

Growing Chefs! Ontario

2025-2026

Summer Impact Report - Community Programs



Partners in Food & Agricultural Education



Summer Festival: July 24th - August 16th, 2026

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

Londonlicious is a, community-focused, bi-annual food festival in London that not only highlights the city's diverse restaurants but also emphasizes supporting local farmers, growers, and producers.

All sponsors of the bi-annual festival also support our children's education projects.

The Londonlicious Festival supports us in realizing our vision of a healthy community that is engaged with our food system!



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For more information on the new
Londonlicious Festival visit www.londonlicious.ca



Notes from the Community!

This year, food education took root across London, growing through partnerships with so many of the great organizations and events that bring our community together. Across gardens, kitchens, and community spaces, children, youth, and families built food skills, explored growing and gardening, and connected through shared experiences.

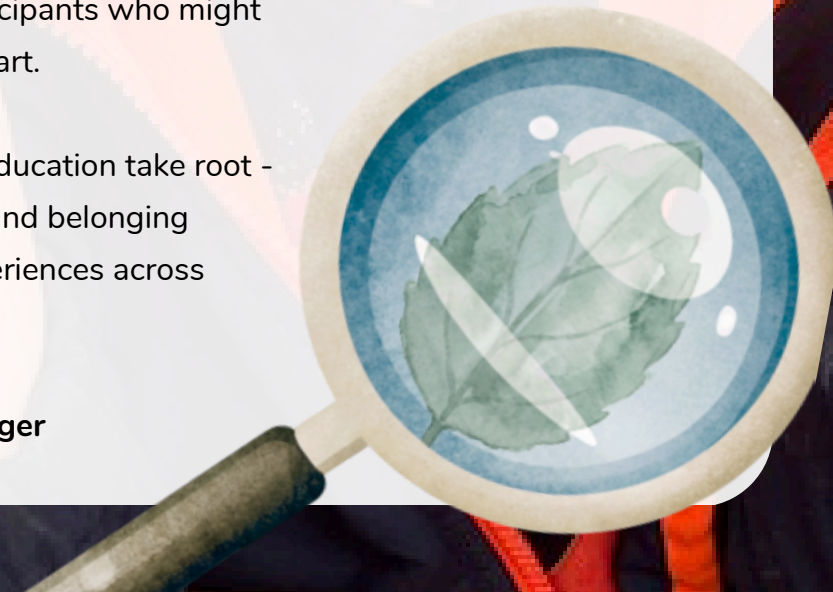
Our partnerships branched out in many directions:

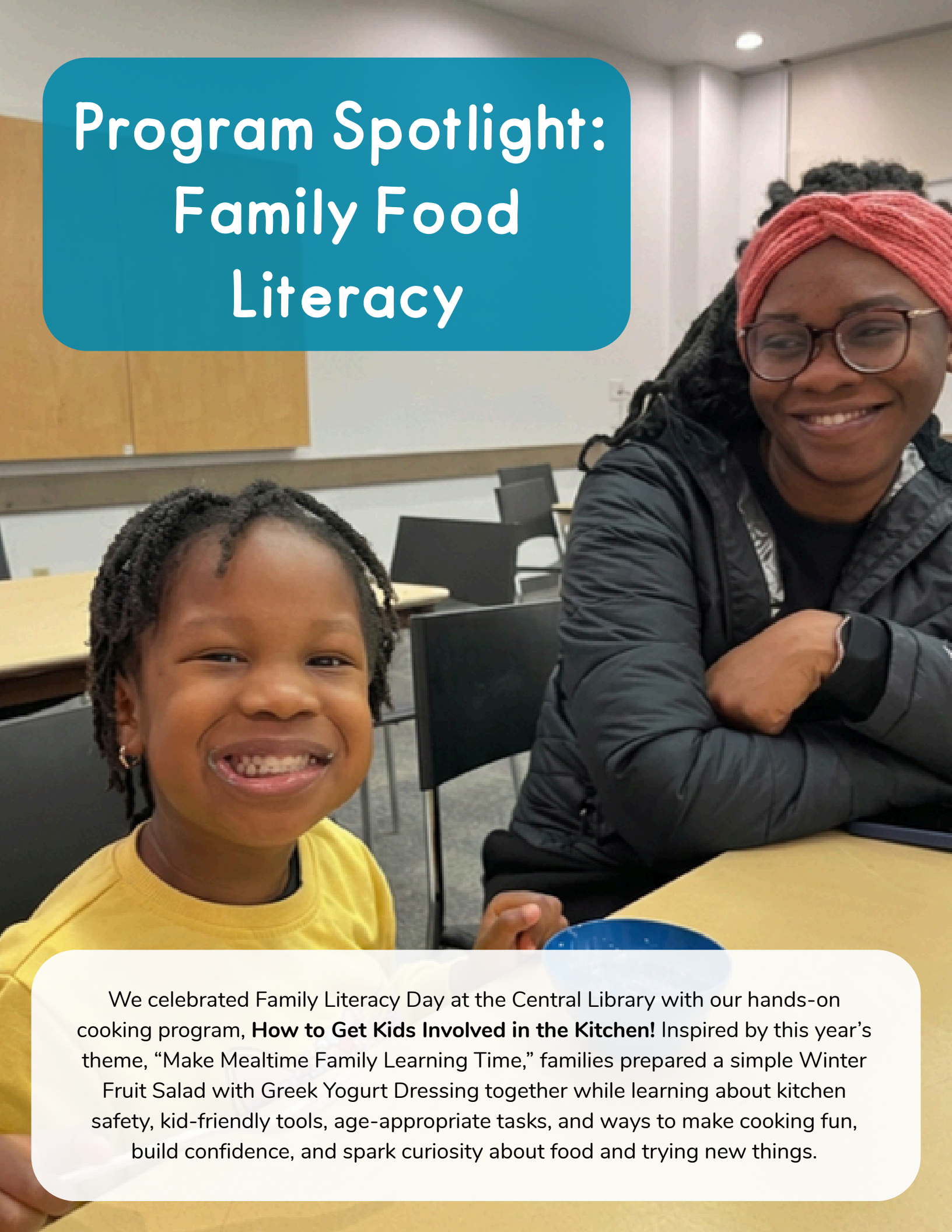
- **Garden Programs:** Growing, harvesting, and exploring through programs with Lifespin, Indwell, HART Hub, Unity Project, Salvation Army, Canadian Mental Health Association, Childreach, Hutton House, and Investing in Children.
- **Community Events:** Bringing food education into the community at Storybook Gardens, Kiwanis Walk Run Roll, Earthfest, Punk Rock Flea Market, Science Rendezvous, Forest City Road Races, and Seedy Saturday.
- **Cooking Classes:** Getting people cooking, tasting, and building food skills with Autism Ontario, London Public Library, Thames Bluewater Métis Council, and Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario.

As demand for community programming continued to grow, we focused our capacity on partnerships with organizations serving equity-denied communities. Free and subsidized programming helped open the door to participants who might otherwise face financial barriers to taking part.

Together, these partnerships helped food education take root - growing confidence, curiosity, connection, and belonging through gardens, kitchens, and shared experiences across our community.

- Christy Cook, Education Programs Manager



A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting at a light-colored wooden table in a kitchen or library setting. The woman, on the right, has dark hair in a bun, wears a red headband, glasses, and a dark jacket, and is smiling. The girl, on the left, has short braids and is wearing a yellow shirt, also smiling. In the background, there are wooden cabinets and black chairs.

Program Spotlight: Family Food Literacy

We celebrated Family Literacy Day at the Central Library with our hands-on cooking program, **How to Get Kids Involved in the Kitchen!** Inspired by this year's theme, "Make Mealtime Family Learning Time," families prepared a simple Winter Fruit Salad with Greek Yogurt Dressing together while learning about kitchen safety, kid-friendly tools, age-appropriate tasks, and ways to make cooking fun, build confidence, and spark curiosity about food and trying new things.

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue bucket hat, a black t-shirt with a logo, and blue camouflage pants, is smiling and holding a bouquet of sunflowers and other flowers. She is wearing blue gardening gloves. The background shows a garden with various plants, a white greenhouse, and a blue sky with clouds.

Volunteer Testimonials

**How does volunteering positively impact your life?
Why is volunteering important to you?**

“I have an opportunity to communicate with other people, learn their language, culture, cuisine etc. My child follows my example which helps her develop social skills and grow as a person.”

- Tetiana P

“Volunteering in my community inspires me with a sense of purpose by contributing to a cause that aligns with my personal values of compassion and helping young children to learn to live healthy lives.”

- Mychelle B

“It’s vital in reinforcing to me that I have something to contribute to my community. That I have purpose outside of my regular occupation.”

- Caterina T



Getting our
hands dirty!

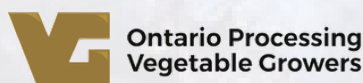
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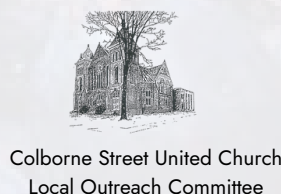
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