2018 IMPACT REPORT

YOU PUT FRUIT TO GREAT USE.

Your support brings together a dedicated community of individuals who put Toronto's bounty to incredible use. Read on to find out who and what you supported this season!
20,884 POUNDS PICKED & SHARED

You made quite an impact this year!

You helped rally together 320 tree registrants and 1,600 volunteers who together made sure delicious local fruit didn’t go to waste.

"If one wants to positively contribute to the sustainability of food in Toronto, what better way than to spend a couple hours with new peers in a joint effort to rescue and preserve fruit to share?" - NFFTT fruit picking volunteer
7,806 POUNDS DONATED

1/3 of each harvest went directly to a social service agency.

In Toronto, 12.6% of households are food insecure, and we know that the risk of food insecurity is significantly greater for low-income families.

Together, our social service partner agencies provide meals to over 4,000 people every fruit season. Without NFFTT donations, many of these agencies wouldn’t be able to include fresh fruit in the meals they provide. Your support means increased access to fruit in your community all season long.
Meet Pavan from Na-Me-Res

Na-Me-Res (the Native Men’s Residence) is just down the street from the NFFTT office, and is one of our key partners. They generously provide storage for two of our cargo bikes and equipment sets. In 2018 alone, they received 747 pounds of fresh fruit from our volunteers.

“Food is a very important part of the services we provide. It’s that sense of belonging and home. You know, the smell of food cooking...the kitchen is the heart of a home. We need clients to be able to be a part of that.” - Pavan

THE IMPACT

"Working within the shelter system, access to fresh food is important and isn't always as accessible as we would like. I think it’s really important that our residents have that access to fresh fruit and food in the summer." - Pavan, Program Manager at Na-Me-Res
The Impact: Sistering

"The fruit, such as cherries, grapes and plums, is used for the daily fruit portion for our lunch and evening meals that feed over 300 Sistering participants a day at two locations. In addition, the fruit gathered is also given to women to take home who couldn’t otherwise afford it. NFFT is an important source for us considering how expensive fruit is. It is a huge savings and gives us access to fruit for participants, which we wouldn’t otherwise have."
- Trish, Food Access Worker

The Impact: YWCA Woodlawn

"We are very grateful for all the fruit donations here at Woodlawn. Deliveries mean a lot for our home here, as folks generally do not have access to fruits because they are expensive. The mulberries were a great treat, as most folks had not tried them. In particular the white mulberries were divine! We included them in a salad for our community meal."
- Elaine, Craft and Food Activator
75 SUPREME GLEANERS TRAINED

These superstar volunteers lead every pick that happens.

Without the dedication and commitment of Supreme Gleaners, our work would not be possible. Thank you for supporting their training last season!

Meet Supreme Gleaner j wallace

2018 was j wallace’s first season as a Supreme Gleaner. He led an incredible 10 picks and harvested 346 pounds of fruit! j wallace got his taste for fruit and preserving as a kid while spending summers at his grandparents’ farm on the border between England and Scotland.

"I led six cherry picks this year and people were so excited when I dropped off cherries. Cherries are expensive, and are one of the more rare donations. People at Sistering and The Stop on Davenport were particularly excited — folks would offer to buy them as I was on my way in, and it’s great to be able to say they’re not for sale, but you can have some." - j wallace
Meet Supreme Gleaner Melissa

Melissa set a new record for herself in 2018, by leading an astounding 31 picks and harvesting 1,690 pounds of fruit!

What inspires her to pick? In her work at South Riverdale Community Health Centre, she sees first hand people who are experiencing food insecurity and can’t afford fresh fruit. Why let fruit go to waste when so many people can put it to good use?

“I think it would be such a shame if fruit in this city is wasted when it could be going to people who can’t afford it or agencies who couldn’t afford to buy it for their clients.” - Melissa
1,600 FRUIT PICKERS VOLUNTEERED 3,200 HOURS

Your support made these meaningful opportunities and connections possible at 383 picks this season.

We caught up with a few of our volunteers to ask what inspires them to pick fruit with Not Far From The Tree.

Meet Volunteers Cayley and Gracie:

"Living in a city we often forget there are these fruit bearing trees. We are a habitat and an ecosystem, and not an entirely urban space. I think it’s good to remember that. It gives you a different perspective on a space you’ve called home your entire life."
- Cayley, Fruit Picker

"There’s so much food in this world, and when you go a fruit tree you realize how much it bears. People think food insecurity happens because there isn’t enough food in the world. But there really is. There’s food everywhere, but obviously it is about the distribution of it."
- Gracie, Supreme Gleaner
Meet Supreme Cleaner Heidi

“The whole idea makes so much sense. There’s free food that’s being wasted and there are people who love picking it and they love eating it, and they might not be able to afford it otherwise. Organizing this community of people to facilitate not wasting that food is so smart, and so simple. I find a lot of fulfillment in that I’m contributing to this community.”

Meet Fruit Picker Kai Fai

“Before I started picking with Not Far From The Tree, I was basically walking down the street with my head down, looking at the sidewalk or right in front of me. During that summer where I was picking trees, I started looking up — you just notice fruit everywhere! And then I started thinking to myself, what are all the other sweet trees in Toronto? So I bought myself a guide, and started walking around and sort of looking and trying to identify all of the various types of trees we have. I think 89% of trees I could identify now. It’s not that hard though, you just have to spend time looking up.”

Meet Fruit Picker Eva

“I thought sharing was an absolutely brilliant idea. I grow my own raspberries and I have a huge serviceberry tree on my front lawn, which has been very prolific this year. I find sharing fruit with agencies that need the food meaningful, because so many people in lower social and economic brackets do not get enough fresh fruit. This is one way of getting them some.”
"I think that food is incredibly important. It’s a basic need of life. To provide that and to help in any way is incredibly important for community.” - Jessica

Over 1,800 homeowners have generously registered their trees with our picking program. It’s thanks to these homeowners opening their front and backyards to the community that NFFTT volunteers can pick and share thousands of pounds of fruit each season.

Meet Tree Registrant Jessica

This season, volunteers harvested 18 pounds of mulberries from her yard. Jessica moved into her house in January and had no idea she had mulberry trees until the old homeowners confirmed it and suggested she offer them to Not Far From The Tree. Thank you Jessica!
Meet Tree Registrant Jim

Jim has been a NFFTT tree registrant since 2017. This season, volunteers harvested 51 pounds of apples from his yard. Jim was inspired to get involved with Not Far From The Tree because the organization reflects his family’s values.

"Working with Not Far From The Tree is one way our family supports those in our community who do not live in abundance — it is a justice issue for us. It is also one way we live with respect in creation. Planting and maintaining our apple tree is a small contribution to our environment and our city."

"It's a justice issue for us. Working with Not Far From The Tree is one way our family supports those in our community who do not live in abundance". - Jim
17 Community Events Held with 7 Different Partners

“Food brings people together. Without food there is no conversation. When you share food, people can start to talk.” - Ashrafi, Garden Coordinator at Regent Park Community Food Centre

In 2018 you brought a picking and preserving workshop series directly to 7 different social service agencies across Toronto. Their members participated in 9 fruit picks, 6 preserving workshops, and two cider pressing events. This series brought together over 400 people who put 850 pounds of fruit to good use!

Pictured above: Ashrafi, Garden Coordinator (right), Pamela, NFFTT volunteer (middle), and Guinevere, Regent Park CFC staff member, turning grapes picked early in the season into delicious jam!
AT A GLANCE: PICKING & PRESERVING WITH PARTNERS

268 jars of preserves & 44 pies

30 serviceberry trees picked by Regent Park Community Food Centre at Ryerson University

850 lbs of fruit put to good use

51 jars of applesauce made with Mike Layton & Scadding Court Community Centre

200 lbs of pears picked by Na-Me-Res residents
The season was bountiful in fruit and community connections.

Your support means the world to us.

You stopped 20,884 pounds of fruit from entering the waste stream.

You provided 7,806 pounds of fresh fruit to those who benefit from it most.

You inspired Torontonians to open their backyards to community at 383 fruit picks.

You provided meaningful skill-building opportunities to 400 members of our partner agencies.

You created countless memorable experiences for people across Toronto.

Thank you for making 2018 a wonderful season!
LOOKING FORWARD, WE PLAN TO:

Save more fruit

It’s estimated that 1.5 million pounds of fruit grows in the city every year. Together we picked 1% of that in 2018 - only a drop on the bushel! On the plus side, the potential to pick and share fruit across Toronto is huge! We need your support in expanding our program to new neighbourhoods to pick and share even more fruit. In 2019 we’re launching a new pick scheduling technology that will set the foundation for expansion, and we can’t wait to show it to you.

Steward the urban orchard

Without healthy trees, though, we won’t have enough fruit to go around. Toronto’s orchard is aging, and is also facing the impacts of climate change. If we value fruit as a city, we need to start properly caring for fruit trees. In 2019 we are launching the Orchard Stewards Training Program to empower a group of fruit tree stewards to care for our city’s fruit trees.
Deepen partner agency programming

We want to continue bringing programming to the communities served by our partner agencies. Cider pressing, special picks, and preserving and baking workshops raise awareness about our urban orchard and the amazing things that can be done with the bounty it has to offer. There’s so much we can learn from each other and we want to continue bringing people together and starting conversations around fruit.

Replenish the urban orchard

The city is losing fruit trees every year due to old age, disease and extreme weather. To ensure we have a bountiful orchard for years to come, we need to start planting fruit trees now. That’s why on June 1st, 2019, we’re hosting a "Tree for Me" event where we’ll be giving out native fruit trees in our community.

Raise awareness of food insecurity

1 in 7 households are affected by food insecurity in Toronto, and as the cost of living continues to rise, the issue can only get worse. We’ll support and amplify the important work of our partners – addressing inequality, increasing food access, and advocating for basic income reform – to find long-term solutions to this issue that affects far too many in our city.
A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

$120,000
The Sprott Foundation

$30,000 - $65,000
City of Toronto
TD Bank Group
Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation

$10,000 - $15,000
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*Thank you also to those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous in public materials.*
There is this immense amount of food and fruit being grown locally that’s going to waste, when we have people who are hungry. That’s generally leading to even greater emissions when we could be using that fruit in such a smarter, better way — building community and feeding people who need it and helping people connect and come together. It’s a really special and important project that allows us, in one small way, to help fight climate change. It really does tie all the threads together.”

— Jordy Gold, Steering Committee Member

Not Far From The Tree is a project on Tides Canada’s shared platform, a registered Canadian charity. BN130560188 RR0001