



FACTS 2009

Our Mission

Winnipeg Harvest collects and shares surplus food with individuals who are hungry. We are also committed to maximizing public awareness of hunger while working towards long-term solutions to end hunger and poverty. Our ultimate goal is to eliminate the need for food banks in our community.

Through systemic and 1:1 advocacy, Winnipeg Harvest is committed to reducing hunger by 50% in Manitoba. In doing so, we are working with many community partners including individuals who are hungry and living in poverty to create change.

Our goal is to build a community that can claim: we are the “The Best Place to Raise a Child.” That means eliminating the barriers and pain that poverty and hunger impose on people.

Harvest is a founding member of **Food Banks Canada** (CAFB) and adheres to a national code of ethics. We believe in the dignity of all people.

Harvest is a founding member of the **Manitoba Association of Food Banks**

Winnipeg Harvest Quick Facts

- ✓ Winnipeg Harvest is a not-for-profit charitable organization.
- ✓ Winnipeg Harvest began in 1984, founded by Lee Newton, Partnerships Coordinator, and the warehouse opened its doors in 1985.
- ✓ Winnipeg Harvest provides emergency food assistance to over 40,000 people a month. If you think about that – **that would be equivalent to filling the MTS Centre once with adults and once with children.**
- ✓ 45% of people receiving food from Winnipeg Harvest are children. Over 18,000 children each month require emergency food from Winnipeg Harvest. Ten years ago that number was 5,512.
- ✓ One third of the families experiencing hunger are often dual wage-earner families, the working poor. Poor kids live in poor families. No one chooses to be poor, or hungry or to be in crisis.
- ✓ We hear often from parents who realize that food deprivation can affect the development of their young children, and therefore deprive themselves of food first, thus putting themselves at risk for illness.
- ✓ Harvest responds to **two conditions:**
(1) Hungry people (2) Surplus food

Harvest looks to our community for support: (1) money (2) food (3) time



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Hungry children do not live solely in third world countries. Hungry children also live in poor families next door!

Children & Poverty

- ✓ As of 2006, Manitoba has the third-highest child poverty rate in Canada, with 12.4% of Manitoba children living under the after tax low-income cut-off (LICO)
- ✓ Manitoba falls just below Saskatchewan (with a child poverty rate of 14.4%) and British Columbia (with a child poverty rate of 16.1%), but **surpasses the national average of 11.3% by 1.1%**.
- ✓ In Manitoba 47, 000 children (before tax) live in poverty (2006).
- ✓ In Canada, 41% of low-income children live in families where at least one income earner has a full-time job all year. (Campaign 2000 (2007). 2007 report card on child and family poverty in Canada. Toronto: Family Services Association of Toronto).
- ✓ In 2006, almost 62% of poor children in Manitoba lived in families where members together worked the equivalent of one full time full year position. In fact, 10.2% of all children in Manitoba who lived in families where family members worked the equivalent of one full time full year position were poor. Manitoba was the second worst in this regard. (Social Planning Council Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2008)
- ✓ The poverty rate among two parent families in Manitoba is 15%, well above the Canadian average of 11. 2 %. (Social Planning Council Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2008)
- ✓ In the City of Winnipeg the poverty rate for Winnipeg's children rose to more than one in five in 2005, the highest rate among mid size cities across Canada. (Social Planning Council Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2008)
- ✓ Children who recently immigrated to Manitoba are at high risk of living in poverty – a poverty rate of 51.2% in 2001; more than double the rate for the province as a whole, according to Statistics Canada's pre-tax LICOs. (Social Planning Council Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card 2008)
- ✓ 75 community programs, 32 daycares, and 26 schools receive meal and snack food from Winnipeg Harvest to serve children that might otherwise go hungry

The national picture

Winnipeg Harvest and its partners in rural Manitoba fill a need that is above the province's share of the national population. The 40,000+ people we serve every month are about six per cent of the national figure, substantially more than Manitoba's 3.6 per cent share of the Canadian population.



(It is important to note that First Nations communities are *not* included in these calculations (and the poverty rates in these communities are significantly higher than in other parts of Manitoba); thus, these numbers do not accurately reflect the reality of child poverty in Manitoba)

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Poverty and Child Development

Children living in poverty can be affected in a number of ways:

- Poverty and ill health go hand in hand
- Lack of stimulation and socialization
- Unhealthy child development
- Poor school readiness
- Poor Nutrition
- Higher incidence of injuries, burns, and poisonings
- Decrease in the likelihood of having annual doctor/dentist visits
- Greater likelihood of being exposed to environmental contaminants
- Frequent or long episodes of hunger can have harmful and long term effects on the health and development of the child.

Sources: Winnipeg Harvest Inc. Manitoba Health, National Council on Welfare (Poverty Profile), Canadian Council on Social Development, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, Toronto Food Policy Council and Stats Canada