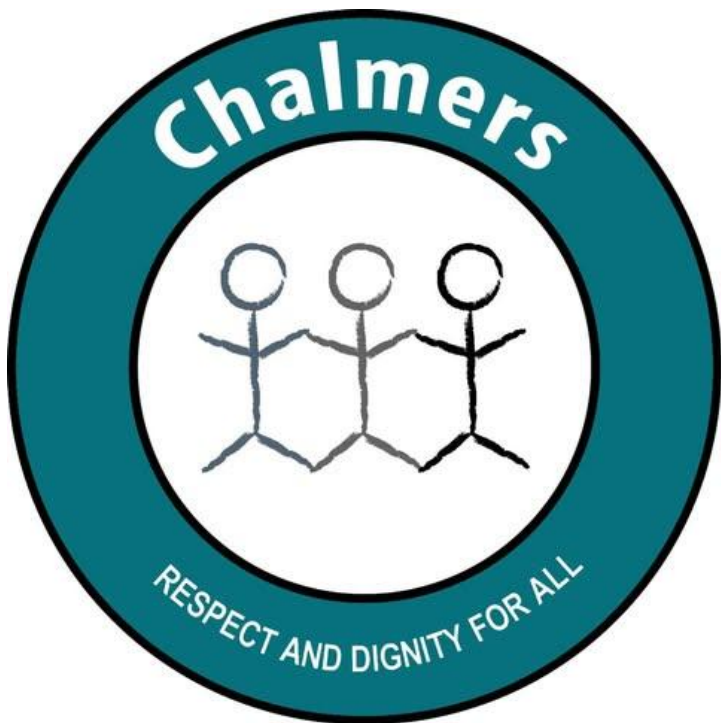




2025



ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board Chair Report	3
Executive Director Report	4
Treasurer’s Report	5
Financial Summary	6
Changes and Growth	7
Program & Volunteer Report	8
Donation & Communication Report	9
Chalmers Programs	10-11
Impacts 2025	12
Agencies that Support Chalmers	13
Food Agencies that Support Chalmers	14
Strategic Plan	15
Chalmers Leadership Team	16
Financial Donors 2025	17



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Guelph is situated on treaty land that is steeped in rich indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people today. As citizens of Guelph we have a responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live and work. Today we acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples on whose traditional territory we meet, live, volunteer and work.



OUR MISSION

To advocate for and deliver practical, meaningful programs that empower guests, and alleviate food insecurity.



OUR VISION

A community without poverty, where people flourish with dignity and respect.



OUR VALUES

Dignity | Cooperation | Accountability
| Diversity | Inclusion



BOARD CHAIR REPORT



In 2025, Chalmers provided a safe place for many Guelph residents who experience food insecurity. It was a team effort. Our ninety dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly on the food lines, and during our cafés at our west location, 577 Willow Road and downtown at 41 Macdonell St.

Our volunteers served guests with a smile and ensured that there are welcoming spaces where guests can have friendly conversation, while receiving healthy nutritious foods. Our Board of Directors worked hard behind the scenes, overseeing the operations of Chalmers. Before someone is asked to be on the Board of Directors, that person will probably have served Chalmers in another capacity.

Chalmers benefited from the work of a stellar staff in 2025. Crystle Avery, the Executive Director, Dakota Kersting, Donations and Communications Coordinator, and Joanna Wegman, Program and Volunteer Manager, worked creatively to fulfill Chalmers' mission. Mary Heyens kept our facility safe and clean. David Chiswell of Royal City Bookkeeping also continued to support us.

Communication is key to any organization. Good communication travels in many directions: inside and outside, up and down. Meetings with volunteers, a strong social media presence, volunteer and donor newsletters, open houses, all aided in making Chalmers strong. Commitment and communication strengthen Chalmers.

I would like to pay tribute to Pat DeVries (1938-2025), who started Chalmers over 30 years ago at what was then Chalmers Church. Pat was a "just do it" kind of person. She saw people in downtown Guelph who could not meet their needs for food and were unable to get to the Food Bank, which was away from the downtown area. Pat requested and received food from members of Chalmers Church to share with people who had limited resources. Many of the churches regardless of denomination started to support the efforts of Chalmers Church. From the humble beginnings to the present, Chalmers is committed to being a welcoming place. If you walk through the door, you can be assured that you will be treated with respect and dignity.

Thank you to Janet Wood, the Past Chair of the Board of Directors. As Chair, Janet was dedicated to careful shepherding of the Chalmers organization. A committed volunteer, Janet even took on the role of the Executive Director in 2024 at a time of rapid staff and board change. Now, thanks to Janet, all board members receive training in governance practice, allowing us to steer the organization safely into the future. Chalmers owes the current stability of the organization to Janet and her leadership.

Rhondda Lymburner
Board of Directors, Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



It was a real pleasure to be part of Chalmers in 2025. Small but mighty, Chalmers is a charity with a big heart. We saw many changes in 2025 as the needs in our community continued to be very evident. Through the concerted effort of a small part-time staff and an army of dedicated volunteers, Chalmers continued to make a significant impact for the vulnerable community of Guelph.

At a time when nearly 10 million people in Canada — including 2.4 million children — are now living in households that struggle to afford food (Statistics Canada, 2026), Chalmers is committed to meeting the needs of folks experiencing food insecurity.

One of the highlights of 2025 was the amazing increase in the amount of donated food that Chalmers received. Chalmers made a number of new connections with food organizations that resulted in this increase. As a result, Chalmers only purchased forty-three percent of the 236,120 lbs of food distributed in 2025. Our café and food pantry guests were very grateful for the vast array of food choices that we were able to offer and Chalmers rarely ran out of food during our food pantry distributions.

Many operational changes took place in 2025, resulting in staff changes, enhanced collaboration with volunteers, hosting two open houses and a concerted effort to keep our programs open and running on all statutory holidays. As we know, hunger does not take a holiday. Facility changes included new commercial fridges, a new dishwasher, replacement of all of our aging computers with new technology donated by Green Tec, changing our guest registration program, and reorganizing the facilities to accommodate the additional food donations and guest visits.

My sincere gratitude goes out to all of the Chalmers volunteers and part-time staff who ensure that we are able to consistently provide these crucial services to our community. I am also truly grateful to all of the donors and organizations that recognize the importance of the work that we do and continue to support Chalmers. We are all working hard to achieve Chalmers' vision of a community, without poverty, where people flourish with dignity and respect. Together, we are making a huge difference in the lives of food insecure families and individuals in Guelph.

Crystle Avery
Executive Director



TREASURER'S REPORT



Thanks to donors, staff and volunteers, Chalmers' financial position is sound. We have the financial resources in place to ensure that we can continue to meet our objective of providing support to individuals and families of low or modest income in need of food.

Chalmers has increased the amount of food provided to its guests by 24% over 2024 levels. By sourcing a large part of our food from aid organizations such as The SEED, Global Medic, and Harvest Hands, as well as food donations from local churches and schools, Chalmers was able to give more food to individuals and families in Guelph. This level of impact could only be achieved through the dedication of our volunteers who reliably welcome, portion, distribute, and support our guests.

Through focused social media outreach and communication with our donors, cash donations from individuals increased by 16% reflecting a growing awareness and support of the important role that Chalmers plays in addressing food insufficiency in Guelph.

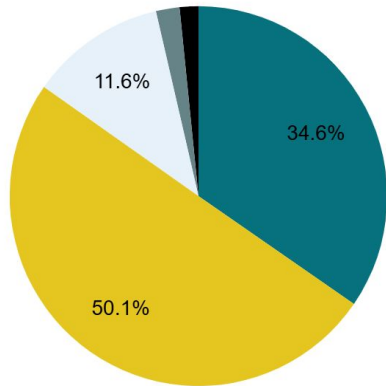
Expenditures other than Direct Program Costs have marginally decreased by \$10,950 (4.1%) reflecting lower wages with staff absences as well as reduced spending related to fundraising. We are continuing to focus our efforts to ensure that most of our expenditures are directed to serving our guests and are pleased that our direct program costs are 70% of our overall expenditures.

Irene Marson
Treasurer

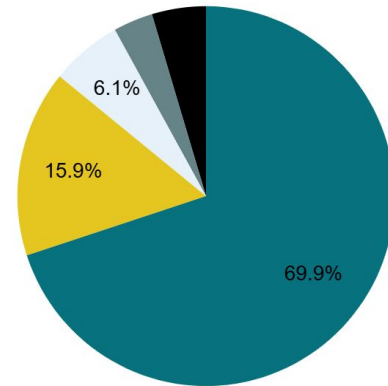


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue Sources 2025



Expenses 2025



- Donations General
- Donations Gift in Kind
- Fundraising and Sponsorships
- Government Grants
- Interest Income
- Direct Program Costs
- Wages and Benefits
- Occupancy Costs
- Professional Fees
- Other

CHALMERS COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE
Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2025

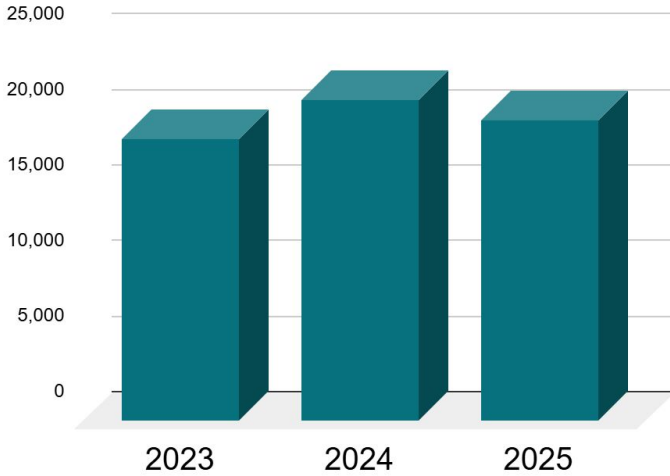
	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Contingency Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
REVENUES					
Donations (Note 10) (Schedule 1)	\$ 807,751	\$ 454	\$ -	\$ 808,205	\$ 529,529
Fundraising and sponsorships	110,928	-	-	110,928	116,459
Government grants (Schedule 1)	18,954	307	-	19,261	14,720
Interest income	4,769	10,557	-	15,326	14,668
	942,402	11,318	-	953,720	675,376
EXPENDITURES					
Direct Program Costs (Schedule 2)	599,539	-	-	599,539	402,668
Wages and benefits	136,429	-	-	136,429	146,299
Occupancy costs	52,434	-	-	52,434	51,510
Professional fees	29,067	-	-	29,067	26,917
Office and administration	16,522	-	-	16,522	11,231
Fundraising expenses	9,399	-	-	9,399	15,180
Depreciation	-	5,123	-	5,123	3,182
Telephone	4,600	-	-	4,600	5,462
Insurance	4,084	-	-	4,084	3,704
	852,074	5,123	-	857,197	666,153
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 90,328	\$ 6,195	\$ -	\$ 96,523	\$ 9,223



CHANGES AND GROWTH



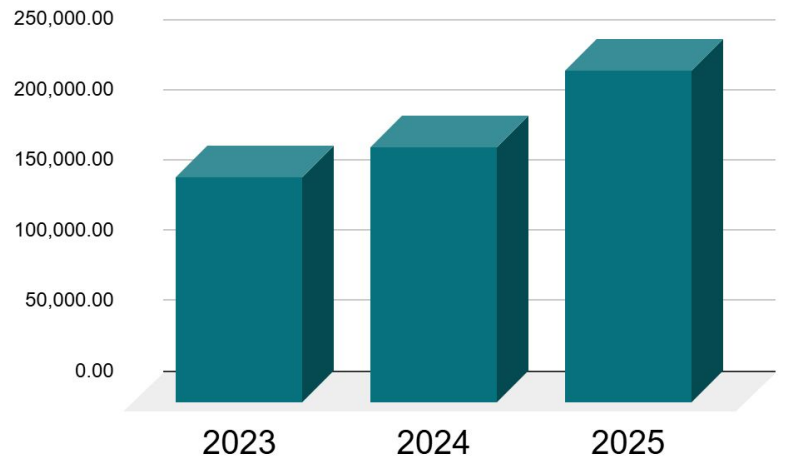
Food Baskets



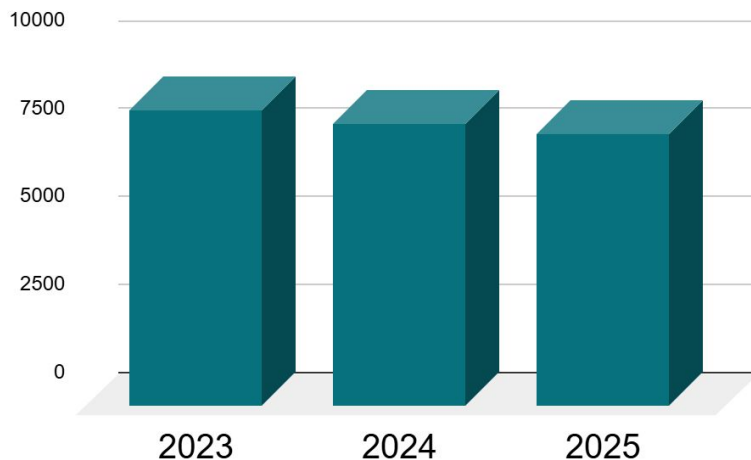
“Chalmers eases my stress as a student and helps with groceries”

“I am a single mom with six kids. The food from Chalmers really helps.”

Pounds of Food Distributed



Volunteer Hours



“The workers do an amazing job. Jill is amazing– she has fixed and altered many clothes for me.”



PROGRAM & VOLUNTEER MANAGER REPORT



Chalmers' programs made a significant impact in 2025, serving thousands of guests and their families in our community. Our weekly drop in cafés were very popular throughout the year. Our Monday and Tuesday morning cafés saw a 277% increase in the number of guests served, for a total of 4,006. Some guests like to stay for a few hours enjoying the sense of community, while others come in just for breakfast.

Our three weekly food pantries ran smoothly at both of our locations, 41 Macdonell St. and 577 Willow Road. In total, Chalmers distributed **19,941** food baskets in 2025. Throughout the year, we connected with other organizations for free and rescued food sources. In addition, we received thousands of pounds of food from local churches, businesses and schools. Thanks to the wonderful food donations that we receive, Chalmers has been able to experiment with purchasing other vegetables, such as sweet potatoes, beets, oranges, eggplant and kale from The SEED. Our guests are very appreciative of the variety, and Chalmers is very proud of the much wider selection of food being offered to our café and food pantry guests. And all of this donated food has helped us stay within our budget.

Chalmers' programs would not be successful without our amazing team of over ninety volunteers working diligently at both locations. With a very small part-time staff, Chalmers relies heavily on our volunteers for the day to day operations. Our Chalmers volunteers are extremely dedicated and give with their whole heart. They extend our outreach by befriending our guests, reducing their social isolation and building their trust. Our volunteers contribute selflessly for whatever extra tasks that need to be completed, putting in extra hours for the Christmas Bag program, donation pick ups from farms and businesses, and even data entry when Chalmers switched to a new guest registration program in November. In 2025, twenty new volunteers joined our team and another twelve temporary student volunteers from the University of Guelph, REAL Service Learning in Housing course helped out in the fall. Chalmers greatly appreciates all of our incredible volunteers.

I am extremely grateful for the efforts of the staff, volunteers and board members during my four month sick leave. Chalmers is a community where we all work together to make a difference in the lives of those who are food insecure.

Joanna Wegman
Program and Volunteer Manager



DONATION & COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR REPORT



In 2025, Chalmers donations continued to grow. Through a wide variety of fundraising efforts, Chalmers was able to finish the year with a financial surplus. Fundraising included benefit concerts, food drives, point-of-sale (POS) donation drives and targeted fundraising campaigns for items and funds that aided in Chalmers budget and programming.

Several benefit concerts were held for Chalmers, organized by independent musical groups and church congregations. Thanks to performers and attendees of the concerts Jane Lewis's *Songs to Lift Your Spirits*, *Guys Who Sing*, *Guelph Male Choir*, Trinity's *The Magnificent Tapestry of Life*, Dublin United's *Music For Chalmers*, and St. Andrew's *Celebrating Community in Song*. The highly anticipated annual event, Harvest Bowls, was very successful. Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and attendees involved with this event.

Chalmers' "Save the Cheese" campaign surpassed the fundraising goal, keeping cheese on the food line for the next year. Various letter writing campaigns also garnered a variety of support and fundraising efforts from the community. Several schools hosted food and hygiene drives in support of Chalmers. In September, donations generated from our annual Fall Fundraising letter helped us meet our 2025 fundraising goal. Our October appeal for Christmas Bags made it possible for Chalmers to distribute 525 bags, thanks to many individual, organizational and monetary donations.

Many independent campaigns were held for Chalmers by groups and businesses. A group of volunteers from Trinity United Church made and sold apple pies for Chalmers and the Stone Store hosted a POS donation drive. Chalmers received numerous grants from local foundations and charities. One of the most impactful grants came from '100 Women Who Care', who chose Chalmers to be the recipient of their quarterly donations. Other major grants that Chalmers received came from partner foundations, The United Way of Guelph Wellington Dufferin, and the City of Guelph. Organizational grants came from Guelph Rotary Trillium and the Canadian Federation of University Women. Foundational grants were received by the Quinn Charitable Fund and Butters Fund for Justice and Healing. The United Church of Canada Foundation also made numerous large donations from supporters of Chalmers.

Communications were fundamental in growing the Chalmers brand in 2025. Fundraising appeals and messaging were delivered through Chalmers social media platforms, newsletters, and our website. The Donation and Communication Coordinator facilitated the creation of marketing materials for most events and fundraising campaigns, using strategic e-blasts with the aforementioned digital accounts. Chalmers online audience steadily grew in 2025, assisting in widening Chalmers' supporter base.

2025 was a very successful year for donations and communications for Chalmers. Through a variety of fundraising campaigns and efforts, supporters raised funds necessary to support the programs that Chalmers is known for. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of existing and new donors, Chalmers finished the year financially strong and prepared for the next year's program planning.

Dakota Kersting
Donation and Communication Coordinator



CHALMERS PROGRAMS



FOOD PANTRY AND MENDING SERVICE

Chalmers provides three food pantries a week: Wednesday evening and Friday morning at our downtown location, 41 Macdonell St., and Thursday morning at our West location, 577 Willow Road. Chalmers recognizes how hard it is for guests to ask for help. That is why we welcome everyone. We do not conduct a means test. Both locations continued to be very busy, distributing **19,941 food baskets** in 2025, a total of **236,120 lbs** of food. **Fifty three percent** of these food baskets were for children. Guests come every two weeks and choose from a nutritionally balanced selection of shelf stable products, as well fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs. Our successful *Save the Cheese* campaign enabled Chalmers to offer cheese on a regular basis. The huge increase in donated food in 2025 ensured that Chalmers rarely had to send anyone away hungry. During our food pantries at both locations, our volunteers provided coffee and a variety of snacks and a space to build community. Chalmers guests are always extremely grateful for the nutritious food that we are able to consistently provide.

Chalmers food pantry guests are also able to receive a wide variety of hygiene products. In 2025, **2,176** packages of diapers were given to families with young children. **172** items of clothing were mended. **525** Christmas bags were distributed in December during programs and they were greatly appreciated.



"Chalmers helps me get through the month."

"Chalmers lifts people up. We all need to do more of that."

"Chalmers is responsible for igniting all the good things that have happened to me since I first walked through the door in desperation that snowy morning."



CHALMERS PROGRAMS



DROP IN CAFÉS

Our Monday and Tuesday morning drop in cafés downtown saw a dramatic increase in 2025, serving **4,006** café guests, up **277%** from 2024. Where Chalmers previously saw twenty-five to thirty guests a morning, our volunteers welcomed sixty-five to eighty-five individuals a morning, greeting them all by name. Many of these guests are both housing and food insecure. They often told us that the breakfast we offered was the first time they'd eaten in days. These guests greatly appreciated not only the food that we provided, but also the sense of community which our amazing volunteers work so hard to build. Our guests also appreciated access to washroom facilities, new socks and getting out of the weather. If they needed a warm coat or a pair of shoes, they often obtained these at Chalmers.

The dramatically higher numbers of vulnerable guests sometimes brought challenges to our operations. Chalmers' dedicated volunteers and staff responded by receiving de-escalation and naloxone training. Chalmers is grateful for the support of a nurse from the Guelph Community Health Centre on Tuesday mornings, and Welcoming Streets. Together, we are making a big impact in the downtown area serving vulnerable members of our community.

"I want to thank the Chalmers staff and friendly volunteers for the wonderful work they do by helping the community, providing access to nutritional food sustenance. I will always be grateful for the help I have received through the free breakfast program and food bank services. It has made a positive difference in my life."

"This place is awesome, I didn't even ask for shoes, she just looked at my feet and offered me shoes."

"Chalmers is a place where some of the sweetest people you will ever meet serve some of the most difficult."



IMPACTS 2025



VOLUNTEER HOURS*

7,717 Hours (*estimated)
@ \$23.00/hr = \$177,491

(<https://ontariolivingwage.ca>)



MORNING CAFÉS Mondays & Tuesdays

4,006 Guests
Up 277% from 2024



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

19,941
Food Baskets Distributed
53% were for Children



NEW GUESTS

Adults 333
Children 392

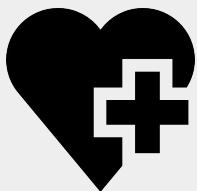


FOOD DISTRIBUTED

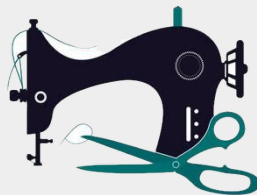
236,120.80 LBS
Weighed Food

134,310.40 LBS Donated +
101,810.40 LBS Purchased

50%
Of
Donated
Food is
Rescued



**NURSE
SUPPORT**
from GHC
10 Guests
Received Care



**MENDING
PROGRAM**
172
Items of
Clothing Mended



**DIAPER
PROGRAM**
2,176
Packages
Distributed



**CHRISTMAS BAG
PROGRAM**
525
Donated Bags
@ \$60/bag = \$31,500



AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT CHALMERS



WELCOMING STREETS

With the increased number of guests, many of whom are unhoused, Chalmers saw an increase in the number of people in crisis. In March, Chalmers became aware of the Welcoming Streets Program. The goal of Welcoming Streets is to build relationships, promote neighbourhood well-being and help connect individuals to local support services. Their support has been invaluable as they respond quickly when we need them. Throughout 2025, our relationship grew, and they are a big part of our success. Welcoming Streets provided de-escalation and Naloxone training. The Chalmers staff occasionally joined Welcoming Streets for a “signal lunch” to discuss awareness of different drugs or situations that going on in our Guelph community.

ON-SITE NURSE

In the fall of 2025, the Guelph Community Health Centre provided Chalmers with a nurse on site during our Tuesday morning cafés. The nurse provided referrals, wound care, and mental health check-ins for our guests, as well as assisted during overdose situations. Our Chalmers community benefited greatly from having this expertise on site.

GUELPH TOOL LIBRARY

In 2025, Chalmers partnered with the Guelph Tool Library who provided us with refurbished laptop computers. Recipients of the computers were guests returning to school, applying for jobs, doing online banking, and students of food pantry families completing online courses. These tools were gratefully received by our Chalmers guests.



FOOD AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT CHALMERS



THE SEED SURPLUS

The SEED Surplus provided Chalmers with 31,176 lbs of a wide variety of surplus food in 2025, delivered weekly. From extra bananas, apples, lettuce, milk, yogurt and many other food items, Chalmers was able to expand the quantity of food distributed in our food baskets and during our cafés. Our guests loved the variety and the choice that they were offered.

HARVEST HANDS

In 2025, Harvest Hands became a weekly supplier of two skids of shelf stable food and fresh vegetables for Chalmers, resulting in 25,332.1 lbs of donated food. Harvest Hands is a non-profit food distribution centre dedicated to 'rescuing' food from bakers to retailers to help over 200 agencies and thousands of families throughout southwest Ontario. Chalmers is very grateful for their incredible support which has made it possible for us to offer a much wider variety of food products to our food insecure guests.

GLOBAL MEDIC

Founded in 2002, The David McAntony Gibson Foundation, known as GlobalMedic, is a respected Canadian charity that is dedicated to providing people affected by poverty, disaster or conflict with humanitarian aid. They work hard to give important aid to people who are in urgent need. Chalmers is very grateful for their monthly deliveries of pre-packaged rice, red and green lentils, chickpeas, and soap, totalling 12,188.9 lbs in 2025.

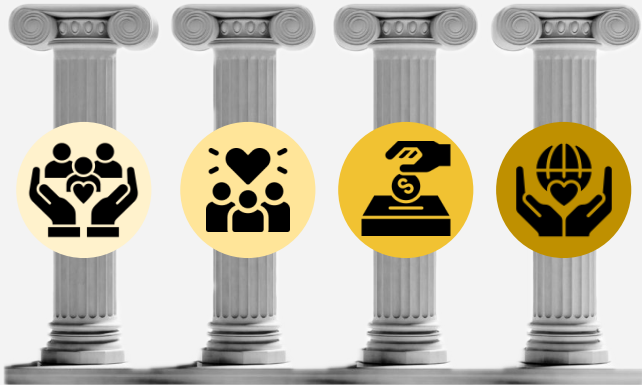
THE GUELPH HUMANE SOCIETY

The Guelph Humane Society regularly provided Chalmers with cat and dog food. Our Chalmers guests greatly appreciated access to pet food when their own food budgets are increasingly strained.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 - 2028

Chalmers Strategic Pillars



- Programs
- People
- Fundraising
- Communication

Our Program Outcomes

1. So far as the budget allows, all guests leave Chalmers with a nutritionally adequate supply of food for three days every two weeks taking into account, when possible, special dietary needs.
2. Where appropriate, guests have access to hygiene products and small clothing items.
3. Guests are able to enjoy a hot coffee and breakfast where they will have opportunities to socialize with each other and with volunteers.
4. Where appropriate, guests can have access to a clothing mending service.
5. Guests can be referred to other services as needed.
6. Chalmers facilities are accessible, safe, stable and meet the needs of the Chalmers operations.

Our People Outcomes

1. Chalmers has a strong, stable staff that works as a team.
2. The Chalmers volunteer team is expanded and will include younger volunteers.
3. Chalmers has a coherent volunteer intake program and consistent execution of the programs.
4. There is a strong cohesiveness between staff and volunteers.
5. Chalmers guests, staff and volunteers are offered training and educational opportunities.

Our Fundraising Outcomes

1. Chalmers' donor base is expanded.
2. Donor retention is high.
3. Chalmers' yearly income increases year over year.
4. Chalmers is fiscally responsible and operates within a surplus budget.

Our Communication Outcomes

1. The Chalmers name will be highly recognizable in the Guelph community.
2. Social media platforms have many followers and are effective.
3. Communication among volunteers, staff and board members is seamless.
4. Communication with our donors is timely and effective.



LEADERSHIP TEAM



Janet Wood
Chair
(Until June 5th, 2025)



Rhondda Lymburner
Chair
(From June 5th, 2025)



Lucy Mutharia
Vice Chair
(From June 5th, 2025)



Bruce Ryan
Vice Chair
(Until June 5th, 2025)



Irene Marson
Treasurer



Gaylyn Mclean
Director
(Until June 5th, 2025)



David Parr
Director



John Benham
Director



Stuart Holloway
Director
(From June 5th, 2025)



Joseph Odemuru
Director
(From October 20th 2025)



Nancy Gadde
Director



John Lawson
Director
(From June 5th, 2025)



Peter Conlon
Director
(From June 5th to August 18th 2025)



Jill Gill
Director
(From June 5th, 2025)



Mary Heyens
Custodian



Joanna Wegman
Program and Volunteer
Manager



Crystle Avery
Executive Director



Dakota Kersting
Donation and Communication
Coordinator



David Chiswell
Bookkeeper



FINANCIAL DONORS



Corporate and Organizational Partners

Atmosphere Cafe
Blue Chopstix
Buon Gusto Restaurant
CanadaHelps
Crazy Carrot
Eventbrite
Eye Spy Health Inc
Halwell Mutual Insurance
Company
Meridian Credit Union

Micron Financial 2008 Inc.
Robin's Nest Family Care
Roots Real Estate Team
Sign Art Centre
Stone Store
Wild Rose Consignment Inc.
WSCC 235 - River Mill Guelph
Well Read, Badly Behaved
Guelph Male Choir

Guelph Women's Curling Club
Guys Who Sing
Immigrant Services Guelph
Wellington
CUPE Local 1946
Toronto Stock Yards
Royal Wyndham Chapter, IODE
Steelworkers Humanity Fund Inc.
Resurrection Christian Academy
Local 4610 USW District 6
John F Ross

Faith Communities

Christian Reformed Church
Drayton United Church Women
Dublin Street United Church
First Baptist Church, Guelph
Harcourt Memorial United
Church

House of Worship and Prayer
Christian Centre
Knox Presbyterian Church
Kortright Presbyterian Church

Mount Carmel -Zion United
Church
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church
Three Willows United Church
Trinity United Church

Grant Providers and Foundations

Benefaction Foundation
Benevity Giving
Canadian Federation of
University Women
City of Guelph
Guelph Community Foundation

MacBeth Family Fund
Quinn Charitable Foundation
Rotary Club of Guelph South
Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium
Strategic Charitable Giving
Foundation

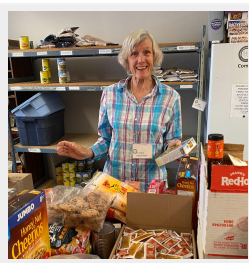
The Buttars Fund For Healing
And Justice
The Colwyn and Jean Rich
Foundation
United Way Greater Toronto
United Way Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

Thank you to all our Individual and Family Donors!







THANK YOU!

Together we make a difference.



 www.chalmerscentre.ca
 519-822-8778

 contact@chalmerscentre.ca
  [@chalmerscentre](https://www.instagram.com/chalmerscentre)

 41 Macdonell St., Guelph, N1H 2Z4
 Charitable Number: 85851 7725 RR0001

Serving the Community in the Spirit of Dignity and Respect.

Our Partners



The United Church of Canada



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin



St. Andrew's
GUELPH