



Coordinated Food Access for At-Risk Seniors



The Concern:

Many seniors living in extreme isolation and poverty go hungry due to barriers that prevent them from accessing a foodbank.

The Facts:

Food insecurity is an increasingly prevalent issue among seniors, with the number of seniors visiting foodbanks increasing by 10% in 2017 (Ontario Association of Food Banks, 2018). This trend is expected to increase as the population ages. (Research conducted by Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan (2019))

The Solution:

As a member of the Seniors At-Risk Community Collaborative (SARCC), Banyan proposed that key organizations collaborate to pilot a Coordinated Food Access model in targeted seniors' buildings. This would combine the services, knowledge and strengths of multiple partners to wrap food related supports around at-risk seniors in a more comprehensive way.

The Result:

The Ontario Trillium Seed Grant funding opened the opportunity for Banyan's Grocer Ease program to lead and organize a pilot project with community partners to link low-income isolated seniors to the Food Bank for needed groceries.



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Positive Change:

Using Banyan's criteria for the Grocer Ease program, along with the Salvation Army food bank criteria, CityHousing Hamilton identified 45 clients in six of their Supported Housing buildings that required a Food Bank delivery. To date, Banyan has completed the client intake with the Salvation Army, inputting the information into the Food Share data base. Salvation Army packages the food and coordinates with Banyan staff to deliver packages to all clients once a month.

