

# 2023



**East End Food Hub**

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The East End Food Hub is a partnership between Applegrove, the Leslieville Farmers' Market and East End United/Nourish East End with a mission to feed our community together.



The East End Food Hub acknowledges and recognizes the land that we are on, which is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is still home to many Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island, including First Nations, the Inuit and the Métis. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. In considering this history, we also acknowledge the deep impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples and the role played by industrial agriculture and our modern food system. We're committed to listening and learning. And improving our Indigenous-focused programs and land initiatives. We stand united with Indigenous communities and other groups who experience marginalization.





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023 was a landmark year for the Food Hub, showcasing significant strides in community collaboration and sustainable growth. A key highlight was our evolution to the East End Food Hub - an outcome of our strengthened partnerships a shared vision of a vibrant and caring East Toronto community, supported by an innovative local food hub whose programs foster equitable access to nutritious food, cultivate local leadership, and encourage ongoing community dialogue and collaboration to advance just and sustainable food systems.

### Key Achievements:

- **Strengthened our partnership model**, through a focus on core partners:
  - Applegrove
  - East End United (EEU) and it's Nourish East End program
  - Leslieville Farmers' Market (LFM), led by the Neighbourhood Food Project
- **Advanced a joint operational strategy** to make the most of our collective resources
- **Expanded community programming**, with a focus on vulnerable seniors

- **Created LFM "BaseCamp"** as a home for food and low-income entrepreneurs.
- Progressed in identifying **sustainable revenue sources for the future** by optimizing the potential of our facility.
- **Facility improvements** to make the Hub more user-friendly and accessible.

It's been a great year. Looking forward we are excited about our deepening partnerships, moving forward on transforming the Sanctuary into a key community space, and focusing on revenue generation through facility rental and social enterprise to support our long-term sustainability.

*Daniel Taylor, Executive Director  
Neighbourhood Food Project*  
*Susanne Burkhardt, Executive Director  
Applegrove*





“The Hub has been really helpful in providing the umbrella for all these different partners and creating a really good environment for everyone to feel comfortable.”

Judy, Head Chef of Food Champions Program



## Applegrove

**Food Champions** initiative empowered community members through food education, food preparation and volunteerism. *417 program visits*

**Seniors Cooking Workshops** let seniors come together to learn about, make and share food from around the world. *78 program visits*

**Seniors Yoga** provided a tailored yoga experience for the older adults who want to stay fit and connect with others. *219 program visits*

**The Applegrove Connection Early On Drop-In Program** offered a welcoming, safe and supportive space for young children and their caregivers. *676 program visits*

The **Youth Leadership Program** offered learning and skills development activities, and increased youth involvement in the community, with youth supporting two local events. *93 program visits*



**“It’s a good environment for us to make connections within the community”**

Carol, Food Champions Program

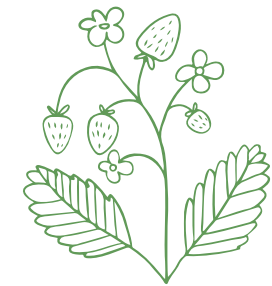
## Leslieville Farmers’ Market

**LaunchPAD Program** helps low-income and food entrepreneurs establish and grow their food-based businesses. Participants have access to our commercial kitchen, production and storage spaces, along with Food Hub mentorship and bi-weekly placements at markets for revenue generation. *5 entrepreneurs supported*

**The Hub Market’s** popularity highlighted our local community's love for local food vendors. *2,343 client visits*

**The CSA Program** at the Hub distributed fresh, local produce to the community. *3,150 lbs produce delivered*

**Club Sandwich**, a community partner of the market, contributed significantly to local food security. *34,730 meals/sandwiches delivered*



**“Being an entrepreneur can be very very lonely, the Hub makes you feel like you are not alone, they [LFM team] create community.”**

Andrea, LaunchPad Program

[VIDEO LINK](#)





## Nourish East End

The weekly Food Bank provides essential food and other supports to the community. *28,590 visits made by 2,372 people*

Monthly Community Dinners foster community spirit and connection over shared meals. *450 dinner guests*

**“I’ve been volunteering for over 6 months now and have really enjoyed the experience. It’s a great way to help others and to give back to the Community that has offered so much to me and my family over the years”**

David W. Volunteer , Nourish East End





**IMPACTS SUMMARY**

**Meeting Community Need**

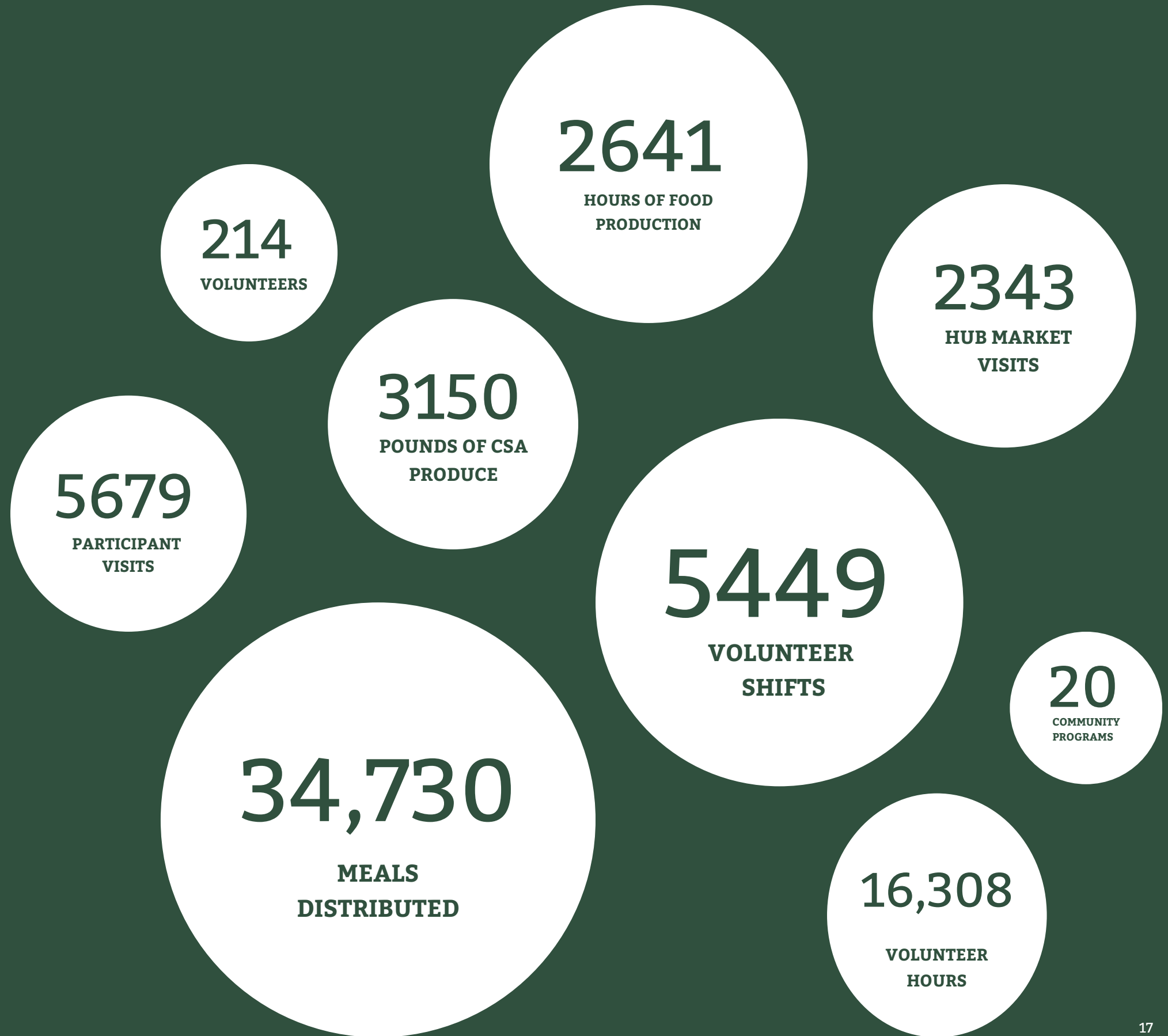
- Community needs were diverse, and ranged from emergency food and free community dinners to learning to cook on a budget and easy access to fresh locally grown and prepared foods.
- Local food security needs are significant. In 2023 2,372 people were served at the Nourish East End food bank and Club Sandwich prepared and delivered almost 35,000 sandwiches/meals.

**More Community Vibrancy**

- A growing mix of markets, community programs, food supports and volunteerism made the Food Hub a dynamic place for people from all walks of life.
- Highlighting the central role of markets in community life and in addressing food insecurity, Leslieville Farmers' Market programs drew nearly half of all visits to the Food Hub and used 75% of available kitchen time.

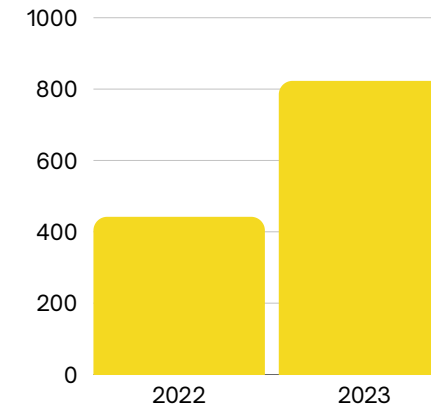
**Creating a Neighbourhood Ecosystem**

- The unique combination of a community agency, food bank and local farmers market creates a constellation of connections and opportunities.
- Examples of Food Hub linkages include market vendors donating to programs, local chefs teaching people to cook and volunteers offering free income tax preparation to food bank clients.

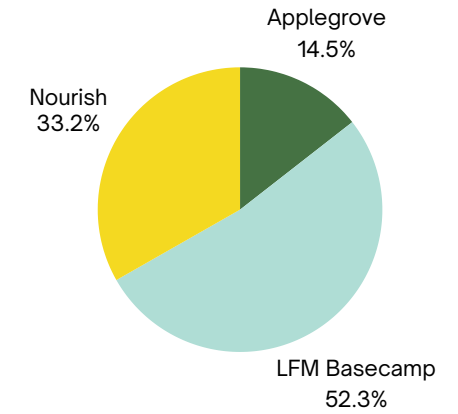


**DATA SUMMARY**

**138% KITCHEN USE INCREASE FROM 2022**



**KITCHEN USE**



A key focus in 2023 was infusing the kitchen with innovative new users that could bring their talents to the East End Food Hub. Small businesses were able to thrive, using the low-cost collaborative space.

As the nucleus of the East End Food Hub, the shared kitchen transforms to provide each user with a collaborative space; fostering innovation, culinary creativity, and entrepreneurship in our community.

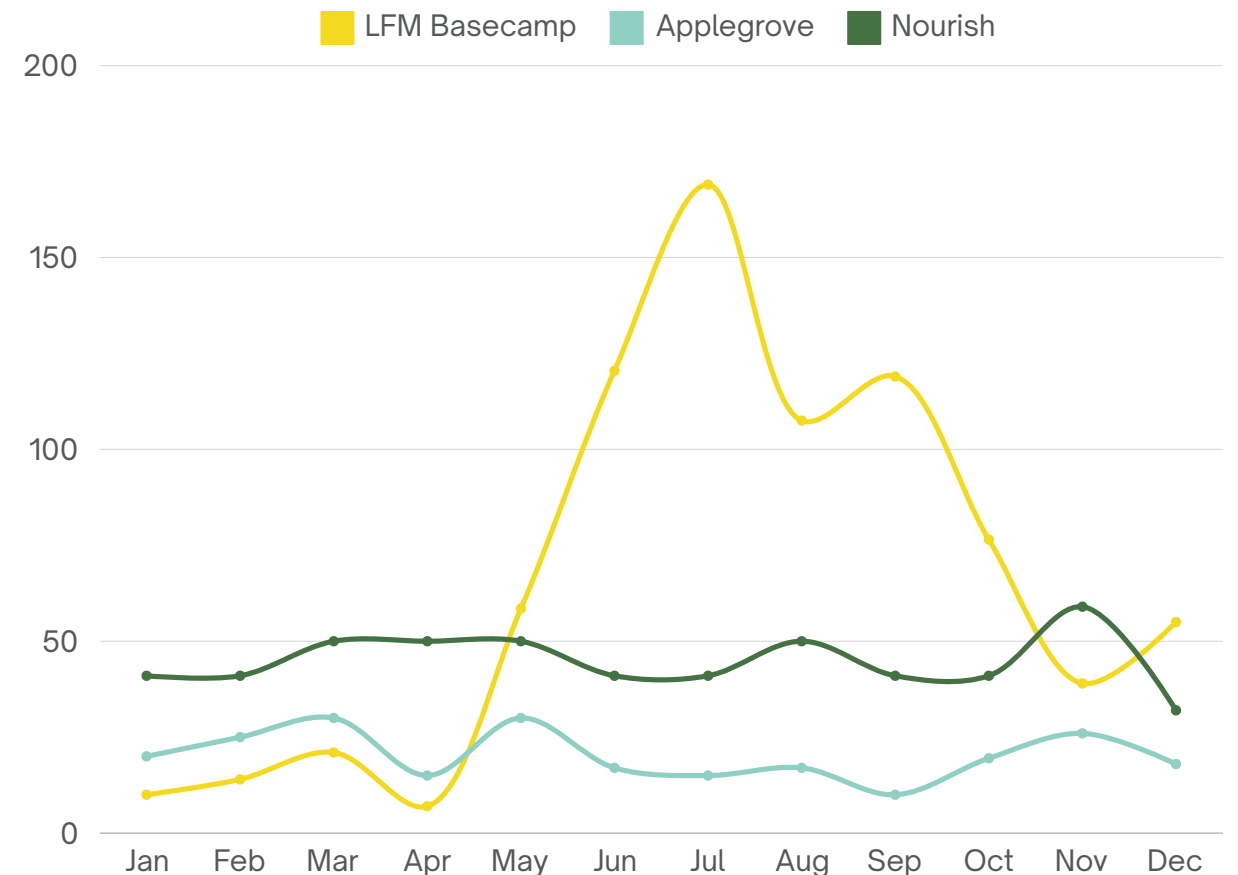
**In 2023, our pilot initiatives saw big success. Kitchen use jumped by 138% from 2022, thanks to the hard work of our partners Applegrove, LFM, and Nourish. Almost two-thirds of activity in our community kitchen came from LFM Basecamp.**

**Our efforts to reach out to the community also bore fruit. 1,424 new people got involved with the East End Food Hub in 2023. Our first community market was a hit, drawing in 38% of these folks.**

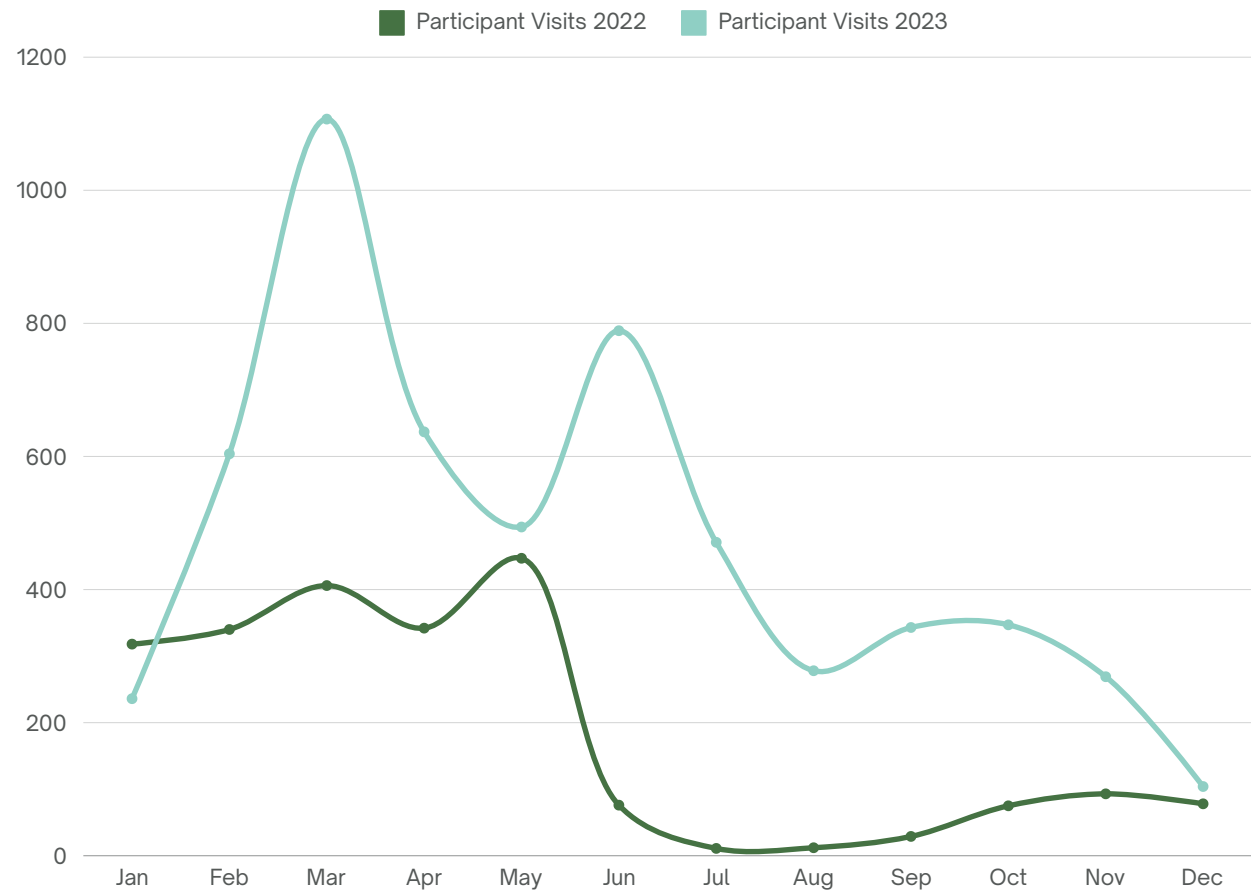
**While Applegrove and Nourish maintained their committed pools of volunteers, Club Sandwich experienced significant growth in volunteer engagement, with numbers increasing from 58 to 99 volunteers—an impressive 52% rise**

**Our programming, support for small businesses, and the teamwork between our organizations are making a real difference in the community. Together, our impact is stronger.**

**KITCHEN USER HOURS**



### PARTICIPANT VISITS



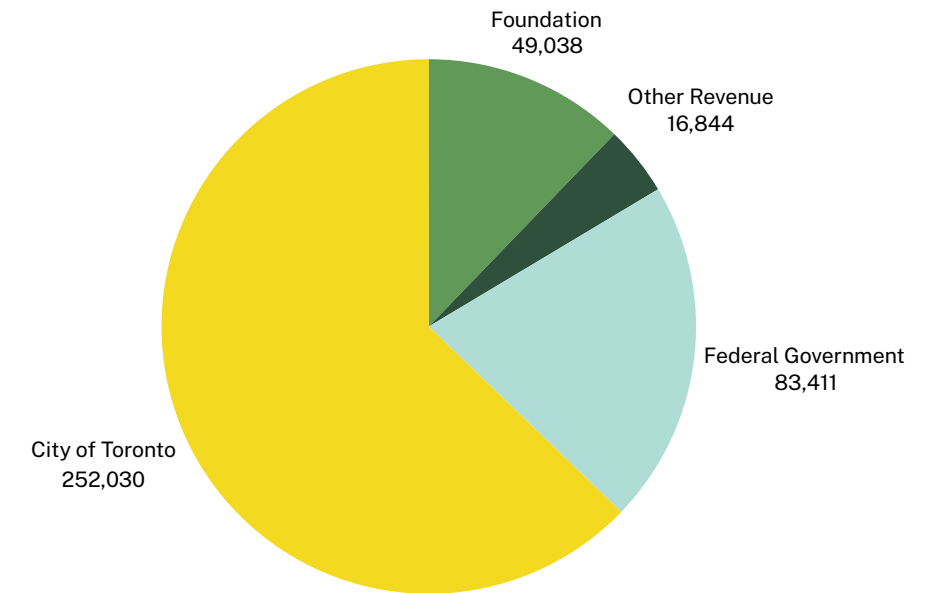
After three years focused on responding to pandemic-related food response, 2023 provided space to open our doors to the general public and introduce programming targeted to reviving the space and its users. Participant visits went up 131% in 2023.

↑ 131%

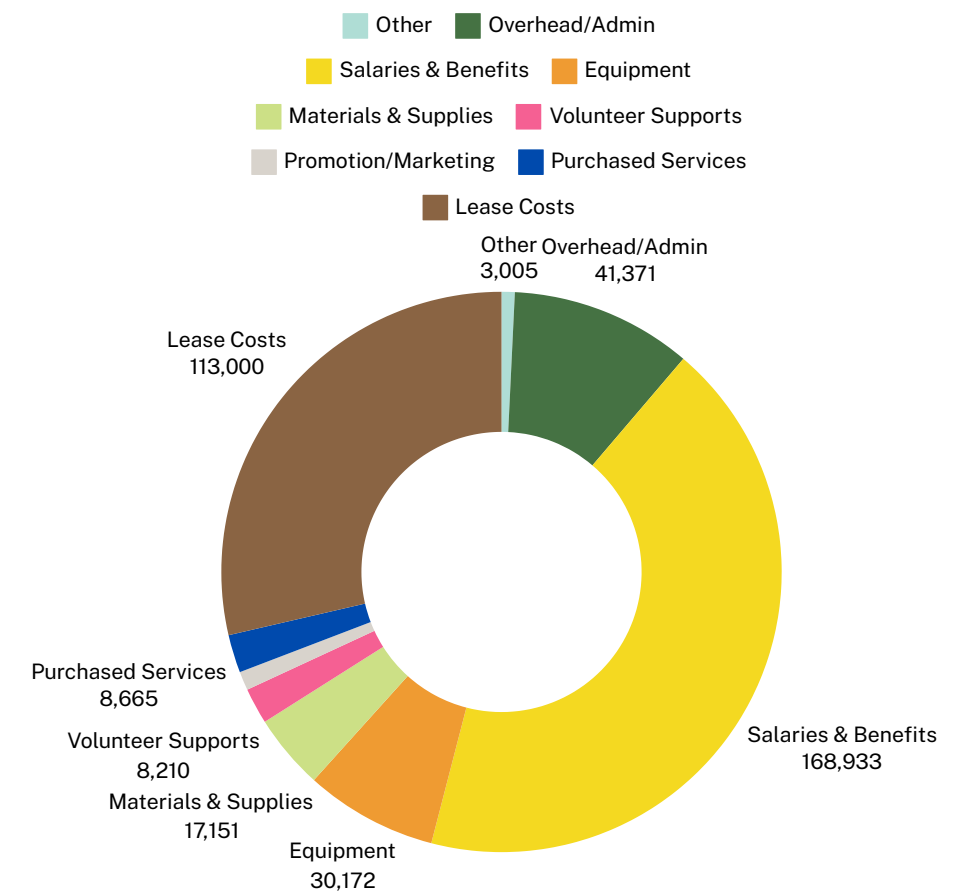


**FINACIAL SUMMARY**

**REVENUES BY SOURCE**



**EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY**



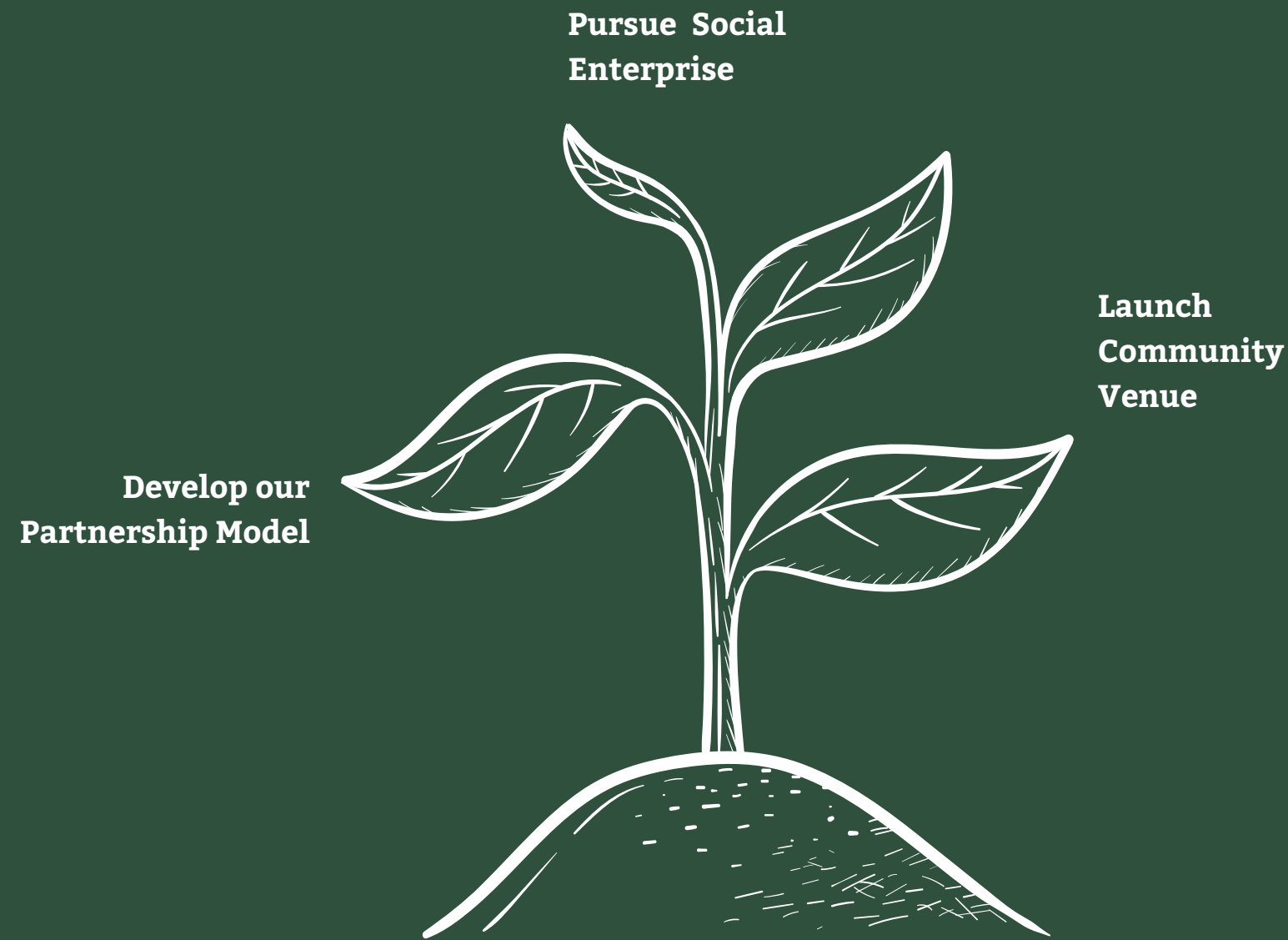
The East End Food Hub is a partnership initiative. The City of Toronto provides funding for facility rental and to support day-to-day operations. Additional revenue is generated through grants, donations, space use fees and other activities.

The Food Hub is coordinated by Applegrove and the Neighbourhood Food Project. The information provided below reflects dedicated funding secured for the Food Hub in 2023 by these organizations. It does not include facility and program investments or the significant in-kind contributions made by Nourish East End / East End United and other Food Hub partners.

**2023 REVENUE \$401,323**  
**2023 EXPENDITURES \$389,782**

# Looking Ahead

We are thrilled to announce our plans to refine partnerships, explore social enterprise, and unveil a vibrant community venue. Through strategic alliances, we aim to innovate and make a positive impact, while our community space fosters connection and creativity.



**Follow us on social media  
[@eastendfoodhub](#) for live updates  
on our next phase of growth!**

“The role that the Hub has taken as cultivators and supporters, cheerleaders and problem solvers has really positively impacted our business and I think they're doing everything that they can, but I think there's still a lot of potential here. And I think with the right support, that there's just so much more they can do.”

Melanie, LaunchPad Program

