



Ottawa Food bank looks for help to help others

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Food Aid Day was created so the Ottawa Food Bank could better help others. Now the rising costs of fuel, energy and food has the Food Bank worried about its own

future.

"It was hard before, but it's just getting harder and harder. And there are so many kids, well not just kids. Too many people," said Debbie Hickson of the Heron Emergency Food Centre.

Hickson said more than a thousand people came to her organization this month alone in need of food.

"There's less that can be purchased. But the need does not decrease at all. The need is increasing at the same time," she said.

The Ottawa Food Bank has been hit twice as hard by rising prices, as more are in need and less is available.

"Every palette, every skid of food that we buy from tuna, to cereal, rice or pasta or whatever, we're having to pay between at least 20 to 40 per cent more than we did last year," said Kalpana Robbins of the Ottawa Food Bank.

Local farmers were returning the favour from when the Ottawa Food Bank helped them out. During the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy scare - also known as mad cow disease - in 2003, the U.S. closed its borders to Canadian cattle.

The Ottawa Food Bank stood behind the farmers. Now farmers are standing by the Food Bank.

"We've created a market, the Food Bank being our market. They're receiving a lot of ground beef they didn't have in their warehouse before and we're feeding a lot of families," said local farmer, Wyatt McWilliams.

Organizers were hoping to raise \$150,000 this Food Aid Day.

With \$150,000, the food aid program could buy upwards of four cows a week, that's 1,000 portions of ground beef. It's big business for local farmers. It's important protein intake for families in need.

Still, their entire stock is quickly dwindling, with higher prices looming.

To donate to the Food Aid Program and the Ottawa Food Bank, [visit their website here](#).

With a report from CTV Ottawa's John Hua