2022-23 IMPACT REPORT



A SUSTAINABLE WORLD WHERE SURPLUS GOODS ARE PURPOSEFULLY USED TO ELIMINATE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY.



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past fiscal year proved to be just as challenging and complicated as the one before - due to the pandemic. Ongoing or on-and-off closures of schools and partner agencies kept us on our toes the entire time. Things changed from one week to the next and we found ourselves having to switch plans and strategies almost weekly.

However, having learned a lot about modifying our programs, we were able to respond to the ever-changing needs of our partners and their clients.

We received an incredibly generous donation from the Sprott Foundation, who not only gave us their committed support, but actually doubled their 2021 gift in order to help us address the increased demands upon our services. Our gratitude to their progressive and enlightened staff and board members cannot be expressed in words.

This invaluable support, paired with the tireless work of our staff, volunteers and board members, enabled us to make a substantial impact upon the communities we serve across the country. We were able to increase the number of items given out, add many new lead and associate national agencies and reach thousands more people in need.

Our product donors also stepped up and increased their donations. We helped many more clients and program participants through increased donations of: clothing, coats, boots, shoes, backpacks, personal care items, masks, hand sanitizers, purses, accessories, hygiene kits, small household goods, job training, interview preparation sessions and job placements.

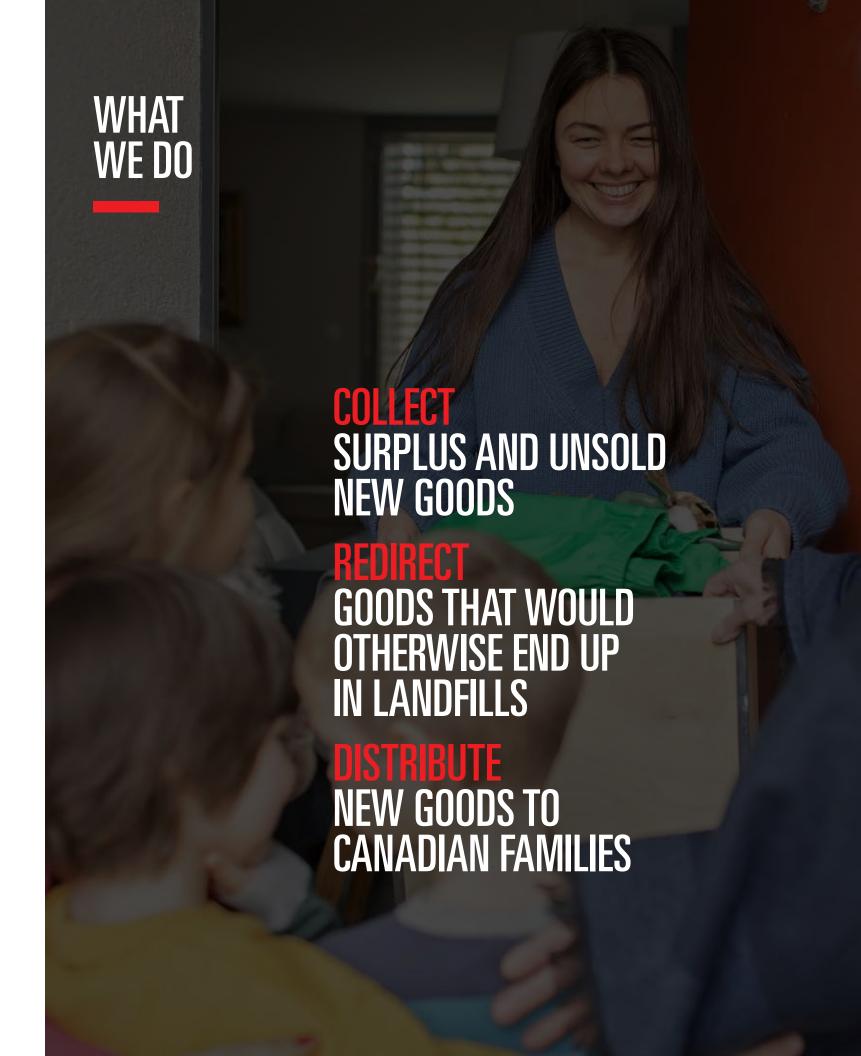
Through our formal evaluation process, and the daily feedback we received from partners and clients, we know that Brands for Canada's work made a significant impact upon the COVID recovery to hundreds of thousands of people struggling with poverty in communities across Canada. Our statistics speak for themselves.

DONNA CANSFIELD

HELEN HARAKAS

President of the Board

Executive Director



OUR **IMPACT** \mathbb{N} 2022-23



basic-needs items processed

827

\$51,333,630

estimated retail value of donations

16,000 total items de-branded 1404 total job-seekers trained



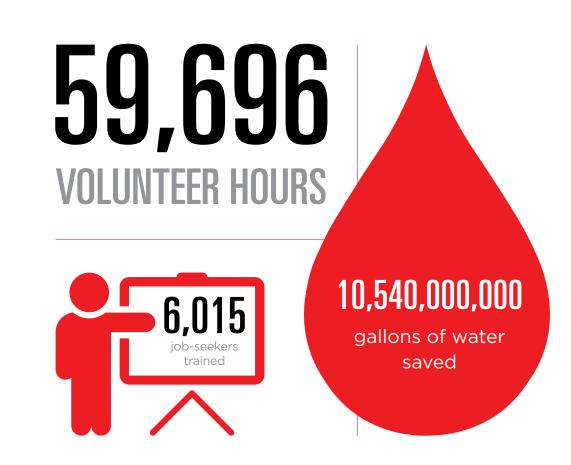
781,135_{LBS} items diverted from landfill

referring agencies to employment programs

SERVED

AGENCIES: LOCAL & NATIONAL

OVER THE **PAST** 32 **YEARS**

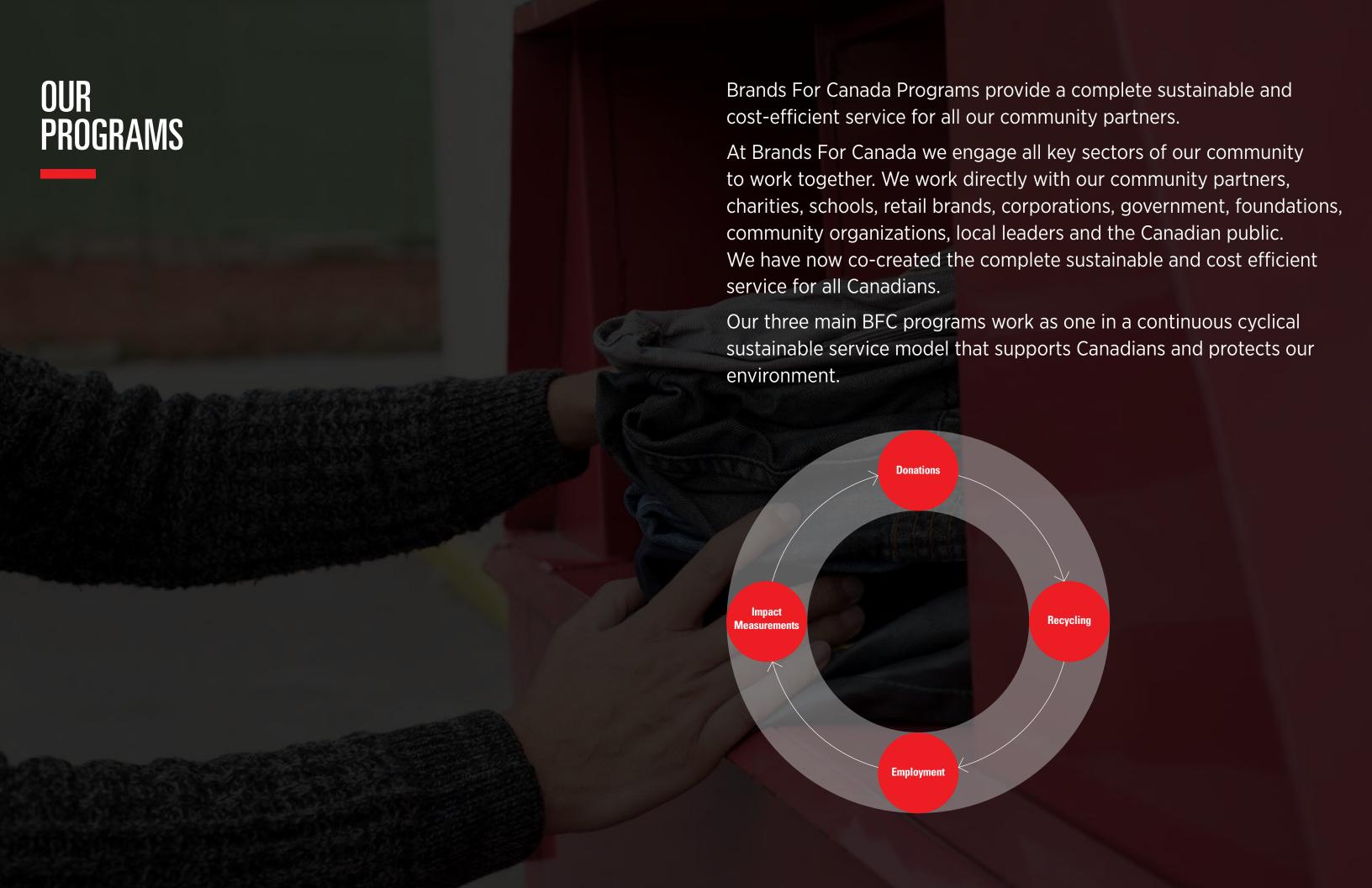




\$629,026,840 SAVED BY CANADIANS IN NEED

11,607,000 LBS

new goods distributed to people in need



UNITED HEARTS/ DISTRIBUTION

What we do:



Redirect
Goods that would
otherwise end up in
landfill

DistributeGoods to Canadian
students and families
living in need







ITEMS DONATED



ESTIMATED
RETAIL VALUE

Our warehouse is the heart of our distribution program. Every week generous donors send skids of brand-new clothing and basic-needs items to be sorted, de-labelled, counted and given out to those who need them the most. The items are sent to social service agencies and schools for direct distribution.

Our Distribution Program is supported by both job-training participants and volunteer groups. Without these two essential groups, we could not do what we do. Training participants in the warehouse are referred to us by partner employment agencies. Volunteers from corporate and community groups come in weekly to help with sorting, counting, de-labelling, organizing and shipping.

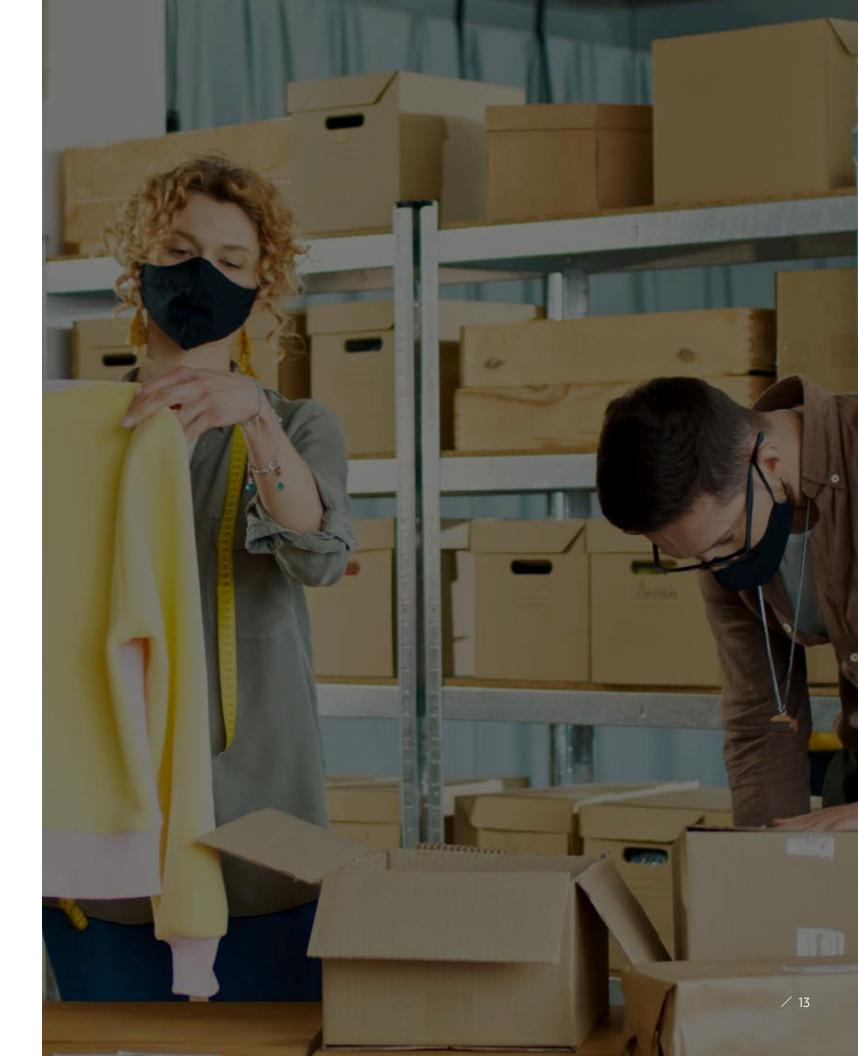
National distribution

BFC works across the country with programs in the Greater Toronto Area, Peel Region, Niagara Region, Ottawa, Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax and many other smaller communities. BFC's network of partner agencies is continually growing. Over the past two years, BFC's list of national lead partner agencies, and their associate agencies, has grown to 221!



Generously supported by The Sprott Foundation





UNITED HEARTS/ CHILDREN, STUDENTS, FAMILIES

FROM APRIL 1, 2021

TO MARCH 31, 2022









PARTNERS

What we do:



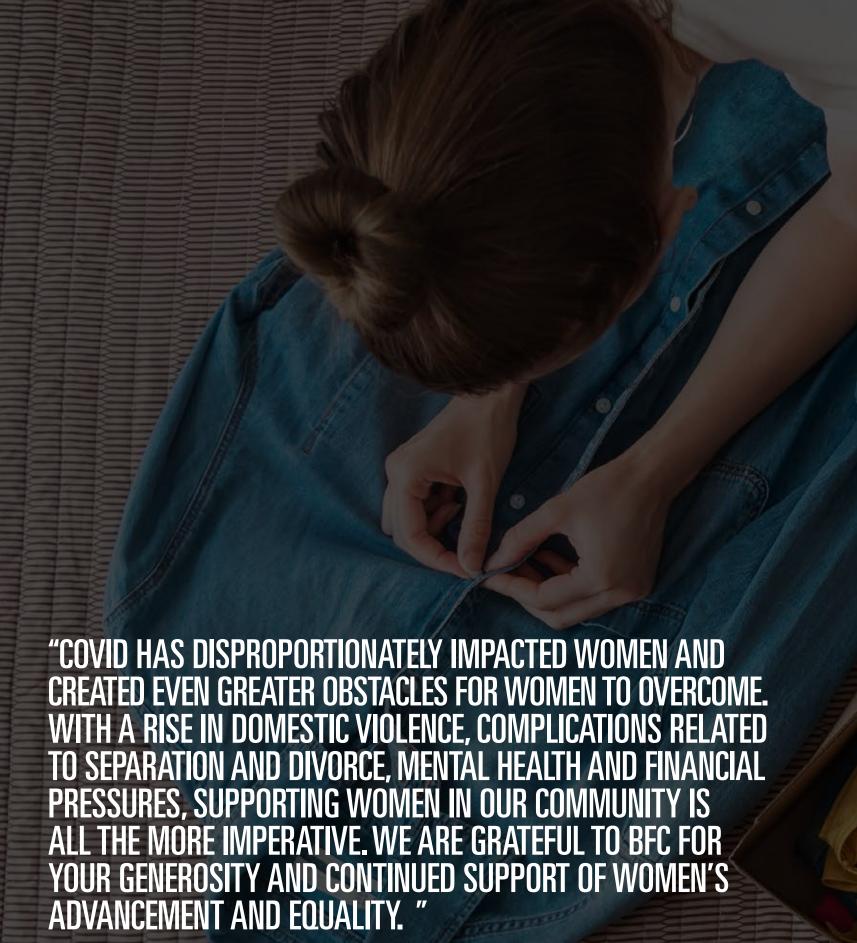
Redirect
Goods that would
otherwise end up in
landfill

DistributeGoods to Canadian students and families living in need

The United Hearts Program supports children, students and families in need across Canada through the delivery of boxes and backpacks filled with new clothing, personal care items and school supplies. The program not only provides children and their families with the items they need but reduces financial stress and increases social inclusion and participation in school activities. This project is delivered through partnerships with social service charities, colleges and universities, and school boards.

New partnerships created include the following: Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Greater Essex County District School Board, Vancouver School Board, University of Toronto, George Brown College, Humber College, Ryerson University, and Seneca College.





KIRSTEN KELLEHER

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE OF HALTON

"CLIENTS ARE DEALING WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, SHELTER LIVING, CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT, LEAVING THEIR SUPPORT SYSTEMS BEHIND AND ARE EXPERIENCING FEARS ABOUT THE CANADIAN JOB-SEARCH AND INTERVIEW PROCESS. THE SUITABLE IMPRESSIONS PROGRAM HAS BECOME THE ESSENTIAL LAST STEP IN OUR PROGRAM. WE HAVE FOUND IT TO BE THE PERFECT CONTENT FOR THE FINAL DAY OF A 4-WEEK PROGRAM BECAUSE IT LEAVES OUR CLIENTS FEELING WELL-INFORMED AND READY TO FACE THE WORLD."

PROJECT LEAD,
HOMELESS EMPLOYABLE PILOT PROJECT (HEPP), CITY OF TORONTO
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION AND THE SHELTER SUPPORT
AND HOUSING DIVISION

"THE DONATIONS WE RECEIVED FROM BRANDS FOR CANADA ALLOW US TO OFFER EXPANDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND PROVIDE A GREATER VARIETY OF OPTIONS IN OUR PROGRAMS. IT IS DONORS LIKE YOU, WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR WORK MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE PROVIDING IMMEDIATE HELP AND LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME."

ARTURO TORRES,
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
SCOTT MISSION

EMPLOYMENT

Leading edge programs for vulnerable people looking for work

IN 2021-2022 WE TRAINED



EDGE PROGRAM





742
SUITABLE IMPRESSIONS
PARTICIPANTS





EDGE GRADUATES
PLACED IN JOBS



BFC is committed to training and providing sustainable work for people who need help connecting to employment.

BFC offers multiple employment programs. These include:

Suitable Impressions Workshop

Clothing, personal image and first impressions training for youth and others facing barriers to employment. Suitable Impressions serves hundreds of clients each year.

The Edge Program

An intensive 4-week, soft skills development program for people living with disabilities. The program features in-class or virtual training, personal coaching sessions, and provides new professional clothing and accessories. Upon graduation, participants are supported in their employment search by working with a job developer.

Toronto Employment & Social Services Placements

On-site, full-year placement in our admin offices, programs or warehouse.



"I AM A SINGLE MOTHER TAKING CARE OF A MENTALLY ILL SON, I HAD TWO PART-TIME JOBS AND LOST THEM TWO YEARS AGO. I COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUY CLOTHES FOR MY INTERVIEWS. THANK YOU BRANDS FOR CANADA FOR THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY AND I AM CONFIDENT IN GETTING A JOB NOW!"

NASIBA (SUITABLE IMPRESSIONS CLIENT)

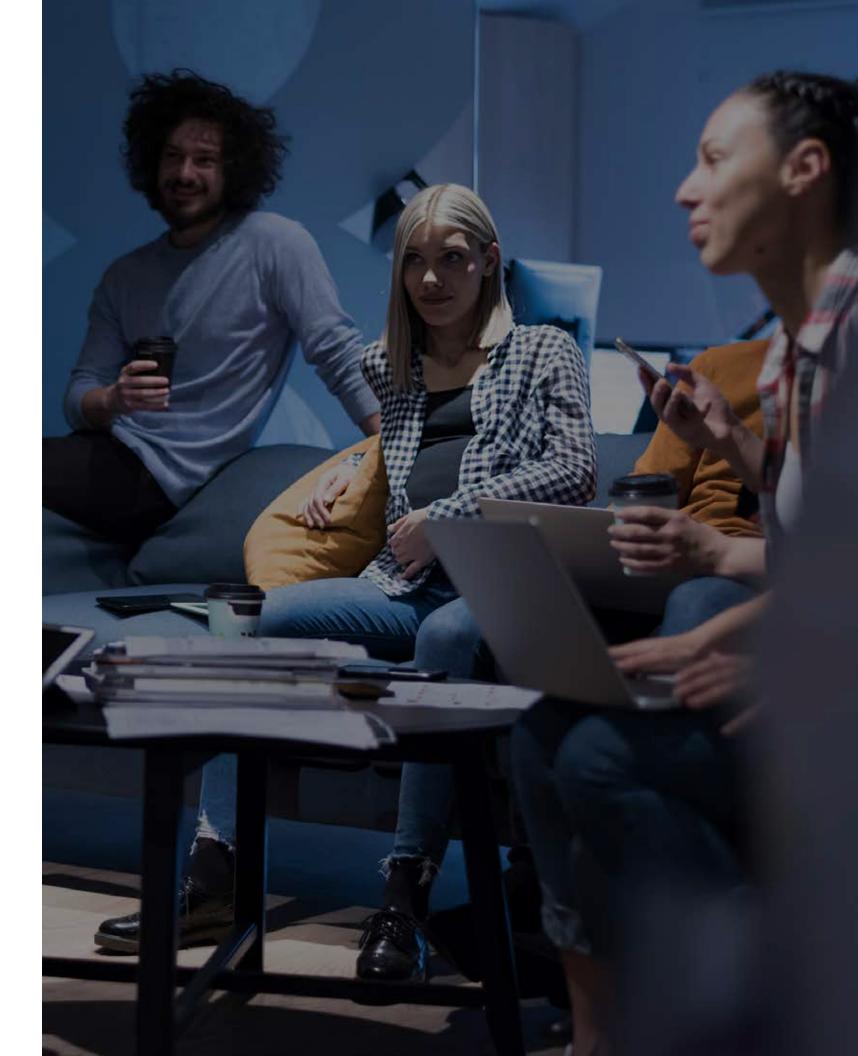
"THE EDGE PROGRAM HAS
BEEN HELPFUL TO ME. IT HAS
HELPED ME FIND PART-TIME
WORK FOR A PERIOD OF
TIME AT MY LOCAL TORONTO
PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCH.
ADDITIONALLY, I HAD BEEN
ACCEPTED INTO AN ONLINE
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM."
EDGE PROGRAM CLIENT

"IT WAS TRULY A BLESSING TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMERS TO THE COUNTRY AND JUST FOR ANYONE LOOKING FOR A JOB IN GENERAL. THANK YOU BRANDS FOR CANADA FOR EVERYTHING."

ALIYAH (SUITABLE IMPRESSIONS CLIENT)

AGENCIES REFERRING CLIENTS TO OUR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- / ACCES Employment Toronto
- / City of Toronto Employment and Social Services
- / Eva's Phoenix-Eva's Initiative for Homeless Youth
- / Eva's Place- Eva's Initiative for Homeless Youth
- / George Brown College- Augmented Education
- / Humber College Community Employment Services
- / John Howard Society of Toronto
- / Metrics Vocational Services
- / PTP Adult Learning & Employment Programs
- / Rehabilitation Network Canada (RNC)
- / Robertson House Crisis Centre
- / Seaton House
- / St. Stephens Community House-Employment and Training
- / Toronto Employment & Social Services (TESS)
- / VPI Working Solutions
- / Youth Employment Services (YES)
- / YMCA Employment SERVICES
- / The 519
- / Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)
- / COSTI Employment Services
- / Albion Neighbourhood Services
- / Next Steps Employment Centre (TDSB)
- / Tropicana Employment Centre
- / Salvation Army (Dreaming in Colour)
- / NPower Canada
- / Woodgreen Community Services



RECYCLING











The BFC recycling program was created to provide a complete sustainable service for our Brand and community partners. We process new, used and damaged goods and keep them out of landfills. Our main recycling services are:

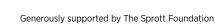


Recycle
New, used and
damaged textiles

Repurpose
by converting textiles
into a sterile, reusable
composite

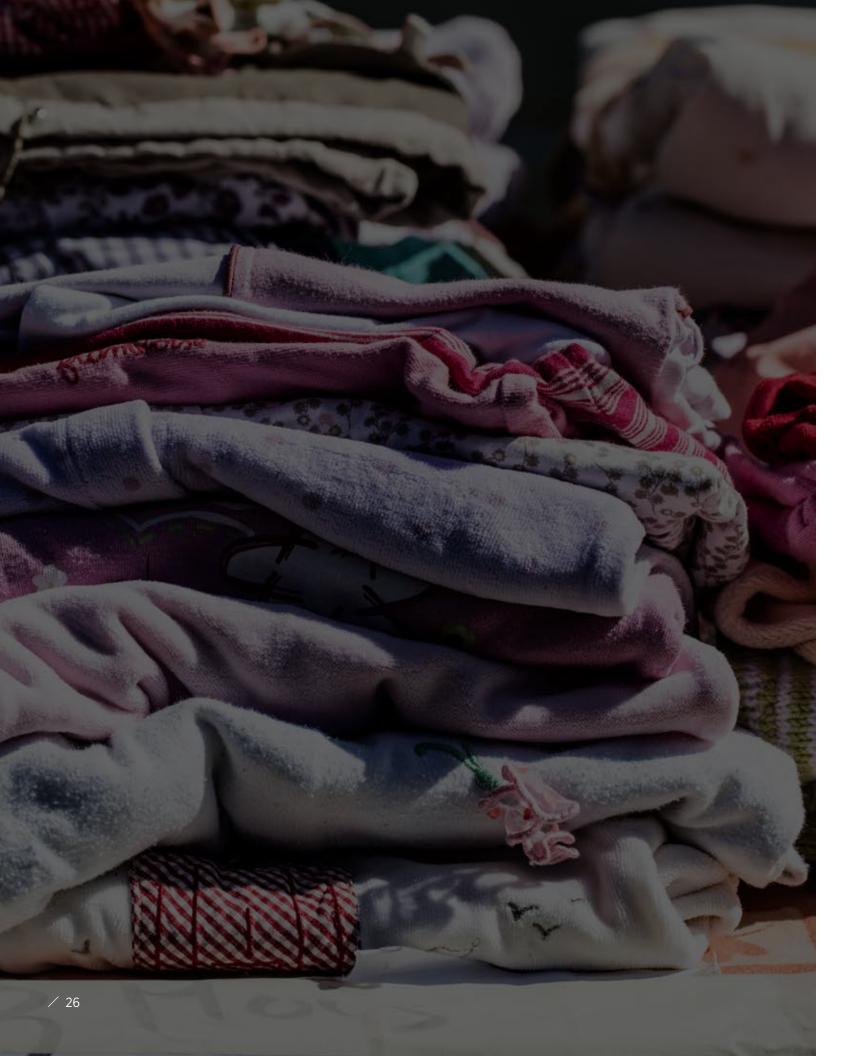
We de-brand, recycle, and repurpose new, used and damaged textiles in large volume for our product donors.

Donations from brand returns, damaged, used, in store and community collections are sorted into categories. These goods are then prepared for local donations, repairs and repurposing. Items that are designated as waste (landfill) are sent to our Conversion Program, a partnership with Synergy Waste Systems, where they are converted and repurposed.









OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT



How much goes into a shirt?

Growing enough cotton to produce a single shirt requires 2,700 liters of water, or about the amount of water a person would drink in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

In addition to water usage in growing cotton, both natural and synthetic cloth and clothing production emits substantial amounts of CO2 and other greenhouse gasses. For instance, each kilogram of polyester production results in the equivalent of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms of CO2 emissions. (4.3 kilos for cotton, Ibid).

Even as a piece of clothing is used and washed, this creates further environmental impacts, amounting to about a third of a garment's total environmental impact over time.²

Brands For Canada Environmental Impact

Because the surplus goods that we provide to our community partners and their clients are new, they can be used in the way that they were originally intended, and not incinerated or landfilled.

All together, we estimate that our annual clothing donations resulted in enough energy and material savings to provide for up to 900 average Canadians' total consumption this year.³

In addition, it is estimated that the clothing industry uses more than 2,000 chemicals in the production of clothing. When these items end up in landfills or are incinerated, the toxins go into our atmosphere and into our earth.

¹ Drew and Yehounme 2017: World Resources Institute. https://www.wri.org/blog/2017/07/apparel-industrys-environmental-impact-6-graphics

² ~31%, Rana et al 2015, p. 153, citing Jungmichael 2010

³ 317.7-428, based on same calculations as above



PANDEMIC RECOVERY AT BRANDS FOR CANADA

The pandemic presented us with multiple challenges. But during the past year, we have demonstrated that we are nimble, adaptable and ready to serve. Throughout the year, our partner agencies saw an increased need of items for their clients. We heard many stories of job loss, home loss, mental illness, suicide, substance abuse and family breakdown. Alongside these issues, we saw not only an increased demand for clothing, boots, shoes and personal care goods, but the demand for our employment programing increased as well.

In order to assist with the impacts of COVID-19, and to meet the growing and changing needs of our partner agencies and clients, we embarked on a number of activities to shift our programming and operations to provide sustainable continuation of our services. We ensured that we met health and safety needs for staff, volunteers and clients. We were also able to meet the changing basic-needs and employment-based needs of the communities that resulted from the COVID-19 shutdowns.

BFC Employment Program staff increased the use of technology to fully integrate the employment programs, EDGE and Suitable Impressions. They moved to an online service delivery model. Our warehouse and wardrobing areas (essential services) continued to operate with safe staffing levels observing distancing, health and safety regulations. This shift in our service model worked so well that we will be continuing to offer our programs online for years to come.

With generous support from the Trillium Foundation, we began the process of filming all the training sessions. These sessions will soon be offered to employment agencies across the country. Our thanks to our EDGE and Suitable Impressions program partners at the Disability Channel for the filming support.

SOCIAL SERVICE DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

GTA

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

- / ACCES Employment
- / YWCA Moving On To Success (MOTS)
- / YWCA 1st Stop Woodlawn

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- / Braeburn Boys & Girls Club and Family Programs
- / Elspeth Heyworth
- / Project Esperance Charitable Fund
- / Home First Society
- / Jane Alliance Neighbourhood Centre
- / Kids with Incarcerated Parents (KIP) Canada
- / Restoration Christian Ministries
- / River Oak -Parents Resource
- / San Romano Way Revitalization Centre
- / Seeds of Hope
- / Margaret's Housing and Family Support
- / St. Andrews Church
- / St. Felix Centre
- / Toronto Community Hostel
- / The Housing Help Centre
- / Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre

MEN'S SHELTERS

- / Blythwood Road Baptist Church Out of the Cold
- / V'eahavta Mobile Jewish Response to Homeless

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SHELTERS AND PROGRAMS

- / Margaret's Housing-Drop In
- / More Than Child's Play
- / Seaton House
- / Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services

YOUTH SHELTERS AND PROGRAMS

- / Jessie's-June Callwood Centre for Young Women
- / Faith Sanctuary Pentescostal
- / Scarborough Youth Outreach
- / The Scott Mission
- / Homeless Connect Toronto

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- / Breakaway Addiction Services
- / Canadian Mental Health Association
- / George Herman House
- / Our Place Community of Hope
- / Seaton House Junction Place
- / Seaton House Traveller's Hostel
- / Sound Times Support Services

SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

- / Toronto Catholic District School Board
- / Toronto District School Board
- / University of Toronto Scarborough Campus
- / University of Toronto Toronto Campus
- / Ryerson University
- / Vancouver School Board
- / Humber College
- / Winnipeg School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

National

ONTARIO

- / Partner Agencies (GTA) Listed Above
- / Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
- / Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)
- / Peel School Board
- / University of Toronto
- / City of Ottawa Social Service
- / Niagara Region Social Services
- / The Women's Center of Halton
- Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
- / Toronto Police Services (TPS) 22 Division
- / Ottawa Food Bank

QUEBEC

- / Sun Youth
- / Boys and Girls Club (Montreal)
- / Fondation Le Chaînon

MANITOBA

- / Winnipeg Police Department
- / Ma Mawi Itata
- / Native Addictions Council of Manitoba
- / Dakota Ojibway Child Family Services
- / Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
- / Youth for Christ Winnipeg

ALBERTA

- / City of Calgary
- / Calgary Drop in Centre
- / Central Alberta Outreach Centre
- / Odyssey House
- / North East Family Connections Society
- / Centre for Newcomers
- / Portail de Immigrant Association (PIA)
- / Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- / Women's Centre of Calgary
- / Woods Homes
- / YWCA Lethbridge and District
- / Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
- / Boys and Girls Club Edmonton
- / Edmonton Food Bank
- / Community Living and Support Services

BC

- / Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (Nanaimo)
- / Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (Victoria)
- / Marpole Oakridge Family Place Society
- / Family Services of Greater Vancouver (14 Locations)
- / Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society
- / Richmond Family Place Society
- / Surrey School Board
- The Federation of Community Social Services of BC (114 Member Organizations)

NOVA SCOTIA

- / Remix Project
- / Fairview Family Resource Centre
- / Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia

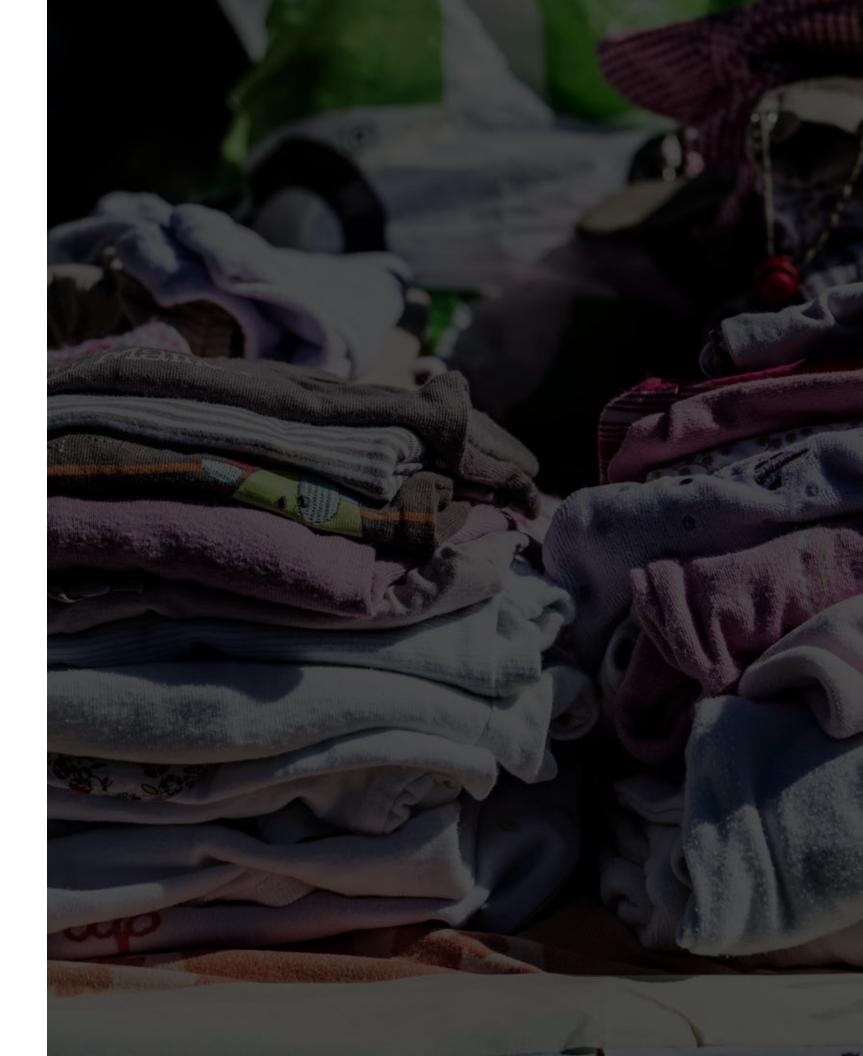
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OUR PRODUCT DONORS (PAST 3 YEARS)

- / Air Canada
- / ALDO Shoes
- / Alessia Pugliese
- / Anita Canada Ltd.
- / Aritzia
- / Athletic Knit
- / Banana Republic
- / Bell
- / Blue Notes
- / Brenda Beddome
- / Brooks Brothers
- / Cardinal of Canada
- / Car Nation Canada
- / Charlotte Laister
- Community Living Toronto
- / Deciem
- / Delroy
- / Diva Cup
- / eco-solutions
- / Elaine Francoz
- / Empathy Brand
- / Fine Linen Imports
- / Freeman Fashion Agencies
- / GAP Inc.
- / GOJO
- / Golf Town
- / H&M
- / HANES
- / Hil -Jay Fashion
- / HomeSense
- / IKEA
- / Janice Flemington Gole
- / Jennifer Torosian
- / KOTN
- / Levis
- / L'oreal Canada
- / Lush
- / Marshalls
- / McCarthy Uniforms
- / Mendocino
- / Mitzvah Knitters
- / Mizuno
- / Moonbun

- / Moores
- / My Dope Tee
- / Narnia Fashion Inc.
- / Neil Forester
- / New Era Cap
- / Northern Reflections
- / Old Navy
- / P&G Canada
- / Preloved
- / Purell
- / Ranka Enterprises Inc.
- / Redken Canada
- / RHEMA
- / ROOTS
- / Rostor Investments
- / Set Me Free
- Shirley Curson-Prue
- / Shoppers Drug Mart
- / Silverts
- / Snug as a Bug
- / Speedo
- / Sportable Fine Clothing
- / Ted Baker
- / TJX Canada Canada
- / Viral Clean
- / Winners
- / World Vision Canada
- / Yorkdale Shopping Centre Merchants
- / ZARA

And many other anonymous donors



OUR SINCERE THANKS TO OUR FINANCIAL DONORS (\$1,000+)

- / Bell/ Ben and Hilda Katz Charitable Foundation
- / The Harry E. Foster Foundation
- / Humbervale Montessori School
- / Families of Humbervale Montessori School
- / Joel Mechanical
- / Jo's Snowflake Fund
- / J.P. Bickell Foundation
- / Mackenzie Strategic Charitable Foundation
- / Marion Ethel & Frederick John Kamm Foundation
- / Michael Marcovitz
- / The Mariano Elia Foundation
- ✓ Ontario Trillium Foundation
- / The Propeller Project
- / RBC Foundation
- / Robert Kerr Foundation
- / Sprott Foundation
- / State Street Foundation

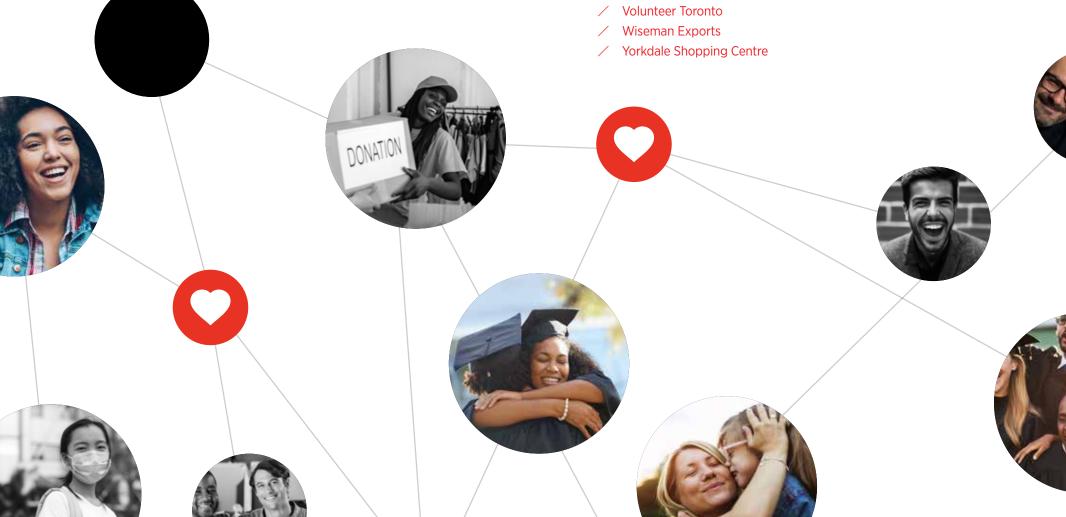
And Anonymous Donors

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

- / Apparel Textile Sourcing Conference
- / Bison Transport
- / Change Connect
- Community Living Toronto
- / Credit Canada
- / George Brown College, Fashion Exchange
- / Joel Mechanical, HVAC
- / Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- / Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
- / Ontario Textile Diversion Collaborative
- / Partners in Project Green
- / Rotary Club of Etobicoke
- / Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

/ 35

- / Spectrum Works | Substance Cares
- / Synergy Waste Systems
- / The Disability Channel
- / Toronto Police Service
- / Trucks For Change



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Oral Campbell Warehouse Assistant

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Gemma Mazzolin Suitable Impressions Administrative Support

Inga Skaya Edge Program Director

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Jo-Anna Davidson Edge Program Job Developer

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Alexis Pastuch Edge Program Classroom Assistant

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Seamus Clarke Program Development & Sustainability

United In Change P.R. Marketing & Media

Cynthia Roemer Coaching Staff Development

Synergy Waste Systems Product Conversion

Tempest Solutions I.T. Support

Eko Nomos Inc. Program Evaluation

Julie Smith Systems and Database Support



GET INVLOVED

Donate

Give money to support our programs, donate products, designate BFC as charity of choice at an event or through workplace giving.

Volunteer

Individuals, corporate groups, schools and community groups help us sort, de-label, and pack new clothing and basic-needs items for our clients.

Mentor

Support a participant in our job training program.

29 Connell Court, Unit 3 Toronto, ON M8Z 5T7 416.703.8435 brandsforcanada.com

BN: 13540 1180 RR0001

BRANDS FOR CANADA

FOR FAMILIES. FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.