
WKNC 2022

WESTON KING NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (WKNC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



PREPARED BY: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2022 was another successful year for Weston King Neighbourhood Centre, with both our WKNC and MDNC locations finally opening up for indoor dining and enhanced service offerings.

Early in the year we were still battling with Covid restrictions, but thankfully received supports to continue our take out program, as well as to expand our backyard. In March we completed the installation of air conditioning bringing better ventilation to the main dining hall. In May we were able to have outdoor dining, barbeques, vegetable gardens, celebrations, and activities safely and joyously. The space proved very popular and stayed open until October. We also opened the dining room to limited use for those who wanted to bring their take-out inside or wanted to eat in.

On Thanksgiving we celebrated our first hybrid take-out/eat in cafeteria style service and gradually rolled it out through the rest of the year. Christmas hampers and a sit down dinner cooked and served by CUC church and board members was a great success and marked our move to reduce throw away containers. Everyone was provided a reusable container and after some practice, we have significantly reduced both the garbage and the associated costs.

We are very thankful for the wonderful staff members that supported both of our sites, interacted with multiple partners, and engaged hundreds of participants in 2022. **Quinn Conlon** assumed the position of Drop-In Manager and continues to bring her compassion, unboundless energy, and cheerfulness to help lead the team. We welcomed **Shannae Rowe**, first as a Kitchen Assistant through the Canada Summer Jobs program, and then as our full time Kitchen Manager where she continues to share her catering experience with WKNC. We also welcomed **Lavern Alexander** as our Drop in Worker bringing lots of experience to our program.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONT'D

We had a great group of placement students with **Bryan Douthright, Jane Lewis, Mei Wang, Solomon Ghebrekus,** and **Isharelle McIntosh**. We were happy to be able to hire them for summer or part time work throughout the year and congratulate them on their graduation in 2023. Most of them are still with us in some capacity and we are very thankful for their knowledge and their energy.

Behind the scenes, **Steve Steffan** helps keep things clean and well maintained at WKNC, an essential service especially through the pandemic. Our vaccine engagement program with ambassadors **Sharlene Henry** and **Kimberly McMaster** concluded at the end of the year. Thank you to both for their outreach to the community. We said goodbye to long term members of staff, **Annalee Barrera** and **Lutfun Nahar** who, we are happy to say, were able to advance their careers in larger not for profit organizations in Toronto. We also said goodbye to **Maria Castillo** who found a full time job that matched her training.

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre benefits greatly from the fantastic volunteers that we have. We could not successfully serve our community without you. Thank you to all who have made it possible to serve Weston and Mount Dennis.

BARBARA STONE
BOARD PRESIDENT





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 and the burden of poverty 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, barrier free environment using best practices and sector standards.

DROP IN PROGRAM

2022 was a year of transition for our drop-in program as we moved from pandemic-era restrictions to fully reopened supports. Over the course of the year, we have:

- Transitioned from take-out meals to fully indoor dining (with ‘bring your own container’ take-out options)
- Reinitiated social programming from one online event per week to 5-6 weekly in-person social events (Drumming Circle, Senior’s Art Group, Action Movie Afternoons, Boardgames, ‘Stitch & Sip’ needlecraft, Bingo, and more!)

44,250

Meals served
(averaging 122 meals per day)

6,130

Grocery bags distributed

207

Shower & laundry machine visits

We also worked with new and old partners to organize onsite ‘clinics’ to meet changing participant needs, including:

- Monthly vaccination clinics
- Bi-weekly nursing clinics
- Weekly mental health counsellor drop-ins
- Weekly legal and ID clinics

We are so grateful to our staff, board members, volunteers, and participants for your patience and support during these changes, and we’re thrilled to be serving you back inside!



ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Since November of 2022, the Housing Help Program has begun shifting towards a general Advocacy Department. The Advocacy Department will continue to support WKNC’s participants in reaching their goals of securing and retaining safe and affordable housing. We will continue our work towards enhancing the lives of all participants, by direct advocacy or streamlining referral processes. These referrals will be strengthened through our growing partnerships within the community and external organizations.

Additionally, in the summer of 2023 the Advocacy Department will begin a street outreach initiative, focusing on engaging persons experiencing houselessness in the Weston and Mount Dennis neighbourhoods.

521

Housing Appointments in 2022
(avg 44/mo)

800

Total emails, letters, and phone calls made on behalf of participants

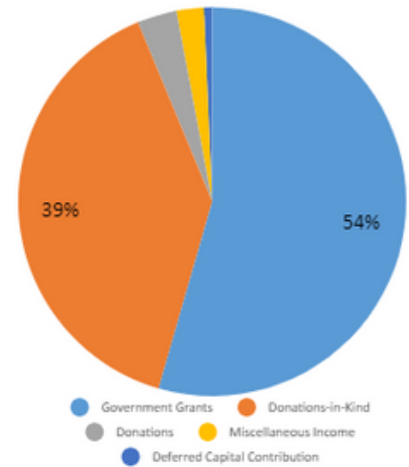
1270

Referrals to other services such as: settlement, foodbank, harm reduction, etc.

FINANCIAL PICTURE

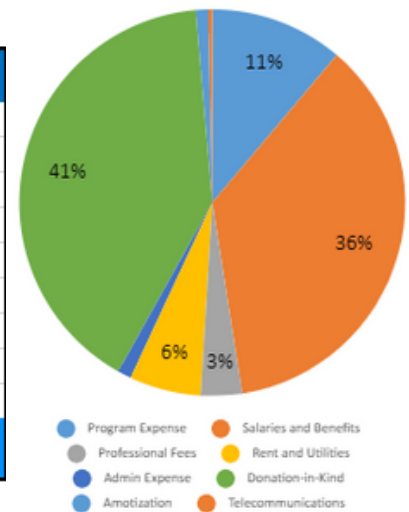
INCOME

SOURCE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Government Grants	\$558,693	54%
Donations-in-Kind	\$403,072	39%
Donations	\$33,776	3%
Miscellaneous Income	\$23,399	2%
Deferred Capital Contribution	\$7,063	1%
TOTAL		\$1,026,003



EXPENSES

SOURCE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Program Expense	\$111,104	11%
Salaries and Benefits	\$361,472	36%
Professional Fees	\$34,227	3%
Rent and Utilities	\$59,746	6%
Admin Expense	\$11,367	1%
Donation-in-Kind	\$403,072	41%
Amotization	\$10,349	1%
Telecommunications	\$3,351	0.3%
TOTAL		\$994,688



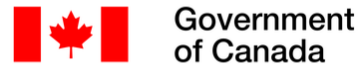
OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST



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!



CITY OF TORONTO

DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK



FOOD SHARE

FRONTLINES

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

LOBLAWS

MAZON CANADA

NORTH YORK HARVEST FOOD BANK

PROJECT FOOD CHAIN

SALAAM FOUNDATION

UNISON

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

UNITED WAY GREATER TORONTO



SALAAM FOUNDATION



The United Church of Canada



United Way Greater Toronto



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