

A PLACE FOR US

Annual Report and Update



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS
2014 SUCCESS STORIES

RESPONDING TO PEOPLE IN NEED

THE DROP-IN HAS EXTENDED HOURS!

Visit **WKNC**

Open 6 days a Week!

We are now open 6 days a week 8am-4pm

Community Kitchens

Community Kitchens on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings - everyone helps plan the menu, cook and clean up!

New Themed Days

Tuesday: Seniors Day; Wednesday: Men's Day; Thursday: Women's Day. Breakfast is served for **everyone** everyday

DOING MEANINGFUL WORK - A MESSAGE FROM DAWN DOWLING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Just over a year ago I began my journey as the Executive Director of Weston King Neighbourhood Centre.

Excited to embark on this new adventure I was met by a loyal and dedicated staff and volunteer team and an experienced Board who were eager to facilitate organizational change and growth. This team has been the back bone in the big changes that Weston King Neighbourhood Centre has seen in 2015 as we become a multi-service agency with 2 sites.

The adventure began just after the last AGM when Weston King Neighbourhood Centre secured funding for a full time housing worker. We are proud to boast that 36 different individuals have secured permanent housing, 2,108 housing supports have been

provided, 18 evictions prevented and 12 partnerships have been established fostering stability and recovery throughout the community.

Recognizing the increasing diversity in the community and the need for increased culturally reflective programming, WKNC embarked on developing programs that provided participants with opportunities in the areas of education, health and wellness, therapeutic recreation, volunteerism, and skills exchanges.



Some of the highlights of our success this year include:

- Food Security programming increased from 7 weekly hot meals to 13 hot meals and 4 community kitchens weekly
- A weekly men's day and seniors day were established to

compliment women's day as we recognize the need for demographic specific programming and safe spaces

- Hours of operation extended from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily with evening community kitchens 3 days a week
- The volunteer contingent expanded to 150 different active volunteers
- Community Partners more than doubled increasing the variety and quality of programming provided on-site and referrals and collaborative projects in the community
- Weston King Neighbourhood Centre has become a teaching facility supporting 56 different placement students from 13 different academic institutions in 7 different disciplines from diploma to PHD levels



"Weston King Neighbourhood meals mean I can eat at the end of the month"

Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centre Update

CONT' FROM FRONT PAGE

- Participants are vibrant and engaged; so much so that Weston King Neighbourhood Centre is now embarking on Peer-led Programs reflecting the phenomenal skills and capacities in the Weston Mount Dennis catchment area

The result of these efforts is that attendance at the centre has increased 35%. This is a reflection of increased need in the community, but also of Weston King Neighbourhood Centre's commitment to raising to meet these needs. Participants, volunteers, staff, and Board have worked tirelessly to make this possible.

On an organizational level, Weston King Neighbourhood Centre is growing and updating how we best serve the community and ensure we are effective. We are in the final stages of a new strategic plan and have developed a new staffing structure, new reporting structures, new data collection structures, a new Board succession plan, revised policies, revised mission, mandate, vision and values....a new way of providing service.

In the upcoming year look forward to new social enterprises, the opening of the Mount Dennis site, increased focus on Aboriginal, new immigrant, youth and senior's programming, Peer-led Programs, a commitment to social justice and food security, increased presence in the community, continued educational opportunities, renewed community partnerships and sites that empower participants to actualize their potential while accepting them for who they are.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre for their continued support and guidance as we embark on our upcoming journey.

May the Board of Directors, the Staff, and the Volunteers continue shaping new programs, services, and collaborations that reflect the needs of the Weston King/Mount Dennis communities!

Dawn Dowling
Executive Director

Cultivating New Growth in Mount Dennis

"Trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruit."

— Molière

The Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centre has been a labour of love (and yes, patience) for WKNC, partner agencies and residents of the Mount Dennis Community.

In 2014 we saw the power of community investment, and worked hard to grow the seed that the Mount Dennis United Church planted with their initial financial contribution and commitment. This investment was leveraged to obtain additional funding from **The Ontario Trillium Foundation** and the **City of Toronto** – the result is a state of the art commercial grade learning kitchen; and programming, office, meeting and counselling space that will act as a platform for the community to embark on social and economic development.

The cultivation and growth of MDNC is far beyond just a financial investment. 2014 also saw the development of partnership, resident engagement and community commitment to the

new space, which we have truly built together. With a series of community meetings that engaged residents and partner agencies on everything from how the space should and could be used, what issues we most want to address together in the new hub, to the colours we should paint the walls, people came together to shape MDNC.

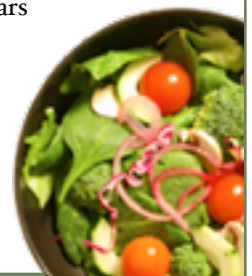
We undertook pilot programming to build, test and learn about community kitchens with a variety of different groups – from the now vibrant Men's Community Kitchen housed at the main drop-in location, to a dynamic peer-led Aboriginal community kitchen and wellness program.

All of these groups are invested in MDNC being something that reflects and uses the skills, strengths and assets of the Weston-Mount Dennis neighbourhood, while building a healthier, more economically viable and socially vibrant community together.

Our partnership with the Learning Enrichment Foundation has also grown to reflect not only our shared use of the space, but leveraging our complementary services to create wrap-around supports for people at many different stages in their goal to make a living and live well.

Out of the foundation we have built together in 2014, wonderful things will be growing in Mount Dennis in the years moving forward.

Erika Pulfer,
Program
Coordinator



"I wanted something to do and once I became a volunteer at Weston King Neighbourhood Centre good things started happening in my life."

Report of the President of the WKNC Board of Directors Timothy Barlow

This past year is one I will remember for many years to come as President of the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre.

Our mandate this year was to develop a clearer vision of who we want to be and where we want to go, and to make the necessary changes for us to get there together as an organization.

Adaptation is a difficult thing for most of us as individuals and collectively it's even harder.

Opening a second location, transitioning from an operational board to a governance model, adding new staff as well as integrating a new executive director proved to be a lofty goal, with a myriad of interpretations and ideas from everyone of what we need to do to succeed.

And often as they say, we can lose sight of the forest for the trees.

Through it all, we managed to accomplish much of what we set out to do and gained a lot of insight and wisdom in the process.

The Trillium Foundation's investment was once again instrumental, as was the help of the city of Toronto and other generous funders.

Our Mount Dennis location was successfully renovated and new equipment was secured for both of our locations, along with new programming and the addition of new staff and volunteers.

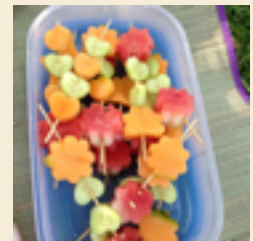
Both our staff and board found ways to adapt to new ways of thinking and make changes so we could create the new framework necessary for our best year yet. I am grateful to everyone who stayed the course and I believe we have the right people and pieces in place to succeed and better serve our community.

Community Kitchens are Thriving at WKNC!



In 2014 WKNC launched Community Kitchen Programs at both the main drop-in site and MDNC. Community Kitchens are lead by volunteers and peers, and provide a space for people to learn and share skills, gain employment experience, socialize and contribute to the

centre.



"Finally a day where the men can boss the kitchen. We make pretty good food." - Men's Community Kitchen Participant

A few bumps and bruises were felt along the way however and in my desire to get to this new place in our organization, I too lost sight of the forest at times.

Author and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar once said: "You don't build a business, you build people, and then people build the business."



I go into my final year as President of WKNC with this sage advice in mind, remembering why I began volunteering for this great organization in the first place.

My mandate, along with creating additional funding and further structure for WKNC, is to help build

more confidence and creativity with our board and the people we serve, to extract the wisdom from this important and memorable year so that

we can all be the best we can as we move forward.

I wish to thank all of our partners, funders and supporters who have helped us arrive at this exciting new chapter of our development and for helping the less fortunate members of the Weston and Mount Dennis Community.

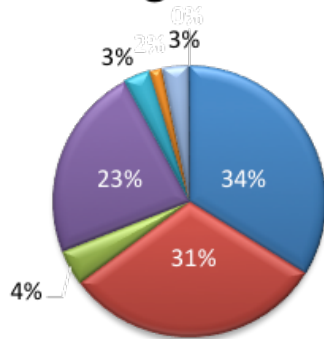
Together, we are all creating something very special.

**Timothy Barlow,
President of the Board**

"I love the community kitchen we get to make whatever we want."

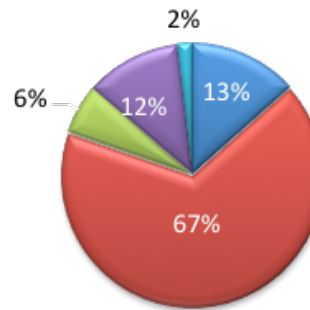
2014 Financial Summary

Funding



- Municipal
- Provincial
- Federal
- Bequest
- Faith-based
- Foundations
- Donations
- Miscellaneous

Expenses



- Staff
- Program
- Capital Costs
- Operating Costs
- Administration

Financial Report for Fiscal 2014

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC) was in good financial health in 2014. WKNC expanded our funding base, including procuring funding for Housing Support services and provincial funding through Ontario Trillium Foundation for capital renovations. Unrestricted cash reserves stood at \$59,965.05 at the fiscal year end, representing roughly two months' contingency for operating costs.

WKNC's primary source of funding continued to be municipal funding through the City of Toronto's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration.

2015 will prove to be an exciting year with the renovations of the kitchen at our satellite office in Mount Dennis being completed.

Louise Clunas

Funding	Income	Percent	Expenses	Expense	Percent
Municipal	235,615	33.87%	Staff	60,966	13.42%
Provincial	215,452	30.97%	Program	303,573	66.81%
Federal	29,355	4.22%	Capital Costs	28,269	6.22%
Bequest	160,748	23.10%	Operating Costs	53,038	11.67%
Faith-based	22,250	3.20%	Administration	8,554	1.88%
Foundations	10,000	1.44%		<u>454,400</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Donations	21,450	3.08%			
Miscellaneous	861	0.12%			
	<u>695,731</u>	<u>100.00%</u>			

"I live in my own apartment after 13 years of living on the street thanks to the Housing Worker"



Weston King Neighbourhood Centre is located two lights north of Lawrence Avenue on Weston Road.

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