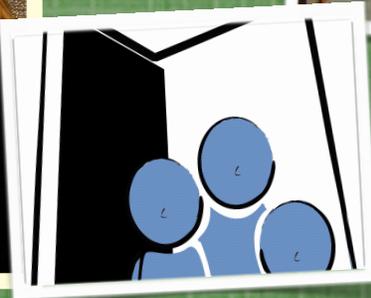


# A PLACE FOR ALL

## WESTON KING NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



*Assisting in the revitalization of the Weston Neighbourhood since 2001.*



## 2011 Annual Report

**WKNC is one of the few open-door agencies in a Priority Neighbourhood where one out of four residents live below the poverty line.**

2011 was a pivotal year for the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC). It was a year of growth and renewed optimism for the Centre.

We were very excited to celebrate WKNC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2011. We held our second annual Community Festival & BBQ in August. Through applying to the Investing in Neighbourhoods program, we were able to hire a Community Worker and a Food Services Worker for a year to work

alongside our three core staff. Another highlight was being awarded the 2011 Mayor's Community Safety Award.

**WKNC has continued to place** a high priority on involvement with the Toronto Drop-in Network (TDIN) and with the ongoing City-led Drop-in Review and the *Measuring Success* project. This project is intended to develop strategies and tools for measuring the success and outcomes of individual drop-in centres. The implementation stage for *Measuring Success* takes place during 2012.

WKNC continued to be one of the few open-door agencies in a Priority Neighbourhood where one out of four residents live below the poverty line. The primary participant base of WKNC continued to be people who are homeless, under-housed, socially isolated or living in poverty in Weston-Mt. Dennis.

Throughout 2011 we also saw an increase in the numbers of seniors, sole-support parents, recent immigrants, refugees and the 'working poor' accessing our

A highlight of 2011 was being awarded the Mayor's Community Safety Award

programs and services. The Weston area was hard hit by the recent federal cutbacks to Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) and this has had a direct impact on WKNC. (...over)

ON THE WEB:  
**WKNC.CA**

Get to know us! Visit the Centre during regular hours (listed on the back page)

**Weston King Neighbourhood Centre**  
2017 Weston Road, Weston, ON M9N 1X2  
Tel: 416-241-9898 Email: [wknc@bellnet.ca](mailto:wknc@bellnet.ca)

## WKNC (con't)

WKNC faces some new and exciting opportunities for 2012. We recently applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding to hire an Executive Director for an initial two-year period. The lack of senior management staff has been identified for the past few years as one of the main organizational weaknesses of WKNC. We feel that this is an opportune time to take this step.

The City-led Revitalization Plan for Weston is a welcome initiative which will lead to significant changes to the neighbourhood.

WKNC may soon have a very unique opportunity to expand its catchment area and to undertake program and outreach activities in the Mt. Dennis portion of this Priority Neighbourhood. This would be undertaken in partnership with the congregation of Mt. Dennis United Church.

We are confident at WKNC that we make a real difference in peoples' lives. We make a special effort to make people feel welcomed and valued and to foster a sense that they are part of a community. WKNC is essentially about building community and in facilitating positive change in peoples' lives and in the community.

We are very thankful at WKNC to have an extraordinary Board of Directors, a solid team of local volunteers and very dedicated staff. We continue to be very grateful for our ongoing partnership with Central United Church and the continued support of the City of Toronto through Shelter, Support & Housing Administration. We are also thankful to our many partner agencies in particular the Daily Bread Food Bank, Second Harvest, Syme-Woolner and Albion Neighbourhood Services.

*Ken Theobald, Drop-in Coordinator*

## Message from Timothy Barlow, WKNC President

2011 was a time of transition for WKNC. New leadership, new philosophies and a few fresh faces contributed to a renewed team spirit and

some very innovative ideas from all the members of our team. This was my first year as President of our board and the experience has been a great one for me, but not without its challenges.

Understanding policies, managing different personalities, implementing a new culture while learning the art of delegation has been demanding at times. I am truly grateful to the many wonderful people of our organization who stepped up to help make that transition more seamless.

Our collective goal this year was to build a stronger team environment with more effective communication between board and staff, while continuing to focus on improving a safer, more harmonious environment for our participants.

Our efforts were acknowledged this year as we were chosen as one of five organizations in Toronto to receive the Mayor's Safety Award. This award demonstrates the achievements of our team but also recognizes the many efforts of our participants and loyal volunteers who assist us in creating that safe environment.

As well as focusing on our internal operation, we have also made great strides this year in strengthening our partnerships and continuing to grow relationships with other like-minded organizations whose aim is to assist the less fortunate of Toronto.

In particular, our partner Syme-Woolner has been instrumental in assisting us with our harm reduction and housing programs as well as offering their people and resources to aid in our growth. Our relationships with Central United Church, Albion Neighbourhood Services, Daily Bread, Second Harvest and others continue to grow as well and are an integral part of what we do. We are grateful to them all.

## This year WKNC successfully met the necessary standards to be accredited with The United Church of Canada.

The goal of these standards is to ensure the highest level of care in delivering services through United Church ministries. We are very proud of this achievement and special thanks to Barbara Bisgrove for the hundreds of hours she put in to make this happen.

Our ties with the Toronto Drop In Network have also strengthened. TDIN have demonstrated tremendous support this year by developing new and exciting strategies and providing the necessary support to implement them. We appreciate their leadership.

This year we chose to participate in the Investing in Neighbourhoods program, an initiative designed to help Ontario Works individuals train and connect with job opportunities in non-profit organizations. Barbara Bernhard and Terry O'Handley have made great contributions to WKNC as we help prepare them for their future employment in our industry. We plan to participate in program again as it's such a win/win for everyone involved.

Our regular staff of Ken Theobald, Myriam Canas-Mendes and Brenetta Nedd have done an exemplary job of adjusting to the many changes we have faced this year. They are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts.

## Our staff have done an exemplary job.

Our biggest struggle continues to be the funding of our food coordinator position. Despite not being able to secure this necessary funding, the board and staff have done a great job of finding creative ways to find temporary solutions to this problem. Special thanks to Brenetta for her loyalty and hard work despite the situation. We feel confident that a solution is pending.

We are currently awaiting the approval of a two-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the position of executive director. We believe this new position will help us reach the next stage of our development, improve our funding opportunities and assist us to create new programming that will give our participants the opportunity to learn and develop the new skills and mindset necessary to move forward in their lives.

We continue to encourage our participants, staff, volunteers, and board to participate in our individual committees so that we can promote a cohesive and united environment for everyone to succeed and be heard.

Much thanks to the many people who have helped in the successful growth of WKNC to this point and for your continued support in the future.

# Treasurer's Report for Fiscal 2011 and Summary Graphs

2011 found Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC) in good financial health, with audited financials being reported on a fund basis. Unrestricted cash reserves stand at \$30,000, representing 2 months contingency for operating costs.

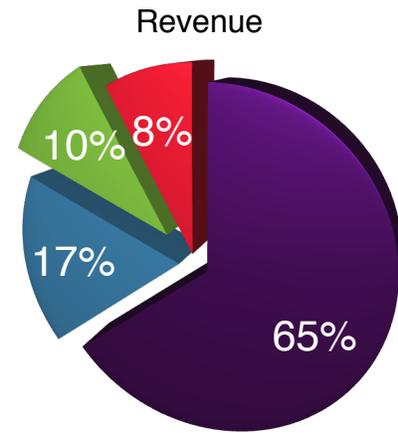
WKNC is fortunate to receive continued funding for our Drop-in program through the City of Toronto's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration envelope. Our staff complement was strengthened by two workers under the Investing in Neighbourhoods program.

Thanks to our funders, we were able to acquire energy efficient washers, dryers, and a dishwasher, in addition to new tables and chairs for the dining hall.

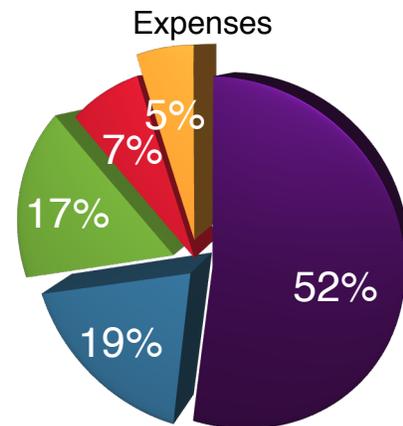
WKNC's challenges going forward are to diversify our funding base, with an immediate focus of securing core funding for the Food Co-ordinator position, which is critical to the operation of the kitchen, provision of meals and food security services to the Weston-Mount Dennis community.



Louise Clunas, Treasurer



- City of Toronto
- Central United Church
- Donations
- Misc.



- Staff
- Program
- Rent
- Misc.
- Admin

## WKNC by the numbers

Fund Source	Income	Percent		Expense	Percent
City of Toronto - HIF	\$146,665	56.51%			
City of Toronto - HPI	\$14,394	5.55%	<b>Expenses</b>		
City of Toronto - Health & Safety	\$10,000	3.85%	Drop-in Staff	\$96,066	36.38%
TESS - Investing in Neighbourhoods	\$6,558	2.53%	Kitchen Staff	\$39,307	14.89%
Canada Summer Jobs	\$4,162	1.60%	Summer Students	\$4,988	1.89%
Central United Church	\$45,000	17.34%	Program Expenses	\$50,662	19.19%
Donations	\$23,530	9.07%	Rent	\$45,000	17.04%
Daily Bread Food Bank - Sue Cox	\$3,648	1.41%	Program Equipment	\$13,372	5.06%
United Church	\$2,550	0.98%	Admin	\$14,182	5.37%
Miscellaneous	\$3,034	1.17%	Repairs & maintenance	\$469	0.18%
	<b><u>\$259,541</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>		<b><u>\$264,046</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>

# Valued Partners

**Albion Neighbourhood Services** provides outreach services, housing support and follow-up support to people in the area. **Central United Church** provides rent-free space, janitorial services and maintenance, as well as the Tuesday evening community supper delivered in partnership with several local faith communities. **Daily Bread Food Bank** provides a weekly fresh food delivery as part of the Nutritious Food to Drop-ins project. **Elizabeth Fry Society** provides a weekly "Work Safe Program" for women involved in the sex trade. **Federation of Metro Tenant's Associations** (FMTA) provides quarterly workshops on tenant's rights. **Fred Victor** provides housing help workers. **George Brown College** provides student placements. **Project Water**, provides bottled water for our participants during summer heat alerts. **Project Winter Survival** provides winter survival kits for our homeless and street-involved participants. **Second Harvest** provides the foundation for many of our meals. **St. Elizabeth Healthcare** sends a nurse practitioner to the Centre weekly. **Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre** provides a housing worker to help with eviction prevention, finding subsidized housing, getting people into or out of shelters, advocacy with landlords, and housing searches. They also provide a harm reduction worker who leads the peer workers in outreach activities in the area. **Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts** provides tickets for theatre, dance & other cultural events. **West Park Healthcare Centre:** The Sandwich Samaritan group, provides 10 loaves of sandwiches weekly. **Unison Health and Community Services** conduct periodic on-site workshops healthcare. **Windfall Clothing Service** offers new clothing for distribution to participants.

# Active in Your Community



*Part of our mandate is to be visible in the community. Look for representatives of WKNC at a community event near you*

**“You might call this perpetual struggle a loss of human capital, you might call it suffering.”**

Linsey MacPhee, Manager of the Toronto Drop-in Network, speaking on behalf of the over 50 drop-ins in the City of Toronto, spoke at a deputation regarding budget cuts at the municipal level. She was supported in this by Myriam Canas-Mendes, WKNC's own drop-in worker.

**“Without investments in community partnerships throughout the service delivery system, people coping with job loss, extreme poverty, health crises, mental health issues and addictions will face further struggles and barriers to achieving and maintaining a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. You might call this perpetual struggle a loss of human capital, you might call it suffering.”**

## Board of Directors

Tim Barlow, Barbara Bisgrove, Louise Clunas, Michael Kooiman, Lang Moffat, Sylvia Hampton, Leo Marshall, Wendy Whiteley, Michel Jones, Christine Swearing and Ericson Adapon

## Hours of Operation

Monday: 10 am to 2 pm;  
Tuesday: 3 pm to 7 pm with the Community meal at 6.  
Wednesday: By appointment only from 10-2.  
Thursday: (Women only) 10-2.  
Friday: 10-2  
Saturday and Statutory Holidays, 10-1.

