



The Gratitude Report 2024



Table Of Contents

pg 02 Our Mission
pg 02 Message From Board & ED
pg 02 Land Acknowledgement
pg 03 Summary Of Programs
pg 04 Children's Services
pg 05 Emergency Food Assistance
& Treasures
pg 07 Violence Against Women
Prevention Programs
pg 08 Staff & Volunteers
pg 09 Thank You

Our Mission

To support individuals and families by providing resources, advocacy, and education through the agency's three program areas of Children's Services, Violence Against Women Prevention, and Food Security.



Message From The Board President & Executive Director

Aanii, Bonjour, Hello.

Together as a Board, Executive, Staff, Volunteers and Community, we have experienced significant change again this year. Not only did we enter the second year of our Strategic Plan, all staff and volunteers in our Emergency Food Assistance and Violence Against Women Prevention programs were still mandated to wear masks for the first quarter! With the support of our passionate Board Directors: Leanne Bentley (Vice-President), Yana Bauer (Secretary/Treasurer), Jillian Peltier, Margit Alberti, Valerie O'Leary and Leslie Fields, who never stopped believing in Manitoulin Family Resources, their expert guidance has allowed us to stay on course, as we continue to navigate and do all we can to support the communities we serve, through invaluable resources, advocacy and education.

Every single service we provide, every program we operate, would not be possible without the hard-working staff and volunteers, who are all dedicated, compassionate, and resilient. We are able to provide the level of support and programming the community needs because of you. Thank you for being the difference makers.

We would like to acknowledge the increased community awareness and engagement with ALL the programs and services MFR provides. It is because of thoughtful stewardship and relationships with community partners that these relationships enable us to provide wrap-around care to everyone who accesses our services.

In closing, we would also like to thank our many funders. The support we have received from our governing agencies is much appreciated. Thank you, not only from all of us, but from the community as well. With full hearts we look forward to another successful year in supporting individuals and families in our community. We couldn't do what we do without you.

With gratitude and respect,

Suzanne Norris, Board President Colleen Hill, Executive Director

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Manitoulin Family Resources is privileged to operate on the traditional and treaty territory of the Anishnabek Nation, specifically the Odawa, Ojibway, and Pottawatomi Peoples, known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We believe it is important to recognize the Anishnabek Nation for their care for this territory, and also to acknowledge the historical impacts of colonization, including the ongoing intersection of violence against women and food insecurity within the legacy of colonialism. In light of this history, may we dedicate ourselves to moving forward in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and reconciliation, as we learn together and contemplate the possibilities that lie ahead.



78
children
in our
daycares



4588
community
members
served



50
women
and children
sheltered

Children's Services

Manitoulin Family Resources believes quality children's services' programs revolve around building positive relationships through the four foundations set out in the Ministry of Education's "How Does Learning Happen?", ensuring a sense of belonging, well-being, expression and engagement for our children and families. From home-settings to centre-based care to access to child development programs and resources, we help parents find the connections that are the right "fit" for their families' and their children's needs.

Emergency Food Assistance & Treasures

Through its Food Bank/Food Hub and Thrift Store, MFR provides great buys on household items, clothing, and other donated items while raising funds to provide emergency food to struggling families and individuals. This program has contributed emergency food assistance to residents of Manitoulin Island for over 25 years.

Violence Against Women Prevention Programs

Our goal is to advocate for the safety of women and children and help them on their road to recovery after abuse or violence. We provide a wide range of reliable, accessible, and accountable services to women and children who are at risk of, or in the process of recovery from, exposure to abuse or assault. Whether you require crisis support, safety planning, counselling, or help with transitional planning to rebuild your life after abuse, we hope that there is a service offered through Manitoulin Family Resources that is right for you.

Children's Services

We have had a very busy and exciting year in Children's Services with many changes in staffing and leadership. The need for childcare on the Island and surrounding area continues to be a challenge, with MFR experiencing more than 100 families waiting for care. Our team continues to be professional and dedicated to providing the highest calibre of care in our daycares, home daycares, and EarlyON centres, together with the guidance and insights of our pedagogy lead.

Staff Training and Professional Development in 2024

- 🍏 Two staff successfully completed Car Seat Inspection training and MFR continue to offer car seat clinics with community partners.
- 🍏 Two staff are now trained to provide Hearing Screenings to our families.
- 🍏 Four staff attended "Journey Together – Keeping Our Fire Going" conference in Sudbury to learn more about Indigenous culture and how we can respectfully include their practices into our programs.
- 🍏 All staff completed Mental Health First-Aid.

We continue to strive to meet families where they are in all ways and began offering Parent's Night Out and Beach and Park Days in many different communities across the Island. These have been a resounding success and we have plans to expand in 2025.



Emergency Food Assistance & Treasures

The community needs our support now more than ever. This year we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of households the Food Bank/Food Hub has served. Between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, the Food Bank/Food Hub served a total of 4,588 individuals (1,635 households), a 7% increase over 2022-23, and a 46.2% increase over 2018-19 (pre-Covid times).

- 🍏 28% were first-time visitors
- 🍏 72.4% of food bank visits were by Indigenous clients
- 🍏 children & youth (0-17) represented over 1/3 of all visits
- 🍏 over 50% of clients visited only once or twice during the year

New this year are Starter Home Kits for women and children moving out of the MFR shelter, spearheaded by our volunteers. These kits contain items an individual might need to begin setting up a new home: bedding, dishes, pots/pans, towels, etc. Distribution is coordinated through Frontline and Outreach staff.

Food Bank/Food Hub staff are a valued participant in the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board, newly launched By-Name List meetings. These cross-agency meetings monitor and assist unhoused and underhoused community members in the area in securing housing.

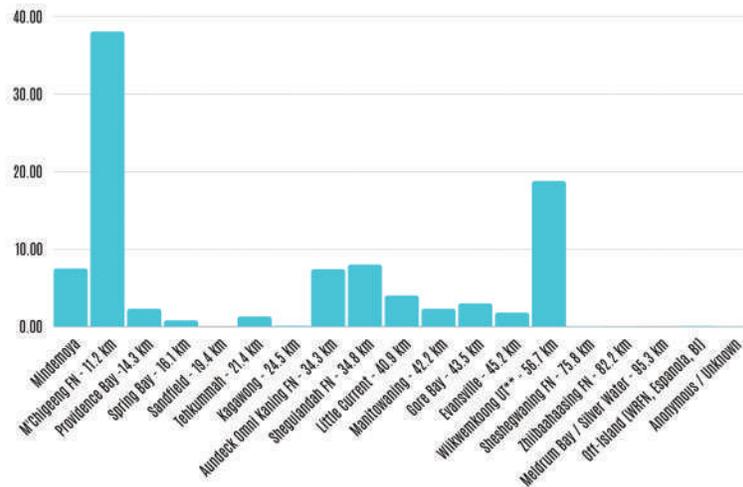
We are grateful for the following grants that have allowed us more fulsome supports for those we serve:

Food Banks Canada’s Access Grant allowed the launch of a Community Hub Delivery (pilot) Program, to bring much-needed food closer to clients without access to transportation. This funding also allowed us to purchase culturally relevant foods for Indigenous community members, including fresh, local fish and Ontario wild rice, both purchased from Indigenous suppliers.

Food Banks Canada’s Standards of Excellence Grant allowed us to hire a consultant to assist us in preparing for accreditation by Food Banks Canada (FBC). FBC has released a new set of standards which all food banks are to be measured against by March 2025.

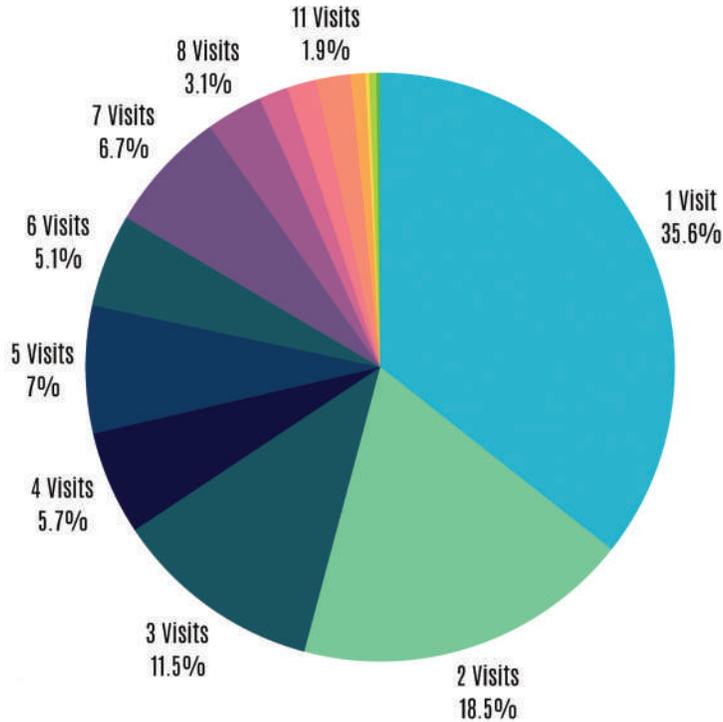
Food Banks Canada’s Menstrual Product Pilot provided free menstrual products to our Food Bank/Food Hub community. We included these products in our new toiletries “grab and go” station, which is located just inside the food bank doors. This has greatly reduced product waste and helped to enhance individuals’ dignity.

**Usage
By Community
2023-2024**



Emergency Food Assistance & Treasures

Frequency Of Client Visits Annually



Number of Visits Per Year	Number of Clients	% of Clients
1	464	35.6%
2	242	18.5%
3	150	11.5%
4	74	5.7%
5	92	7.0%
6	67	5.1%
7	88	6.7%
8	40	3.1%
9	21	1.6%
10	21	1.6%
11	25	1.9%
12	10	0.8%
13	3	0.2%
14	5	0.4%
15	3	0.2%

* The number / percentage of clients who have visited X number of times in the year

We are grateful for all the local support we receive from food drives. Highlights this year include:

The Island Singers and Manitoulin Community Choir held a very successful benefit concert in support of the food bank/food hub in June 2024. The event raised around \$1,400.

Joseph Caulfield, seasonal resident of the Island, hosted cycling food drive in which he rode from Manitowaning to Mindemoya, collecting food donations along the way. In total, he collected 250+ lbs of food!

The Municipality of Central Manitoulin held a Fill-a-Loader event as part of their Road and Farm Show. In total, they collected over 265lbs of food.

Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lion’s Club held a food drive in October and were able to donate 417lbs of nonperishable food and fresh pumpkins.



Violence Against Women Prevention Programs

This year saw significant change within the Shelter through a Women's Shelter Canada Grant that allowed us to complete a "refresh" throughout the entire building. We planned, we purged, we painted, we repaired and we organized – the result: a warm, welcoming and caring environment that promotes healing and wellness for the women and children who cross through our doors in times of need. Through the generosity of Royal LePage North Heritage Realty, Leanne Lewis and Team we were able to create the Lewis Library in the Shelter, which is quiet and confidential space that women and children can use for virtual meetings, filling out online paperwork and homework. It is filled with books, resources, a computer and comfy seating.

Members of our Outreach Team participated in numerous professional development opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge to better support the women in our community. Two highlights include:

- Psycho-Sensory Interventions: Informed and Integrated Mental Health Strategies for Treatment of Trauma
- Anti-Human Trafficking Rural Symposium

Haven House partnered with Noojmowin Teg Health Centre and their MMIWG Cultural Support staff and together we were able to offer in house culturally safe programming to the women and children staying with us. We are also a community hub for their mobile mental health van that comes to MFR monthly to support women in Haven House and Food Bank/Food Hub members.

47 women and 3 children were housed with us during the year. We continue to experience a lack of housing which creates longer stays in the Shelter. 605 crisis calls were answered.



MFR

Box 181
Mindemoya, ON
POP 1S0

General Administration
705.368.3400

Violence Against Women
Prevention Programs
Crisis Line: 705.377.5160
Toll Free: 1.800.465.6788

Children's Services
705.368.3400

EarlyON Child
& Family Centre
Little Current ext. 236

Little Current Child Care
ext. 234

Home Child Care
ext. 235

Mindemoya Child Care
ext. 223

Emergency Food
Assistance & Treasures
705.368.3400 x 242
cell 705-886-2362

General Email
info@mresources.net

Website
www.mresources.net

Staff

Thank you for your support and willingness to grow and learn and help during times of change. Your kindness, professionalism, and collaboration are noticed and appreciated. Grateful.

Jackie Smith
Ned Martin
Ainslie Michaels
Jayme Blouin
Allison Sloss
Jessica Pelland
Nicole Jol
Amanda Roy
Nicole Spry
Kaitlyn Sorbara
Autumn Buratynski
Patricia Hurst
Barbara Brethat
Katrina Wilhelm
Bethany Williams
Leslie Burnett
Sabrina Ferguson
Brendan Allen
Diana St-Pierre

Lindsey Varey
Catherine Van Egmond
Madisen McAllister
Shelly Deforge
Marnie Hall
Crystal Robinson
Marissa McCready
Susan Wilson
Danielle Bourgault
Tracey Jenkins
Denise Leblanc
Michelle Pyette
Tyler Hore
Diane Rouse
Mikaila Kennedy
Vanessa Glasby
Morgan Leblanc
Hannah Chapman
Hunter Shawanda

Katherine Lee
Jenna Hunter
Shaylee Taylor
Colleen Hill
Shonagh Bowles
Eden Beaudin
Lucie McCutcheon
Kaylee Furstenau
Jaime Kennedy
Yvonne Bond
Tammy Weber
Maiya Durocher
Keera Holley
Marilyn Magi
Chelsey Clark
Patricia Mader
Susan McLeod
Madonna Andress

Volunteers

We would like to extend our continuing gratitude to our incredible team of volunteers who make the work we do possible. Without their dedication, we would not be able to operate at the capacity that we do. Thank you!

Aili MacDonald
Colleen Cyrene
Joel Lock
Mary Scott
Sally Cox
André Lacroix
Dorothy Glasby
Julia LaFontaine
Mona Lewis
Sharon Stephens
Anne Erickson

Emily Moggy
Karen Turgeon
Pam Beattie
Susan Croteau
Anne Mills
Faye Moore
Linda Hagen
Patricia Mader
Suzanne Cary
April Rostron
Jacques Vaillancourt
Madeleine Rancourt

Paul Demers
Terry Mackenzie
Barb Wilton
Jo-Ann Carlisle
Margaret Hrystak
Rita Gordon
Tom Scott
Beth Forsyth
John Carlisle
Marie Leeney
Roseanne Luscombe



facebook.com/manitoulinfamilyresources



@manitoulinfamilyresources

**Thank you to our entire community.
We couldn't do what we do without you.**

Funders



www.mfresources.net