



NORTH OKANAGAN  
STARFISH  
PROGRAM

## Year-End Update 2024-2025

Dear George,

As the school year comes to a close, we're reflecting on what you helped us accomplish – and the difference it's made for children across the North Okanagan.

Thanks to your generosity, **the Starfish Program delivered 8,048 food bags this year – that's 48,288 meals** sent home with local students, ensuring they didn't face the weekend hungry.

That's 48,288 moments of relief, stability, and dignity.

*"My son gets excited every Friday. He unpacks his backpack himself and helps plan our family dinners. We are on a low income, and this program helps us a lot."*

– Starfish Parent

### **Behind Every Bag is a Community**

We continue to support 20 schools across Vernon, Armstrong, Enderby, and the Okanagan Indian Band – covering every corner of the North Okanagan.

From school staff identifying families, to volunteers packing and delivering bags, to donors like you ensuring the shelves are stocked – **this work is entirely community-powered.**

And it shows. **Over 93% of every dollar we raise goes directly toward food.**

We stretch every donation like it's made of elastic – and the result is something powerful.



## A year of new milestones

Alongside our regular weekly deliveries, this year brought some exciting new developments:

- 100+ Women Who Care – Vernon chose Starfish as their charity of choice
- The Starfish Cookie launched at Rail Trail Café with Gumtree's support
- These join a growing list of incredible community partners – including **Keith Construction, Save-On-Foods, Wayside,**

**Kalamalka Rotary, Lloyd Davies and Janet Armstrong, Bell Lumber and Pole, the City of Vernon, and the Community Foundation** – with many more continuing to lift this program up.

We are constantly humbled by this level of community support.

## **Thank You for Believing in This Work**

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Your support doesn't just fill bellies – **it builds futures.**

We're already planning for Fall and working to ensure no child goes hungry on weekends – not just this year, but for many years to come.

If you'd like to stay involved or continue your support over the summer months, you can:

**Make a  
donation**

**Volunteer for  
Starfish**

**Follow us on  
Facebook**

From all of us on the board and in the packing room – thank you. We're deeply grateful for your continued commitment to the children of the North Okanagan.

With great appreciation,

Mary Jackson, Darryl O'Brian, Chelsea Kidd, Chad Reimer, George Popi

