

# SAINT ALBAN THE MARTYR, GLEN WILLIAMS

Awareness. It's an issue often discussed when it comes to poverty and hunger. Whether it's a lack of awareness of the levels of poverty in a community, or the lack of awareness of programs aimed to help people who face these challenges. It is these two distinct obstacles that faced Reverend Aaron Orear when he started working with Food for Life to initiate an outreach program at St Albans Church Glen Williams. While he had previously heard of Food for Life, the parish at St. Albans was small, the budget was limited and the need was great.

As the outreach program got started, Reverend Orear was aware of the other key obstacle to helping bring fresh food to those in need: access. In the community, he didn't want people to face the barrier of having to drive to get food. Thanks to a very dedicated team of volunteers, both from his congregation as well as other churches', they now provide food to 30-40 families. For those clients that are not able to get to St. Albans when the Food for Life truck makes the delivery, they bring the food to them.

In addition to coordinating their outreach program, the team at St. Albans has been busy creating a community garden. The volunteers from the parish as well as members of the community have worked together to grow fresh vegetables to complement the food they receive from Food for Life. In fact, last year, they not only supplied this food to their own program, they gave the excess fresh produce (almost 200 pounds!) to Food for Life to distribute to other outreach programs.

Reverend Orear will tell you that the partnership with Food for Life has been transformative. From the gentleman from the community who told him "I never even knew poverty existed in this neighbourhood" to the client who continues to express their appreciation of the fresh food, Reverend Orear has helped bring both food *and* awareness to the community. He will be the first to tell you, though, that their job isn't complete – they are always looking for more volunteers to help make sure they will be able to serve anyone who needs their help.