

MILTON BIBLE CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAM

The story of the Outreach Program at Milton Bible Church is not all that different than the origins of Food for Life itself. Just as Food for Life started with one or two people working toward a goal of helping get food to people in need in the neighbourhood, the Pastor at Milton Bible Church, Jim DeMarsh, started with program coordinators, Carolyn Kubas and Herb Bailey, and a small team of volunteers. And just as Food for Life grew through new relationships in the community, the Milton Bible Church Outreach Program grew through word of mouth and has been growing ever since.

When they first started their program in November 2010, there were only about 15 clients, but that number has increased to about 60 that come every week. In addition, there are another 13-15 families that can't make it to the church for the weekly delivery, so they arrange to pick up food at a different time or a volunteer will deliver it to them. Ultimately, the success of this program rests on the willingness of this team of 15 volunteers to make sure all the clients (a mix of seniors, families, singles) have access to this fresh, nutritious food.

One more feature links the Milton Bible Church Outreach program with the roots of Food for Life, and that is the community feeling that has been built. For the clients here do not only come for food, they come for haircuts (provided by a Church volunteer), they come for special draws, Christmas luncheons, and an opportunity to socialize over coffee. They work alongside the volunteers helping unload the Food for Life truck. They come because the team at the Milton Bible Church has created a warm and friendly environment where people feel accepted and welcome regardless of their personal circumstances. Food for Life has always been proud of the high level of integrity and respect within their Outreach Programs and Milton Bible Church meets that high standard.



Back row, from left to right:

Brett Johnson, Jim Fergusson, Barry DeGruchy, Jim DeMarsh, Carolyn Kubas, Herb Bailey

Front row, left to right:

Pat DeGruchy, Joan Fergusson, Gwen Hoylward, Sylvia Bailey