

King Township Food Bank seeks treasurer

Strong leadership and volunteers have elevated the work of the King Township Food Bank.

It takes a strong team to carry out the work of the Food Bank. They are looking for some help.

If you are financially minded and interested in a rewarding volunteer opportunity where you will make a great difference in your community, you may want to consider joining the board of directors of the King Township Food Bank as treasurer, effective Jan. 1.

Joan Montgomery, the current treasurer, is retiring on Dec. 31 after her two-year volunteer commitment, leaving behind an immaculate set of books and a system of reporting that is transparent, user friendly and easily understood by those without a background in bookkeeping. King Township Food Bank is grateful to Joan for her total dedication, and keen discernment.

A well organized treasury is critical to the effective operation of the Food Bank, with responsibilities including the day to day duties of accounts payable, deposits, and maintaining records that will allow the board, and ultimately CRA to be assured that all is part of good governance, thereby maintaining the excellent reputation the Food Bank has earned.

The treasurer is part of a 5-person working volunteer board, all of whom have excellent professional credentials that they share to bring the very best to the workings of this organization. All share a passion for helping others make ends meet.

Antonette Mollicone, a practising lawyer, is the secretary and ensures the constitutional framework is in compliance with regulations as they apply to charities and not for profits in Ontario (there's a new set of regulations expected soon). Gary Vogan, director of operations, is expert at logistics and statistics and brings his years of experience to create a distribution system that makes the best use of volunteer time while efficiently getting food donations and purchases into and out of the depot. All the while, he keeps exhaustive statistics on the source of donations and export of monthly distributions. Margaret Hastings, our newest board member, has christened the recently created position of director of fundraising with the highly successful Sip & Savour that raised over \$20,000 for the Food Bank. This, in combination with the faithful and generous annual sponsorships by a number of business and perennial donors, has secured financial stability for 2014 forward into 2015.

The annual budget is about \$80,000, with about \$25,000 coming from food donations.

For many, it's hard to see there is need close to home. The Food Bank distributes a week of non-perishable groceries and food cards to about 170 people every month. The demographic is wide, from single people on disability to seniors to large families trying to support three generations. The most vulnerable sector of the population (children, seniors and disabled) account for about 40% of those seeking help. Underemployment is the biggest single cause for seeking help.

With 2015 marking the 10th year of operation, King Township Food Bank is looking forward to entering its second decade of helping make ends meet. It is constantly examining its operations and menus to provide opportunities for healthier options for registrants, along with user-friendly ways for them to receive the food and cards.

You can learn more about the Food Bank at www.kingtowshipfoodbank.ca.

Carol Ann Trabert can be reached at 416-559-7898 to chat about the Food Bank and volunteer opportunities.