AGM Report, Centretown Emergency Food Centre, 2022

The Food Centre operated three days a week, providing clients with nutritious food supplies – staples, fresh produce and dairy and meat – for up to five days in pre-packaged bags, depending on family size. The number of visitors increased this year to pre-pandemic levels as food prices rose and the pandemic restrictions eased. In total, 8088 individuals were served, including many families with children.

As noted in last year's report, in 2021 the City of Ottawa switched to a new community services funding model, asking charities to compete for five-year sustainable funding. The Food Centre was not successful in the competition, but did receive one year of transition funding for 2022. As the annual grant represented about 27% of the Food Centre's operating requirements, finding solutions to this situation has been a priority of both CCSAC and the Food Centre Management Committee. As 2022 ends, work is underway to find more accessible and larger space as city officials have indicated accessibility and offering varied services are important criteria for future funding. Centretown United Church has been a generous and supportive landlord for decades, and CCSAC and the Food Centre Management Committee are grateful for this partnership as we explore new avenues.