

# Plan B Charitable Community Organization In the Lanark Highlands

A look back at a challenging year

---



---

Like everyone else, we found last year to be full of challenges that stretched the limits of our creativity and resources. We seemed to spend the whole year peaking around corners to see what new predicament awaited us, what new way of doing things were we going to be need to adjust to. And were we going to have to invent that new way ourselves? It was a “first time” for all of us, this year of uncertainty. Some of us had these challenges wrap their arms around us and squeeze tight, suffocating us in their intensity. Others didn’t feel them quite as hard.

Wherever you fell on this spectrum, last year gave each of us a wonderful opportunity to learn a little bit more about ourselves and in many cases families and communities moved so much closer together. There is amazing positivity and creativity in our community. It can almost be felt like the pulse of what keeps us all going. And by sharing those incredibly valuable resources we have managed to not only survive 2020, but leave it behind by setting the stage with hope for 2021 to be fabulous.

The following pages outline what we have been up to last year. It is a basic summary of what we have done and gives some suggestions as to where we are planning on going. We can’t be definitive about this year’s plans until we hear from you, our community, and what you think. Our direction relies on your guidance and support. Every year so far that has worked beautifully, and so we continue to build on a successful model.

Thank you, everyone, for your incredible support. You made these things possible and you made these things happen. Congratulations on a job well done!

**Plan B Charitable Community Organization in the Lanark Highlands**

<http://www.planblanark.ca>

[info@planblanark.ca](mailto:info@planblanark.ca)

(613) 434-4453

61 Owen Street

PO Box 257

Lanark, ON K0G 1K0

Canada

---

## Letter from the Director

This first comprehensive annual report is being sent out to the organizations and people Plan B openly acknowledges as integral supports and partners to our small community group. Although we have been in existence for several years, formalizing our structure has become more necessary as we have grown. As most of you know we currently have non-profit status with CRA with an approved business number. Currently Queen's Law Clinic is applying for our charitable status.

As an evolving, dynamic grassroots organization Plan B enjoys a fairly unique position in the community. We are completely volunteer driven and run. Our mission statement reads "towards an even more supportive and inclusive community" and the interpretation of how that is best done we leave to the members of the community as a whole. Our goal is to facilitate and support, as much as we are able, the community's efforts to meet its own needs together. We hope to build on the exchange of human resources by bringing the phenomenal people of our community together. Our vision is one of equity and inclusion, built by people who feel supported, appreciated, hopeful, and respected.

We started small and continue to grow, as do our ambitions. We openly and freely acknowledge that we will never be able to end food or housing insecurity, or the myriad other social issues around us. Our efforts around these huge issues are to work with, and complement the groups that can work in these directions. Many of you represent these groups or have been a part of them. You have our deepest gratitude for all you do and for the support you have extended to us.

Evaluating our progress has been a challenging and ongoing process, as it is with any organization. We may have some extra challenges that make it more difficult sometimes but we persevere. I would like to personally thank those who have given me mentorship and guidance in open and constructive ways. I appreciate it might not always be easy to do that, but know that it is appreciated and welcome. Every one of us comes with a skill set and a passion. It must be fairly obvious that Plan B is my passion, and I certainly expect that to continue for a long time. As for skill sets, if you count bookkeeping or accounting in your repertoire and would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In partnership,

Melanie

---

We are a community group working together and we have many moving parts. There are so many individuals involved and doing what they can to make the Lanark Highlands what it is, there are too many to thank and celebrate individually. For everyone who participates in anything we do, know that it is not just the members of Plan B who extend their thanks. It is an entire community that benefits from your participation that not only says “thank you”, but knows their community supports them and is there for them.

## **What We’ve Been Up to (in a nutshell)**

### ***Community Dinners***

Probably the most well known thing we do are our dinners. Every month since March of 2015 we have held free community dinners that have grown in popularity from a regular attendance of approximately 70 to over 200. Only 1 month was missed, because of a power outage, until covid-19. In 2020 we were only able to offer dinners in January and February but are anxious to get back to a regular routine when it is safe to do so.

### ***Good Food Box***

Plan B offered the Good Food Box for a few years beginning in 2012. The program re-started when COVID19 hit. In an effort to help reduce people having to go shopping for produce and to support those hit hardest by job loss, wholesale produce was brought to Lanark with some subsidies available. Approximately 50 families make use of this service every two weeks.



### ***JamBee Jamboree***

Food preservation as a group was made very difficult with the pandemic. In order to stay safe many of our usual activities were simply cancelled. Those that could be done safely with COVID19 protocols in place were done outside as much as possible. Adding to our resources are a root cellar for community use and two 24 litre fermenters.

### ***Community Garden***

Our garden produced and shared almost 10,000 pounds of produce. The garden which has been flourishing for 5 years gets bigger and more productive every year. This year a youth initiative was added which was part work experience

---

and part garden theory which earned an honorarium paid weekly. Early spring we distributed seeds, soil and planting trays at no cost to any interested community members.

Although this year has been so challenging for everyone, both because of the need to be apart and the increasing need for support, we have all had to be creative in managing how we can best use resources to do what we can to meet those needs. We take great pride knowing many much larger and more well-established organizations have acknowledged Plan B as a leader in this creative process and we continue to welcome those connections.



An achievement this past year was to solidify our presence on-line. Tech savvy volunteers have not only made social media a vibrant network of communication but we have established an open phone system for one phone number to contact various people, email and website.

As food security continues to be central to many of our community member's minds we continue to expand the garden and other interests related to food. We can now include fermentation with our food preservation and will continue to expand what we are able to facilitate to support different methods of home food preservation. This year saw the completion of our community root cellar for the storage of produce.

Productive, responsible use of resources is central to what we do. We believe very strongly in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle model but add the component of Sharing. We understand however, that private property is private property and is not funded by community money. As a result, no infrastructure or other permanent fixture is funded by Plan B, or any public money, in any way. Permanent structures such as the root cellar, or facilities at the garden are always privately funded and the responsibility of the owner of the property. All funding and donations are used expressly for what they have been given for. If funds are used for non-perishables such as the fermenters, those items belong to the community at large. Should Plan B cease to exist for any reason, those items will be shared with community groups/organizations which would benefit from their use.

The following is a breakdown of how our financial resources have been used. As a community group, the community plays an active role in our funding, as does very generous organizations. We have no annualized dollars and continue to rely on the co-ordinated efforts of everyone. At any time we are more than happy to answer any questions anyone might have.

**Financial Report for 2020**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Community Dinner	\$1,149.3	\$993.42	\$155.88
Good Food Box	\$28,597.97	\$26,468.16	\$2,129.81
JamBee Jamboree	\$800.00	\$752.23	\$47.77
Community Garden	\$5000	\$4,535.77	\$464.23
Petty cash/misc	\$600.00	\$39.28	\$560.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$36,147.27</b>	<b>\$32,988.70</b>	<b>\$3,358.41</b>

**To break it down further:**

<b>Item-good food box</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Food		\$25,851.72
Other expenses		\$616.44
Advanced Alarm	\$500.00	
Table CFC	\$2,000.00	
PDCF grant	\$2,900.00	
Elementary Teachers Foundation	\$1,000.00	
Payment for boxes	\$20,148.38	
Community donations	\$2,620.75	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$28,597.97</b>	<b>\$26,468.16</b>

<b>Item-community dinners</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Donations	\$649.30	
PDCF grant	\$500.00	
Food / supplies		\$493.42
Rent to Civitan		\$500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,149.30</b>	<b>\$993.42</b>

<b>Item-community garden</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Lanark County	\$5,000.00	
Seeds		\$326.16
Honourariums (youth initiative)		\$3,000.00
Garden supplies		\$609.61
Volunteer Acknowledgement		\$600.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,535.77</b>

<b>Item-Jamboree</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Fermenters		\$655.28
Other		\$96.95
Community donation	\$800.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$752.23</b>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Other expenses (NOS)		\$39.28
Other donation (NOS)	\$600	

**Bank Balance, Jan 1 2020: \$2,398.59**

**Bank Balance Dec 31 2020: \$5,757.00**

---

This report does not begin to encapsulate the phenomenal support we get from our community around us. From individuals to the more structured organizations, it is only through working together that we make the Highlands such a great place to live. It was a difficult year but we can step forward with optimism knowing we do so arm in arm. Late in the fall we told you we needed your help to meet our financial goals. You came through for everyone and in December the donations from individuals left our account well in the black. These funds will carry us forward to continue to meet our goals, and we will be able to maintain the levels of support/subsidy that our community needs. Thank you.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in anything we do, there is always room for more. We make every attempt to be as accessible as possible in every way and welcome suggestions on how we can do that better. During the upcoming year Plan B hopes to be able to be more definitive about the direction we are going and the form that will take. Your involvement in this process is not only welcome, it is imperative. Although we enjoy our very positive partnerships with so many organizations a few stand out in particular. Our deepest gratitude for the support from Lanark County who enabled a youth initiative to get off the ground and the elementary Teachers Foundation.

Thank you to Advanced Alarm in Smiths Falls for their generous support.  
And for the continuing support of



***North Lanark Community  
Health Centre***