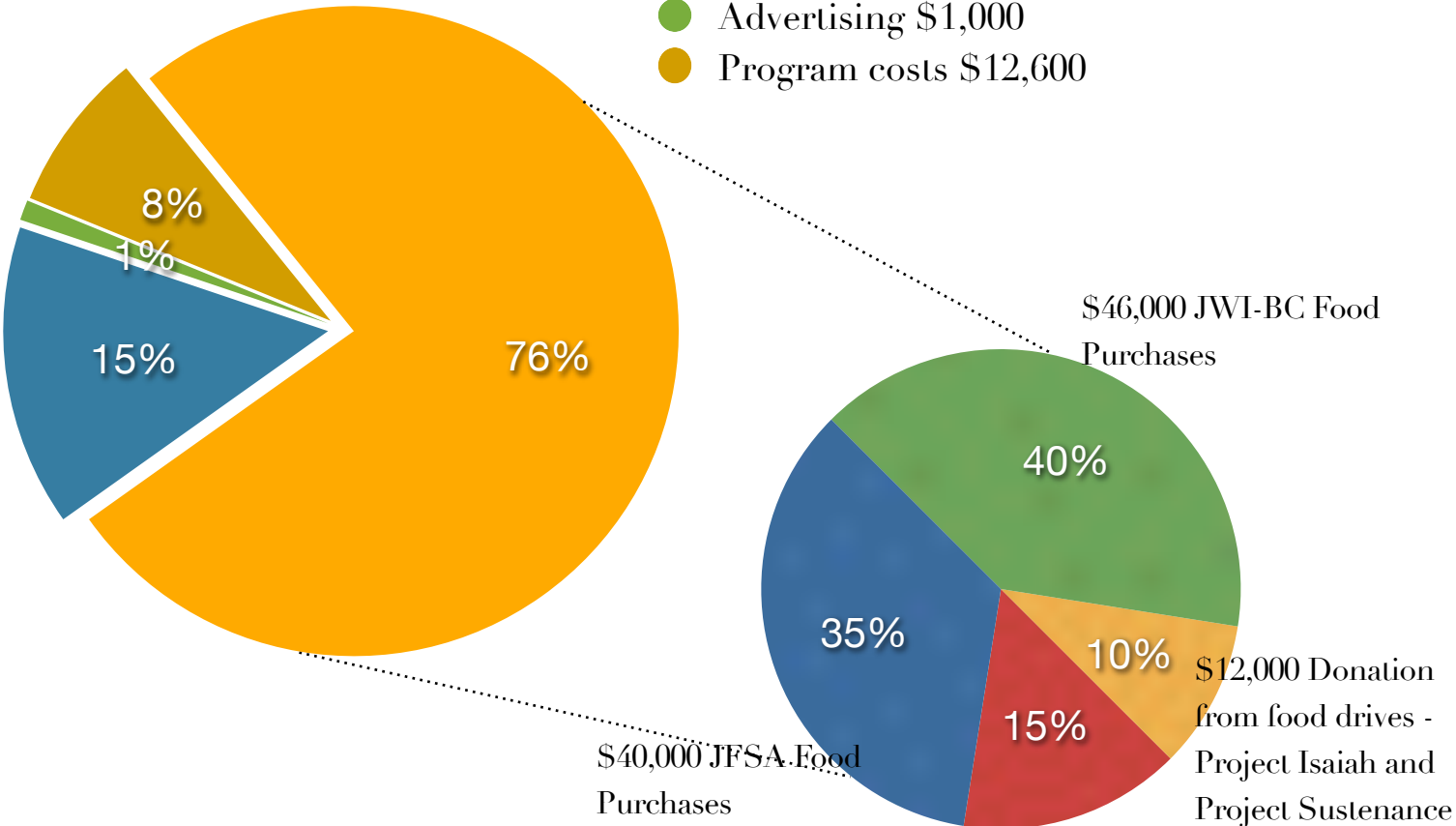
- JFSA Fundraising \$73,200*
- JWI-BC Fundraising \$46,000
- In-Kind Donations of Food \$30,000

* including \$2,300 from endowment distribution, and Federation designated donor gifts

76% of the Food Bank budget goes to food!

2013-2014 Expenditures

- Food \$116,000
- Wages (coordinator and truck driver) \$22,100
- Advertising \$1,000
- Program costs \$12,600



Day Schools
 Synagogues
 Community Organizations
 Corporate Donors
 Local Establishments

Each year, close to **40 community partners** provide on-going food donations, supplies and space to support the Jewish Food Bank. These partners help to lower the cost of operations and play a critical role in our ability to provide what we are able to, to clients.

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Anna's Story

Anna works full-time in the Lower Mainland at minimum wage - \$10.25/hr. She is a single mother to her son, Joseph, who is 10 years old. Before Anna came to JFSA for help two years ago, she had just gone through a difficult divorce and as a new immigrant did not have a strong family support network to help her. With over 60% of her take home salary going towards rent, she felt a great deal of stress, struggling to pay for the basic necessities of living such as transportation, utilities, clothing, school supplies and food. Anna tried her best to stretch her monthly income by purchasing cheaper, low-nutritional food at grocery stores and often skipped meals in order to ensure that Joseph had enough to eat.



JFSA helped give her access to the Jewish Food Bank. As she works full-time, and is unable to come mornings when the Food Bank is open, volunteers help to deliver her parcels to her home. With the support of the Food Bank and by receiving monthly Food Vouchers, she is able to manage and provide nutritious meals for herself and Joseph.

**Thank you for your generous support to help
individuals and families access this important program.
*Todah Rabah!***

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