

It was one of those moments I knew I would remember forever – standing with a heavy heart in the eerily quiet kitchen of our restaurant packing up the remaining food as the lock down orders came into effect. Unaware of what the future held; it was without hesitation we were delivering our nutritious food to the Food Bank where it would be given to people in great need. Little did we think, it would be us one day on the receiving end – the Coronavirus pandemic had surprises in store for us all.

As the days of uncertainty turned into weeks and the weeks of changing restrictions turned into months, our dreams of owning our own restaurant and potentially surviving this literal massacre dwindled. Having gone through the anguish of laying off our handful of staff, we were determined to do anything needed to keep our business alive. We continued to pay our bills, ever hopeful that the restaurant closure measures would have a quick end in sight. We put additional attention towards ensuring the atmosphere that surrounded our children within our home was one that projected feelings of optimism and positivity for the future - though deep down, we knew we could not financially keep our status quo for much longer.



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Before this dreadful year, we had been long-time donors to our local Food Bank and certainly never believed we would be in a position to utilize its services as clients. The time quickly came where we simply needed help. As a family, it was a difficult decision to digest and accept. Our nerves, however, were instantly calmed upon arriving at the Food Bank. We were respectfully welcomed into their non-judgmental environment and greeted with warmth and a feeling of community.

As we rode the wave of ever-changing business restrictions and lockdowns, the Food Bank was there for our family. We utilized their services for two months, without which, I am not quite sure what we would have done. We have a new understanding of living at the poverty line and the courage it takes to access the Food Bank. We received a basic need, when we needed it, and we are eternally grateful.

The ability to re-open our restaurant this summer was an incredible relief, however, the road has not been an easy one. As fall has arrived and winter is right around the corner, our concerns over the uncertainty of business levels leaves a heavy burden on our minds. I am unable to say at this point whether or not we will be reaching to the Food Bank for their help once again.

When we were approached to share our story, we were of course hesitant. For those of you reading this, I want to let you know that during our time of true need, the Food Bank was there. Be it for a brief period, or an extended one of financial stress, the Food Bank will welcome you too and show you the strength our community has in raising one another up again.

We will remain donors when possible and grateful past users in the future. We urge you to please consider supporting this community-minded organization if you are able. *They really do share food, and truly feed hope.*

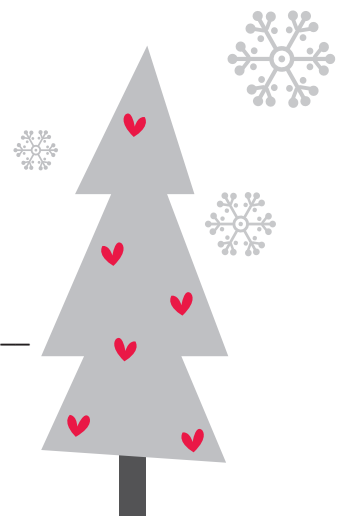
Help us create a Merry Christmas for all.

Jim Bates
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19CR (609)

Enclosed is my donation for the Kamloops Food Bank: \$20 \$50 \$75 Other: \$ _____

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to Kamloops Food Bank
- I want to be part of the Kamloops Food Bank monthly giving program (see reverse side of this form)
- I prefer to use my credit card: VISA MasterCard AMEX



Card Number

Expiry Date

Signature