

## Canada 2018: The Bissell Center & The Edmonton Food Bank



The Bissell Center collects clothes and dresses about 2,500 people a year. The Edmonton Food bank serves around 20,000 people every month of which 9,000 are children. They deliver meals to 59 schools and counting.

This year I am visiting my old friend **Caroline Fenske** and her husband **Bob**. They live on a farm near Edmonton and so we decided to do something to help the community.

Off we set off for Costco's where we bought piles of socks and underpants for children and adults alike (no-one ever buys socks and underpants, we'd been told before...) Quite an undertaking but I had Caroline and Bob helping, transporting and enjoying the pleasure of giving.

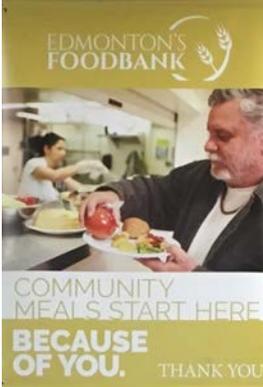
We drove straight to the Bissell Center, a major collecting point in Edmonton: they were happy to receive new stuff.

Look at all the stuffed bags of second hand clothes to sort — no easy job!



Then to The Edmonton Food Bank after stocking up on baby food, canned fish etc. It runs on 4% of its revenue!!!! **Steff Levy** gave us the details, with a continual

reminder that she really would like to lose her job (= no-one needs to be fed anymore). Her passion and obvious dedication were very catchy!



Last year they received 76,120 volunteer hours helping the 38 full time staff. They made up an average of 800 - 900 hampers a day each containing basics (beans, canned fruit, pasta, meat or fish and eggs + whatever is available) serving about 20,000 people a month of whom 9,000 are children. They moved 4.1 million kilos of

food – hard work!!!!

The general trend seems to be to bring charity home and Steff was very lyrical about Edmontonians' generosity. However, Steff is still needed which means that there are still people unable to buy enough food....

Thank you Caroline,  
Thank you Bob,  
Thank you Steff  
Take care... mujin

