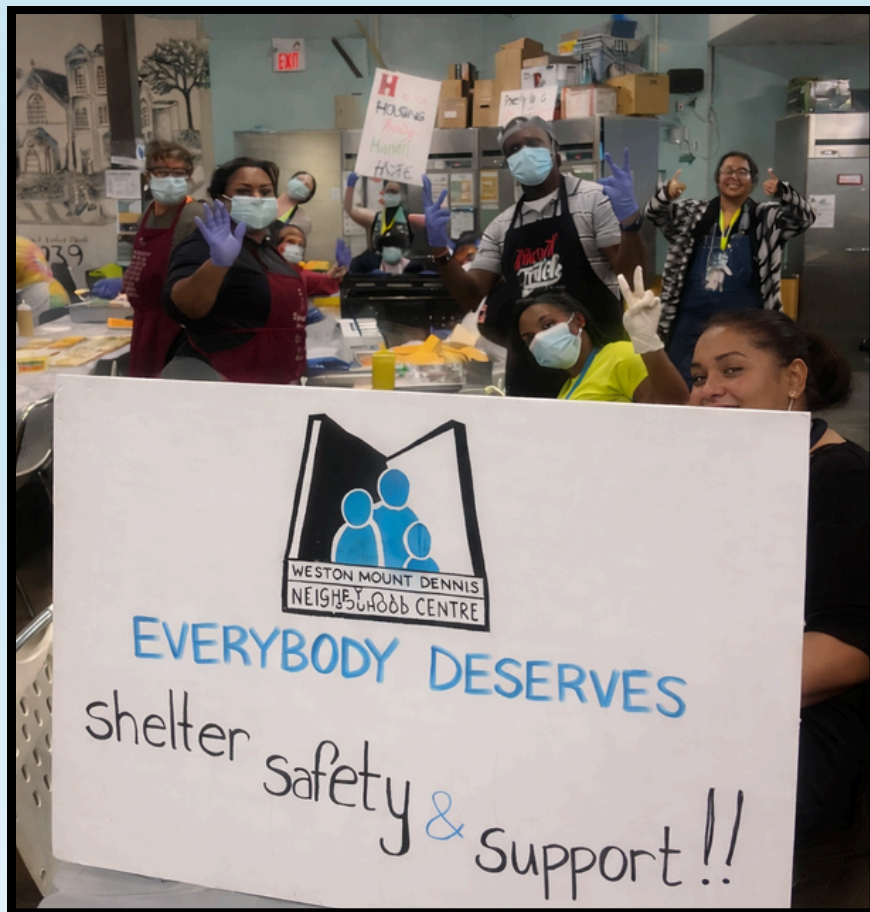




**WESTON KING  
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**PREPARED BY: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this community is situated upon traditional Indigenous territories of the Wendat, the Anishnabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. It is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples who have been stewards of this land and keepers of its stories. We thank them for sharing their traditional territory with us.

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We often say our mission is to figure out how not to be in business. Sadly, the need in our community continued to grow in 2025, and Weston King Neighbourhood Centre responded by serving more meals, distributing more grocery bags, and providing more showers, laundry services, and warm clothing than ever before. With support from city funding, WKNC was able to extend winter hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., offering a safe and welcoming space during the coldest months of the year.

Alongside essential services, WKNC continued to provide tax and ID clinics, counselling, harm reduction support through the Jane Street Hub, and advocacy services. Community programs such as bingo, movie nights, arts and crafts, hairdressing, nail care, and discussion groups created opportunities for connection, dignity, and belonging. The computer lounge remained an important resource, and changes to the pet policy – including allowing dogs in some areas and expanding pet food supports – reflected the realities and needs of many participants.

Through partnerships with organizations including Central United Church, Salaam Foundation, Vedanta Society, and Frontlines, WKNC was able to bring people together for celebrations at Easter, Canada Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas – moments of joy and community that matter deeply to many who may otherwise feel isolated. WKNC's staff showed extraordinary dedication throughout the year, working closely with community partners and supporting hundreds of participants. They also led and participated in advocacy efforts across the city – from speaking at budget meetings and community outreach events to preparing meals for rallies, supporting Black History Month events, traveling to Queen's Park, and participating in local neighbourhood gatherings and celebrations.

Continued on next page...

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR CONT'D

In 2025, WKNC also strengthened its leadership team by promoting Bryan Douthwright to Manager of Advocacy Services and Monica Pierce to Manager of Drop-In Services. Bryan has continued to lead a busy and impactful advocacy department, while Monica brings compassion, energy, and strong organizational leadership to the day-to-day operation of drop-in programs. Monica is supported by new Drop-In Facilitator Sarah Cleary. WKNC was also pleased to welcome Jenny Casarella as Food Program Manager and Chef. The Centre also benefited from the support of Michelle Thibeau, Melissa Duck, Lavern Alexander, Dorcus Namadu, and Steve Steffan.

WKNC's work would not be possible without its dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and community supporters. Their kindness and commitment continue to make it possible to serve the Weston and Mount Dennis communities with care, dignity, and hope.



**BARBARA STONE**  
BOARD CHAIR



## WHO WE ARE

### Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a response to the people within our community who are coping with economic or social barriers and to help lessen the impact of those barriers for the communities of Weston and Mount Dennis.

### Our Vision

We envision a community where diversity is respected and supported to enhance individual and community capacity.

### Our Values

WKNC seeks to fulfill its mission by establishing and operating programs and services by using a participant-centered philosophy with a focus on harm reduction, food security, and housing. We are dedicated to ensuring an inclusive, low-barrier environment using best practices and sector standards.

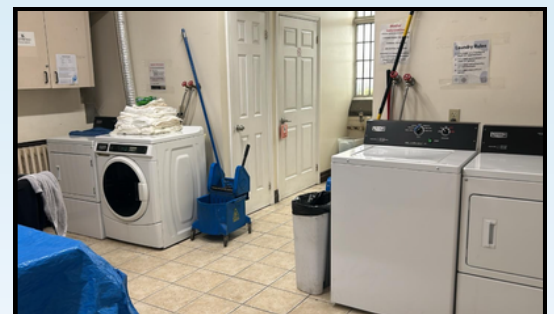
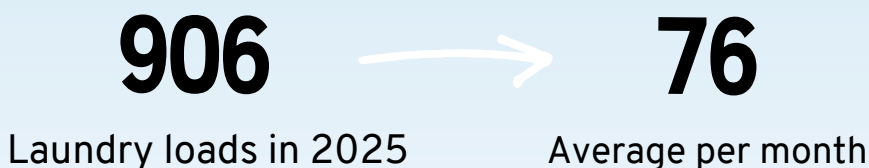
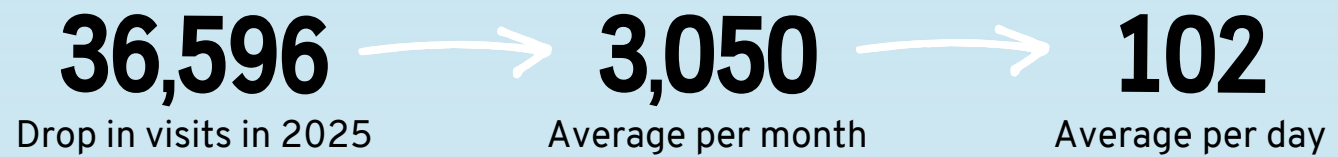


# DROP IN PROGRAM

In 2025, the drop-in program focused on strengthening **consistency** and **sustainability** while continuing to provide a low-barrier, welcoming space rooted in dignity and care.

Over the year, WKNC saw significant increases in access to our programs, including drop-in visits, hygiene supports, and opportunities for social inclusion. Basic needs distribution continued to provide clothing, hygiene products, incontinence supplies, first aid resources, and seasonal essentials.

Between 2024 and 2025, participation across key services grew significantly, including a 11% increase in drop-in visits, and notable increases in access to hygiene supports, with shower use increasing by 18% and laundry by 11%. Grocery program participation also increased by 21%, highlighting the growing need for food access in the community.



# DROP IN PROGRAM

**Volunteer engagement** remained strong in 2025, with ongoing efforts to improve retention and satisfaction by trying new systems and supports. **Social and recreational programming** continued to be shaped by the interests and feedback of participants, including the women’s group, BINGO, gardening, chess, and art programming, alongside seasonal events (such as our Holiday Gift Market) that foster connection and community.

This year also saw the launch of a new community garden in Mount Dennis thanks to a partnership with **Crosstown Family Health Team!** Volunteers and community members came together to dig in and help the space grow into a welcoming shared space for the neighbourhood.

It is impossible to count all the volunteers and number of hours people in our community contributed to the centre, as not all our supporters formally record their hours, but we are able to estimate that in 2025 there were:

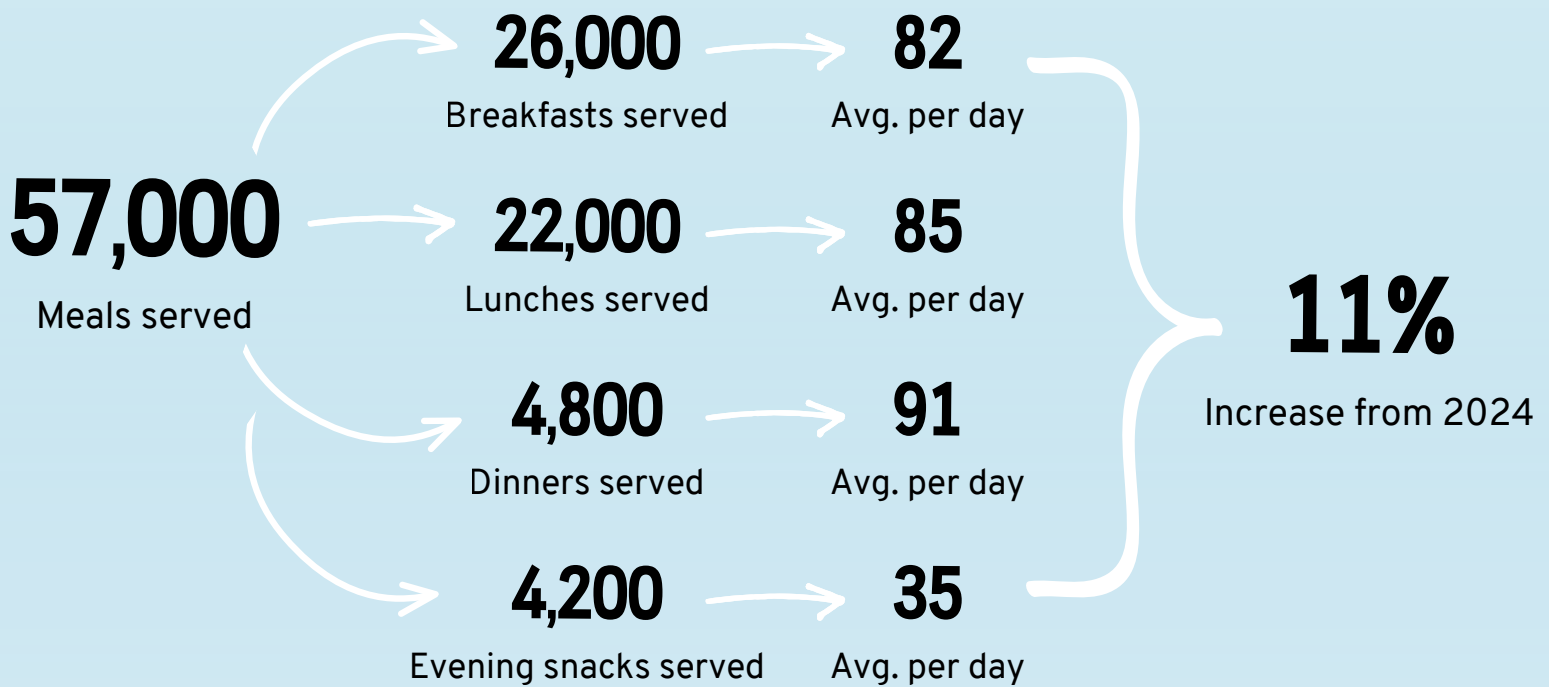
OVER  
**170**      &      OVER  
**6000**  
Total volunteers      Volunteer hours

Thank you to everyone who has helped our drop-in succeed in our mission this past year.



# FOOD PROGRAM

Food access remained at the heart of our services. In 2025, we continued serving two meals per day, six days per week, alongside expanded dinner and snack service during extended winter hours. The weekly grocery program broke participation records almost every week. With increased demand for food, our team made ongoing adjustments to ensure services remained consistent and equitable.



# ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Responding to growing community need, WKNC’s Advocacy and Outreach Program expanded its impact in 2025. The program saw a 53% increase in appointments compared to 2024, reflecting the rising challenges many community members face as they navigate housing instability, complex systems, and barriers to accessing support. Through this program, WKNC helps participants secure and maintain safe, stable, and affordable housing while connecting them to essential services.

Participants receive individualized support in areas including housing advocacy, legal and healthcare system navigation, online applications, access to social assistance, eviction prevention, caseworker mediation, case management, and referrals to specialized community resources.

In addition, WKNC coordinates in-house clinics that increase access to specialized services such as tax assistance, immigration support, employment and résumé-building services, counselling, vaccination, and wound care.

WKNC remains committed to advocating for stronger housing policies and increased investment in drop-in and homelessness support systems, ensuring the needs of our community members continue to inform broader system improvements.

**2,500+**

**1,100**

**23**

Emails, phone calls, and letters sent on behalf of participants, and referrals to external organizations

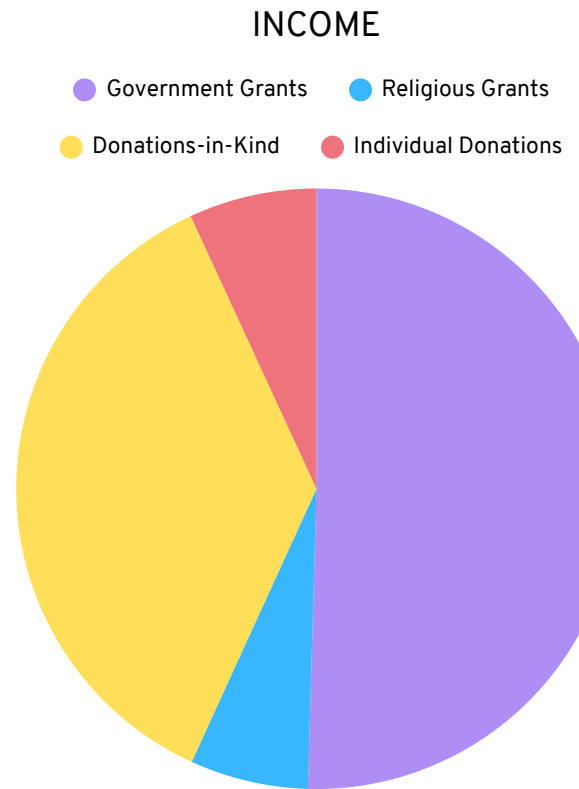
Total appointments and participants accompanied to appointments off site

Participants housed and evictions prevented

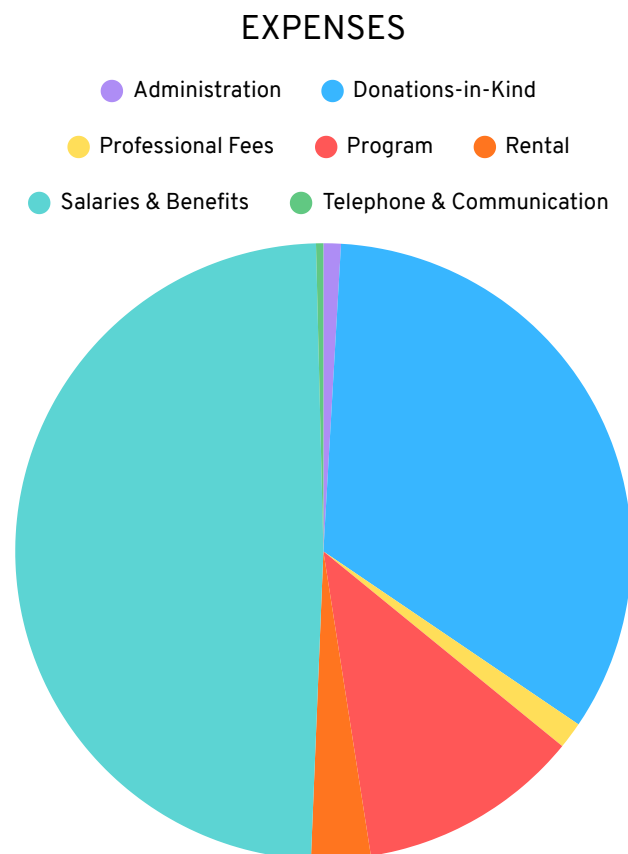


# FINANCIAL PICTURE

INCOME		
Source	Dollar Amount	%
Government Grants	\$522,508	52%
Religious Grants	\$65,919	6%
Donations-in-Kind	\$375,851	36%
Individual Donations	\$71,243	6%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,035,520</b>	<b>100%</b>



EXPENSES		
Source	Dollar	Year %
Administration	\$10,209	0.9%
Donations-in-Kind	\$375,851	33.6%
Professional Fees	\$15,680	1.4%
Program	\$130,438	11.7%
Rental	\$34,800	3.1%
Salaries & Benefits	\$548,238	49.0%
Telephone & Communication	\$4,287	0.4%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,119,503</b>	<b>100%</b>



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Donors are our lifeblood. We could not do anything without you. We are grateful and appreciative for all that you do. We could not serve the Weston and Mount Dennis communities without the kindness shown by you!

Thanks to your donations, we can serve tens of thousands of meals, give out life-saving medical supplies, provide spaces for empowerment, and help community members find stable housing. Here are the organizations that help make it all happen.

## OUR DONORS:

- CITY OF TORONTO
- DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK
- ENGAGE AND CHANGE
- FOOD SHARE
- FRONTLINES
- GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
- HEARING FIRST
- JUST SOCKS
- MAZON CANADA
- NIMATULLAHI SUFI ORDER
- NORTH YORK HARVEST FOOD BANK
- THE PERIOD PURSE
- PROJECT FOOD CHAIN
- PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
- ROTARY CLUB OF PARKDALE-HIGH PARK-HUMBER
- SALAAM FOUNDATION
- SECOND HARVEST
- UNISON
- THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
- VEDANTA SOCIETY OF TORONTO
- WESTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
- SOUP & SANDWICH



Government of Canada



SALAAM FOUNDATION



Vedanta Society of Toronto

A Branch Of The Ramakrishna Order



The United Church of Canada

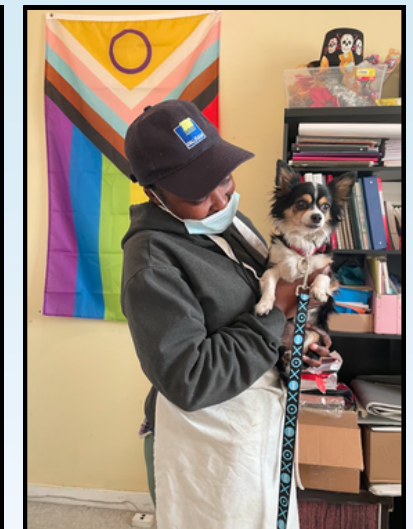


# THANK YOU TO OUR HELPERS

Every day, our staff, students, and volunteers manage multiple food services, program appointments, and the distribution of clothing, hygiene supplies, and basic needs. They also provide harm reduction supports, advocacy and systems navigation, conflict prevention and de-escalation, informal counselling and daily check-ins, while maintaining and caring for shared spaces. It is busy work, but incredibly rewarding to see the impact we have every day.



# HERE'S TO ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR!



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