

## **MYTHS ABOUT FOOD BANKS**

**MYTH:** Any person can just walk up to the Food Bank and get food – no questions asked.

**FACT:** All clients of the Food Bank must go through a detailed screening process.

**MYTH:** Only “lazy people with no jobs get food from the Food Bank”.

**FACT:** The Food Bank serves a very diverse cross section of people in the community including seniors, single parents, recent immigrants and many others. Many of the clients are working but have insufficient income or people on fixed income.

**MYTH:** The Food Bank is constantly wasting food –“I’ve seen food thrown out in the garbage beside the warehouse.”

**FACT:** All food must meet levels of food safety and quality control standards prior to being distributed to our clientele. Unsafe food items that do not meet these standards must be discarded.

**MYTH:** The Food Bank must spend a lot of money on salaries because there are so many people working at the warehouse.

**FACT:** Primarily volunteers operate the Parkland Food Bank. We have over 10 volunteers per day, who are working to keep the doors open, while hired staff, ( equivalent to 1.5 FTE combined), manage the day-to-day functions associated with keeping the food bank “in business”.

**MYTH:** The ongoing operations at the Food Bank are funded by the Government.

**FACT:** Parkland Food Bank does not receive funds from the provincial or federal government to support its food distribution programs. The City of Spruce Grove and Parkland County do donate to the Food Bank but are not responsible for our funding. We are a bridge between the community and those in need, and are only able to distribute what we are able to collect from within the community.