

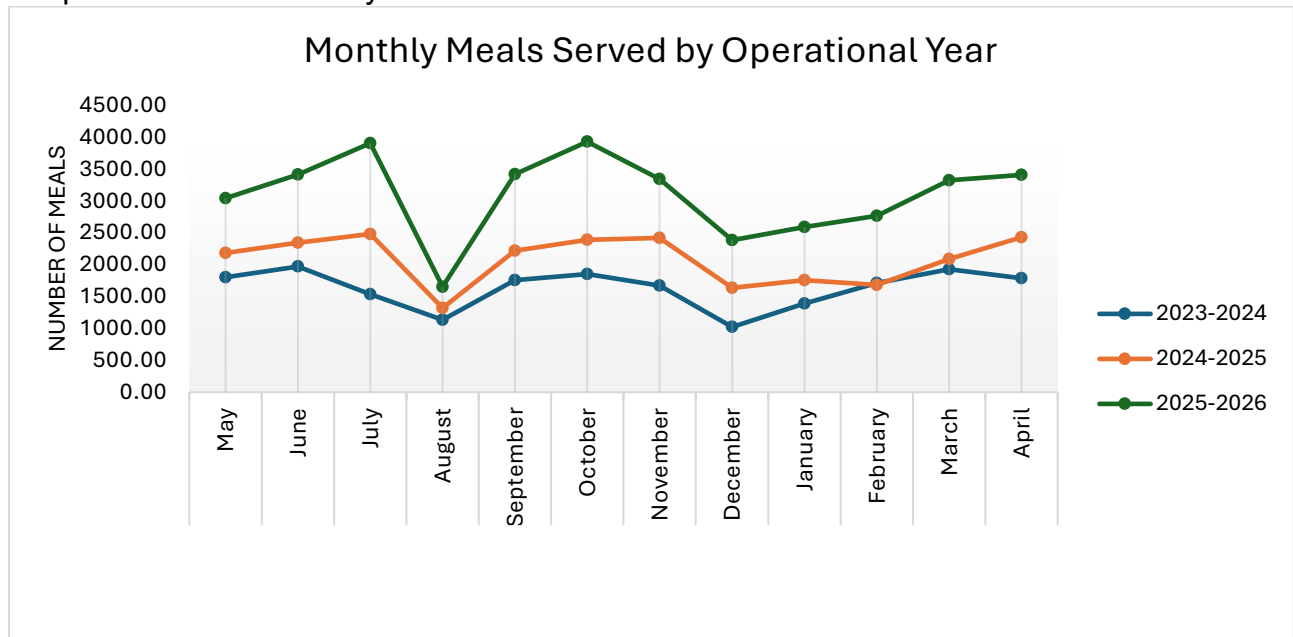


## St. Joe's Supper Table 2026 Annual Report

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### Meal Programme

Graph 1: Meals Served by Month



We are currently averaging approximately 145 meals per day and anticipate continued growth over the summer months. As illustrated in graph 1, in January 2026 alone we served more meals than in any single month during 2024. Between May 2025 and April 2026, St. Joe's Supper Table served approximately 37,000 meals. This represents an increase of approximately 49% over the previous operational year (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Year-over-Year Increase in Meals Served

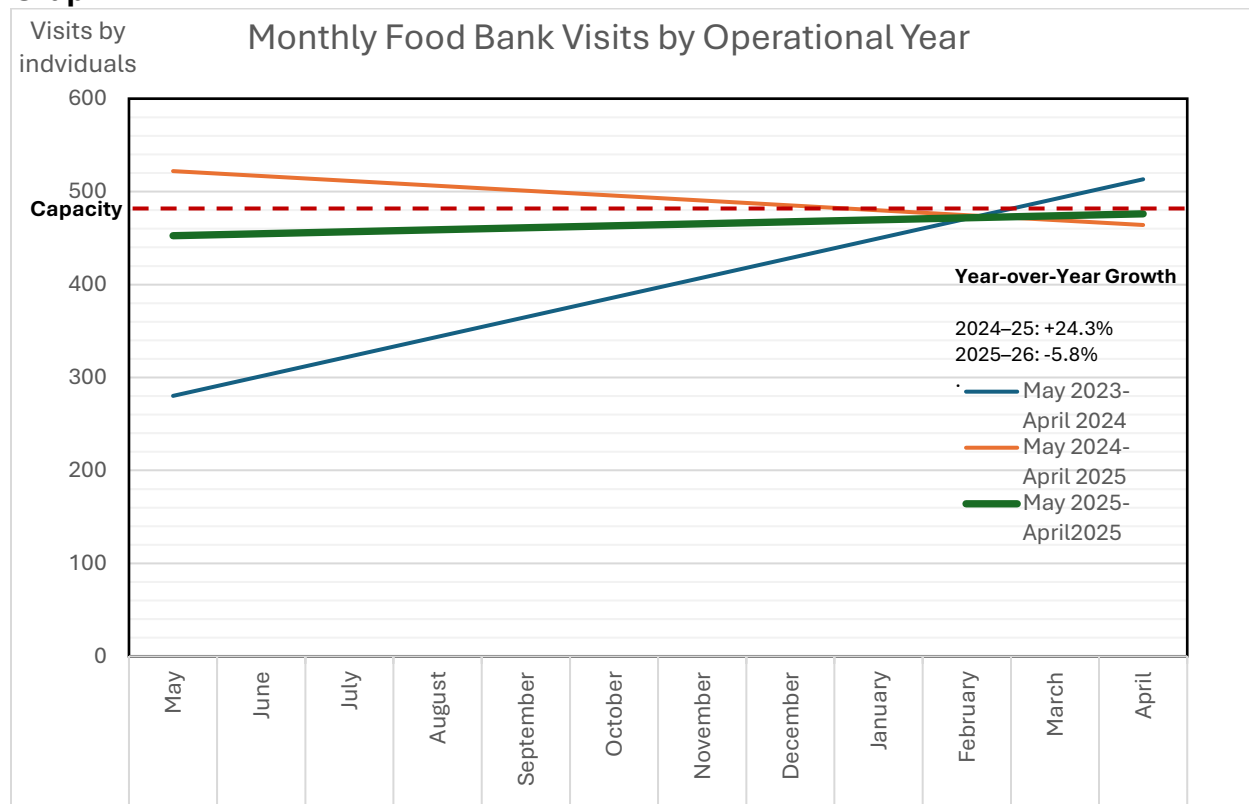
Operational Year	Total Meals Served	YOY Increase
May 2024 – April 2025	24,969	27.53%
May 2025 – April 2026	37,193	48.96%

The programme is now approaching the operational capacity that can reasonably be supported by current staffing and volunteer resources. Without additional support, we anticipate the possibility of needing to turn clients away during periods of peak demand.

## Food Bank

In response to increasing demand and a turn-away rate of approximately 15%, we transitioned our food bank programme from a drop-in model to an appointment-based system. This change has improved our ability to plan for the number of households served during each food bank session and has significantly reduced turn-aways, which had previously reached between 10–15% of all households seeking support. Clients were often turned away because food supplies had been exhausted or because they resided outside our catchment area. The appointment model has allowed us to better manage limited resources and improve fairness and predictability for clients accessing support.

**Graph 2**



Despite a slight decrease in attendance growth this year, trend analysis suggests continued pressure on the programme as we approach the operational limits of the appointment system. Our current appointment capacity is approximately 480 individuals per month. At present, we experience an approximately 15% no-show rate, and appointments are modestly overbooked in order to account for these absences. There is currently an approximate 10-day wait time for appointments, and we expect this delay to increase as demand continues to grow. Due to the programme's limited operational hours, we can no longer guarantee appointments every 30 days for all clients.

The increased demands associated with food bank operations and appointment management led to the creation of a part-time Programme Assistant position. We hired J-F Magerano to support food bank operations, including volunteer coordination, client support, and meal programme assistance. The growing complexity of the food bank increasingly occupied a significant portion of the Manager's time, making additional staffing necessary.

## **Fundraising and Community Support**

This spring, the Fundraising Committee was formally launched. Members include Gord Gleddie, Torin Assal (Secretary), Janet Mann, Karen Oprea, and Chair Nelani Coletti.

- The Bytown Catering Annual Golf Tournament, now in its 23rd year, raised approximately \$5,500 for the Supper Table.
- Additional support came from the Parish Choir through performances of *Vivaldi Gloria* in the spring and the *Lessons and Carols* service at Christmas, as well as concerts hosted by the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir (ORYC). Together, these concerts raised approximately \$15,000.
- The Supper Table also held its own Autumn Fundraiser, raising approximately \$6,500. The event celebrated our ongoing partnership with the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir through its "Songs for the Supper Table" concert series, which has brought together choirs from across the region, including groups travelling from Montréal.
- The Supper Table entered into a mutual support agreement with Lower Town Community Resource Centre and Centre Espoir Sophie. Through this partnership, collectively all three agencies received a sum \$25,000 per year over a two-year period from the Ottawa Food Bank. St. Joe's role within the partnership is to prepare meals distributed through the Lower Town Community Resource Centre.
- Additional grant support included:
  - \$9,500 from the Congrégation de Notre-Dame Visitation Province
  - \$2,000 from the Sisters of Charity Halifax Charity Alive Fund in support of the food bank
  - \$20,000 from the Ottawa Food Bank toward staffing costs
  - \$35,000 from the Ottawa Community Foundation Canyon Fund in support of staffing

The volunteer team has now grown to over 100 volunteers. As the organization continues to expand, volunteers require increasing levels of coordination, training, supervision, and support. For the first time since I became Manager, the Supper Table has developed a volunteer wait list.

## **Finances**

The Supper Table currently maintains approximately \$100,000 in reserves. Last year, the programme operated with a surplus of approximately \$30,000.

As demonstrated in the Value-Added Statement included at the end of this report, the Supper Table generates over \$850,000 worth of community impact annually. This means that for every dollar donated, approximately three dollars of value are returned to the community through meals served, volunteer engagement, food bank support, and related services.

## **Challenges**

As both the food bank and meal programme continue to grow, the organization is facing increasing pressure on available space. Additional storage capacity is needed to safely and effectively manage the increased volume of food entering the programme. Renovations to expand programme space are estimated to cost approximately \$35,000–\$45,000.

The organization is also facing challenges related to aging equipment. This year, major repairs and replacements were required for the air conditioning system, range hood fan, and portions of the kitchen stove, at a total cost of approximately \$11,000. Additional aging equipment, including a chest freezer and washing machine, will likely need replacement in the near future.

Staffing continues to be a significant challenge, particularly because the programme does not receive stable government funding to support staffing costs. Staffing remains the largest expense within the Supper Table, and wages are currently below market rate. This creates instability within the staff team and increases the likelihood of staff turnover. Long-term staffing solutions will be necessary as the programme continues to grow. While volunteers remain the backbone of the organization, they require ongoing supervision, coordination, and support.

In-kind donations continue to play an important role in supporting programme operations; however, the organization frequently receives items that cannot be used within the programme. Managing and disposing of unwanted donations requires additional staff time and financial resources. Although lists of needed items are regularly shared with the public, unusable donations remain an ongoing operational challenge.

As demonstrated throughout the graphs and charts included in this report, community need continues to increase rather than decline. The Supper Table must continue building resilience and operational capacity across both the meal programme and the food bank in order to respond effectively to this growing demand.

## **Year Ahead**

This year, Jason Jacques of the Steering Committee undertook a strategic clarity exercise with the organization. One of the major outcomes of this process was the identification of volunteer and client experience as a central organizational priority, with a particular emphasis on dignity, accessibility, and community belonging. The exercise also recommended that the next phase of development be handed to the Steering Committee to determine whether the organization wishes to move forward with a formal strategic planning process.

Over the coming year, one of the organization's primary goals is to increase monthly donors by 50%. Expanding monthly giving will help create greater financial stability and predictability for programme operations. Additional priorities include increasing programme visibility across the Diocese and transitioning the Programme Assistant role into a permanent position.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and donors for their continued support of the Parish's social justice ministry's including our meal and food bank programme. Without the ongoing commitment of our parish community and external partners, the Supper Table would not be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our neighbourhood