



627

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Mission Statement

Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) strives to engage all community members in an atmosphere of belonging, diversity and accessibility through our programs, services and facilities. As a cornerstone of the community, WNC also advocates for the needs of this ever-changing neighbourhood.

Vision

WNC meets the needs of a diverse and changing multi-cultural community, responding to the particular needs of community members who are at risk, vulnerable, marginalized or isolated.

Values

- WNC believes in the provision of programs and services in a welcoming, accessible, sensitive and supportive place.
- WNC is committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of the neighbourhood.
- WNC recognizes the value of providing volunteer opportunities for local residents to become engaged in the community centre and recognizes voluntary contributions.
- WNC is supportive of staff, ensuring they are rewarded appropriately for their work.
- WNC acts in a fiscally responsible manner.

Land Acknowledgement

At Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre we recognize that our organization is located on Lake Ontario, otherwise known for thousands and thousands of years in Anishinaabe-mowin* (Anne-Ishey-naw-bay-mow-En) as Niigani-gichigami (Knee-gawni-gishi-gawmee)**.

We recognize that our work in our community extends to the shores of these Waters. Niigani-gichigam (Knee-gawni-gishi-gawmee)** flows through the taps of our homes. If we recognize the power of our connection to these waters we can recognize that the same water flows through us.

Whatever life situation those whom we serve at our organization are going through, if we can remember that these Waters make up sixty percent of our bodies, we can remember our connection to each other. And we can also remember our connection to those who have been on these lands since time immemorial.

We would like to recognize that we live on the territories of the Mississauga of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat, along with many other Nations.

The inheritance of future generations is the water, and we dedicate our lives to supporting these generations in the programs and services that we provide to our community members of the Toronto Waterfront.

WNC Is The Seed That Helps The Community Grow!

This year truly marks a turning point for the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC), as we embrace a profound shift towards change and community engagement. In 2023, we embraced this transformative spirit, igniting progress and tapping into the vibrant energy of the waterfront community.

In April 2023, WNC embarked on a transformative journey to redefine its path by crafting a new Strategic Plan for the next five years. In a testament to our unwavering commitment to inclusivity, we invited community members, staff, and volunteers, urging them to provide feedback to three fundamental questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

The response was awe-inspiring, a testament to the profound dedication and passion coursing through our community's veins. Through enthusiastic discussions and invaluable feedback, a new strategic plan began to take shape—one that encapsulates the collective dreams and ambitions for WNC and its encompassing community.

Indeed, WNC stands as the seed that nurtures the growth of our community, fostering a fertile ground for collective flourishing and empowerment. Together, let us cultivate a future where every individual is empowered to thrive, and where the bonds of community grow ever stronger with each passing day.



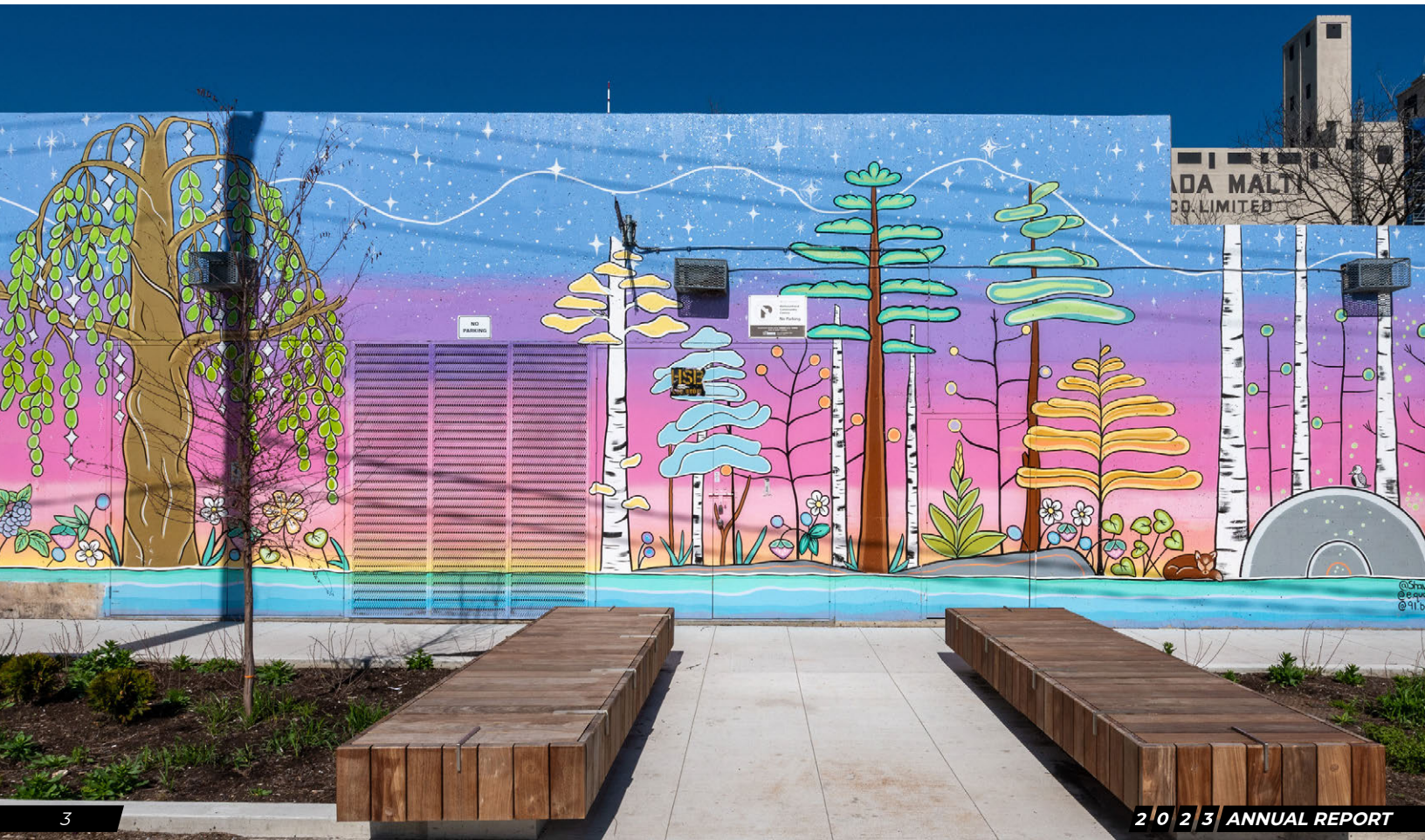
Natasha Francis
Executive Director
Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre



Amani Yagob
Co-Chair,
WNC Board of Management



Karen Sinotte
Co-Chair,
WNC Board of Management



Introduction to WNC Strategic Plan

Community Members, Visionaries, and Change-Makers

In the heart of our beloved Waterfront neighborhood, where waves kiss the shore and stories echo through time, we stand at a crossroads. A crossroads not of mere concrete and steel, but of dreams, aspirations, and shared purpose. It's here, at the intersection of community and innovation, that we embark on a journey - a journey fueled by placemaking.

#1 Leadership in Civic Engagement:

- Our North Star: Every voice matters. From the seasoned advocate to the curious newcomer, we pledge to elevate civic engagement to an art form. Let's be torchbearers, igniting conversations, and shaping policies. Together, we'll craft a symphony of ideas, harmonizing tradition with progress.

#2 Program and Space Planning:

- The Canvas: Imagine our Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre as a canvas - a living, breathing masterpiece. Each program, each nook, and cranny, a stroke of intention. We'll curate experiences that transcend the mundane—a dance class where generations waltz, a cozy reading corner where whispers of worries and hopes intertwine. Our spaces? They'll be more than walls; they'll be vessels of belonging.

#3 Fiscal Sustainability:

- Roots and Wings: Like ancient trees, our center needs deep roots and wide branches. We'll cultivate financial resilience, nourishing it with community bonds. Fundraising galas under star-studded skies, partnerships with local businesses, and grants that bloom like wildflowers. Our fiscal health? It's the heartbeat of our legacy.

#4 Community Engagement and Outreach:

- Open Arms: The WNC won't be a fortress—it'll be a warm embrace. We'll knock on doors, host picnics by the quay, and listen—truly listen—to the whispers of our neighbors. From newcomers seeking connection to elders sharing tales of yesteryears, we'll weave their stories into the very fabric of our placemaking.

Together, We Paint the Horizon:

- Sunrise: As dawn breaks over Queen's Quay, we'll witness more than sunlight. We'll witness hope, resilience, and the promise of a thousand tomorrows. Our placemaking brush strokes will blend colors - pastels of nostalgia, bold hues of innovation, and the shimmering gold of unity.
- Sunset: And as the sun dips below the horizon, casting its farewell glow, we'll gather - hands intertwined. We'll celebrate milestones—the first laughter in our community garden, the inaugural art exhibit, the day a child's eyes widened at a historical artifact. These moments? They're our legacy.

Let's sculpt a garden where memories bloom, where laughter echoes, and where the spirit of Waterfront dances on every ripple.

With love, purpose, and a dash of whimsy,
Your Placemaking Dreamweavers

Written by
Karen Sinotte
Co-Chair of WNC Board of Management



Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 / 2029

By weaving DEI principles into each of the focus areas our strategic plan, we aim to create an inclusive, vibrant, and respectful Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre that honors its commitment to the land and its diverse inhabitants.

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1

Civic Leadership

Enhance civic engagement by fostering community involvement, promoting active participation in local governance and advocating social responsibility initiatives.

- Engage New Residents: Actively involve all community members within the Waterfront neighborhood, inclusive of their background, ethnicity or socio-economic status, to foster community and civic engagement.
- Diverse Volunteer Development: We recognize the strength that diversity brings to our volunteer base. Encourage the growth of volunteerism in our rapidly expanding community, ensuring representation across diverse social and income backgrounds. Our commitment is to foster an environment where volunteers from all walks of life can contribute their unique perspectives and talents.

2

Programs and Service Intention/ Impact/Growth

Maximize WNC's effectiveness and reach of programming and services that respond to the waterfront community current needs; improve our growth/improvement in infrastructure, accessibility for all our members, stakeholders, and organization.

- Needs Assessment: Conduct thorough planning for program and space utilization based on demographic trends, community needs, and facility resources.
- Inclusive Services: Address the specific requirements of community members who are at risk, vulnerable, marginalized, or isolated.
- Equitable Fee Assistance: Set program fee assistance equity goals to reduce barriers and enhance program participation. We pledge to make financial assistance available to all, ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation. Our fee assistance program will be transparent and accessible.

3

Fiscal Sustainability

Strengthen WNC's fundraising capacity by diversifying funding sources and developing partnerships that will support growth and demands of a growing community and thriving organization; To advocate and pursue funding for WNC's building and technology needs to support WNC's mission and vision.

- Fundraising Capacity: Build WNC's fundraising capabilities to secure financial support.
- Diversify Funding Sources: Explore various funding avenues beyond traditional channels.
- Infrastructure Advocacy: Advocate and seek funding for WNC's building and technology needs to accommodate the growing community.

4

Community Engagement and Outreach

Develop a stronger brand awareness through impactful storytelling and strategic outreach strategies that will expand our reach in the community, engage new members and partners.

- Land Acknowledgement Integration: Connect the strategic plan to the land acknowledgement commitment by recognizing and respecting Indigenous land and heritage.
- New Resident Inclusion: Engage with new residents, fostering a sense of belonging and community.
- Vertical Community Awareness: Raise awareness within the growing vertical community about WNC's programs and services.

Family Program

The Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) has served as a hub for families, offering a supportive and inclusive environment where families can connect with one another, access resources, and receive support.

For over 20 years, WNC has had a successful partnership with Growing Up Healthy Downtown (GUHD) and Early On to support families. This partnership has demonstrated a commitment in supporting families in the waterfront community by offering a wide range of programs and services focused on nurturing parent-child relationships, promoting child development, and fostering a sense of connection and support among families.

- **Growing Up Healthy Downtown (GUHD)** is a partnership of eight multi-service community agencies under the umbrella of Family Service Toronto. It strives to bring together families to offer programs and services that support and improve the overall well-being of young children while providing a place of connection and support to new parents and caregivers.
- **EarlyON:** Early On's programs are focused on offering free experiences to parents/caregivers and their children from birth to six years of age to help strengthen adult-child relationships, support parent education, and foster healthy child development.

Through these partnerships, WNC is able to provide programs where families can engage in variety of parenting and children's programs including family drop-ins, early literacy, workshops, and school readiness programs.

Mariella's Story



Mariella and her two-year-old daughter are active participants of the GUHD program attending twice a week since the fall of 2023. The GUHD program has helped to create a sense of connection for her and her family. She has been able to connect and build meaningful

friendships with other parents from the GUHD program. In less than six months, Mariella has engaged further at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre by enrolling her daughter in the PEEP for Tots program. In addition, she has offered her time to serve others in this community by becoming a dedicated volunteer in different programs including the Stronger Together 2SLGBTQ+ & Ally, and the Community Kitchen Program operating every Tuesday evening. It is a privilege to have parents like Mariella and her daughter, and to have them join the Waterfront Neighborhood Centre community.

2374

EarlyON
Babies
Drop-Ins
Visits

1657

EarlyON
Wednesday
Evening
Visits

11

Spoken
languages in
EarlyON
Drop-Ins

258

Registered
Participants
GUHD Family
Drop-Ins



Children Programs

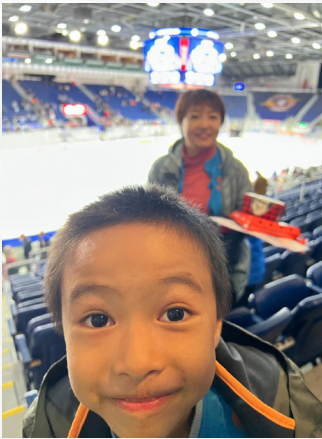
At WNC, we offer a variety of activities and educational opportunities to help children develop academically, socially and emotionally. Some of our programs include homework assistance, arts/crafts, sports, STEM projects & community service initiatives.

The Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) serves as a vital support system for newcomers and their families during the challenging process of transitioning and adapting to life in a new country, providing essential resources, services, and a welcoming community environment.

Ling & Lucas

Ling (parent) and Lucas (child) participated in the Afterschool Program at WNC. Ling describes the impact of the Afterschool Program and how Lucas benefited from these experiences being in a supportive environment.

"I have to say that Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre and your after school program is the biggest support for me and my family when we were in Toronto.



Lucas and his mom Ling enjoying time together at the Toronto Marlie's Game thanks to Kids Up Front!

First of all, as a parent, your courses have greatly helped me solve the problem of not having time to take care of my kid every afternoon to evening. I appreciate so much for your comprehensive curriculum, which allows my child to spend every happy evening in a safe, interesting, and loving environment. Without you, I can't imagine how I would spend my time in a foreign country taking care of my child and completing my studies at the same time.

Secondly, Waterfront is a big loving family! Lucas not only learned English here, and also made many new friends! And what most important is that Lucas felt love of home here. It is precisely because of your presence that Toronto has become a second home that Lucas missed and love very much. Lucas remembered his first stage performance in Christmas party, remembered he playing dodgeball with friends, and of course he missed the small park at the door, and has talk with me how they took a long way to see the maple syrup with his friends and teachers. There are so many memories. Every time we look at the photos, we feel that this memory with Waterfront is full of sweet warmth. Because of you, Lucas quickly integrated into the unfamiliar new environment, and he felt extremely comfortable and secure in his life in Toronto."

ALPER

"We have been participating in Waterfront Neighborhood Center events since May 2023.

My daughter Ada participated in the after-school program, ballet, basketball, kids in the kitchen, and March break camp. My son Arden participated in the Learn and Play program, basketball, kids in the kitchen, and soccer. Thanks to your programs, my children adapted to Canada more quickly, and their foreign language skills improved incredibly quickly.

We see that both have increased ability to transform their dream worlds into concrete objects by using various materials, and that they are very eager to try. We are grateful to you for the curiosity and courage you gave them.

In addition to all these, I would like to inform you that we will never forget the mark you left on us with the food and clothing support you provided from time to time, the tickets you gave us for Argos and Blue Jays matches that we could not attend with our own means."



Kiraz Family (Eda, Alper and their children Arden & Ada) attending their first Argos Game thanks to our partners at Kids Up Front!

Our goal is to empower children and their families to reach their full potential by offering a range of enriching experiences tailored to their interests and needs. We aim to foster a love for learning, promote critical thinking skills, build confidence and encourage collaboration to create a positive and inclusive environment where every child feels supported and inspired to succeed.

7665

Visits to the ASP

65%

Increase in PEEP Registration

796

Total PEEP Visits

Youth Program

The 2023 Youth Programs at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre experienced remarkable growth and enthusiasm that. Introducing new events and programs, the focus was on fostering a family-oriented and community-driven atmosphere with intergenerational elements.

WNC Youth in Community

In September 2023, the Youth Programs at WNC were buzzing with excitement as our annual Basketball Tournament took place. Both the 11-15 year olds and the 16-24 year olds showcased their incredible skills, dedication, and talent on the court. This tournament was highly anticipated by all the youth competitors, who were determined to prove themselves as the best.

The WNC Youth Program is well-known for its basketball programs, and this tournament held a special significance for all involved. Family members, community members, staff, and peers gathered to watch and cheer on the participants as they competed with passion and determination. The energy in the gym was electric, and the tournament truly showcased the incredible talent within our youth program. This exciting basketball tournament drew in over 100 community members.

Our Youth Workers did an exceptional job coordinating the event, providing support and joining in on the fun alongside our community referee and coach. They encouraged our young athletes to strive for greatness and emphasized the importance of teamwork. The success of this tournament has inspired us to revamp our programming, offering even more opportunities for our future superstars to hone their skills and develop their potential.



WNC Youth In Action

- The youth displayed initiative by forming a Fundraising committee, which successfully raised over \$700 for their favorite programs.
- The Tweeners delved into baking and cooking skills through their “Wellness Wednesdays” program as part of Tween After-School Programming.
- A successful summer camp included weekly trips for youth, while the Youth Leaders in Training participated in employment readiness and job shadowing opportunities.
- Get Jobs for Youth assisted over 30 participants in securing employment or volunteer positions within the community.



These were just a few of the standout moments from the Youth Programs, with promises of more exciting developments in 2024. It reflects a proactive approach to meeting the diverse needs and interests of our youth.

7

Collaboration
Organization

111

Registered
Participants

\$1000

Raised through
Youth Fundraising
Committee

Seniors Program

At the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC), we recognize and value the wisdom, experience, and contributions of our senior community members. Our Senior Programming is designed to cater to the diverse needs and interests of this demographic, providing opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, and active engagement.

The New Horizons Seniors Program (NHSP) has played a pivotal role in fostering inclusivity and community empowerment through its generous funding support for the Seniors and Youth, 2SLGBTQ-Stronger Together programs. This program served as a beacon of hope and acceptance for members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and allies alike. By providing a platform for education, dialogue, and mutual support, NHSP has facilitated invaluable opportunities for individuals to explore their identities, celebrate diversity, and cultivate a sense of belonging.

Through workshops, discussions, and social gatherings, seniors were empowered to express themselves authentically and engage with peers in meaningful ways. The programs not only promote understanding and acceptance but also foster a sense of solidarity and unity among participants, reinforcing the importance of mutual respect and support within our community.

Some of the activities included:

“His & Their Story” Self-Love and Wellness Program: As part of our commitment to addressing the unique needs of older adults and Senior BIPOC Non-Binary and Male-Identified Individuals, WNC launched the “His & Their Story” Self-Love and Wellness Program. Led by dedicated staff members Leonardo and Jun, this program provided a safe and supportive space for participants to explore themes of self-love, wellness, and identity.



Stronger Together Projects Wrap Up Event: The Stronger Together Projects Wrap Up event served as a testament to the power of community collaboration and inclusivity at WNC. Attendees, including Trinity & Spadina MPP Chris Glover, performer Drag Queen Rowena, and in-house DJ Chase, came together to celebrate the accomplishments of the Stronger Together Projects. Highlights of the event included a captivating performance by Drag Queen Rowena and a dynamic collaboration between Rowena and hip-hop artist Bella, showcasing the diverse talents within our community.

“Knowing that winter takes long to end, coming to WNC has made the week/Winter go by faster. During January, when I came back to WNC I have more excitement in me knowing WNC will always be here for me”



Seniors Program (continue)



Seniors Acting Out!

At the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre, seniors play a crucial role not only in participating in programs but also in advocating for important issues affecting their community. Recognizing the unique needs and challenges faced by older adults, our seniors are actively engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure equitable access to essential programs and services.

Seniors from WNC joined the Save Ontario Place protest, a crucial moment in the ongoing dialogue about the future of this iconic landmark. Braving the winter cold, seniors brought their wisdom and legacy to City Hall, where they stood alongside fellow activists and community members. Their presence at City Hall sent a powerful message to decision-makers and policymakers: that the voices of seniors matter. Seniors are not only protecting Ontario Place but also leaving a lasting legacy of activism and community empowerment for generations to come.

PRIDE March Participation: WNC proudly participated in the PRIDE March, demonstrating our unwavering support for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion. Some seniors attended the parade for the first time and enjoyed themselves, marching side by side with all who attended.

Quilt Making: An embroidered quilt is proudly displayed above our hallways serves as a tangible symbol of our commitment to promoting inclusion for all. Along with WNC own Finance Manger, Donna Gallaso, the seniors created this beautiful quilt to help people to become more aware of all the visible and nonvisible communities under the Slogan Inclusion For All!

"It has given me, a retired woman, to build my life with new contacts, friends, and activities. It has helped my health & wellbeing."



Fitness & Recreation

In 2023, Fitness and Recreation programs at WNC experienced a remarkable 10% increase in registration numbers compared to the previous year. This notable rise reflects the growing interest and enthusiasm within our community for staying active and engaged in healthy pursuits.

The diverse range of fitness and recreation programs offered in 2023 catered to a wide spectrum of interests and preferences. From the rhythmic beats of Afro-Cuban Dance to the soothing movements of Tai Chi, participants had the opportunity to explore various forms of physical activity and self-expression. Whether it was finding inner peace through Yoga or unleashing energy and creativity in Art Night Out, there was something for everyone to enjoy and benefit from.

"I have been coming to WNC for over 8 years and have attended many WNC fitness and family programs (including) Baby & Me Yogalates. The (programs) have helped educate us as a family in different aspects such as safety, parents-children/babies spending quality time and help academically, socially and psychologically better prepared our children to have a smoother transition to school."



2612

Total Adult Visits

1220

Co-ed Drop-in Volleyball

700

Co-ed Drop-in Badminton

1425
Total Seniors' Visits

221
Funky Fitness Visits

212
Gental Fitness Visits

197
Body Strengthening Visits



1989

Children's Visits

393

6-10 Yrs Old Basketball

374

3-5 Yrs Old Basketball

176

Kid's Karate

Community Connect Garden

The successful harvest season of the Community Connect Garden (CCG) in 2023, which reached over 300 community members including WNC program participants, families, children, youth, and seniors, underscores the garden's invaluable role as a catalyst for community engagement, food security, and intergenerational connection.

The garden was able to grow 254 kg of vegetables and herb varieties: with our largest harvests weighing in at 57 kg (tomato varieties), 90 kg (pumpkins), and 21 kg (cucumbers). We were able to sell our harvests at our weekly Harvest Markets and/or provide them to individuals experiencing food insecurities free of charge.

The CCG was also able to retain 23 volunteers weekly throughout the gardening season and host two volunteer events with Elevation Church and Starbucks. Our gardener Michael and summer Canada Summer Jobs Student Garnett were able to facilitate community gardening activities and workshops to many WNC groups that included the Summer Daze Camp, Learn & Play, and multiple senior social programs.

300

Community Members Reached

254

Kilograms of Vegetables & Herbs Grown

50

Volunteers Hosted



This summer, WNC was able to hire a community youth, Garnett, to work alongside Michael in our Community Connect Garden. Garnett has been attending WNC programs since he was 4 years old and has lived in the Waterfront community his whole life. He was interested in working in the garden because he wanted to be around nature. Through his role in the garden, Garnett strengthens his ties to his community and fosters positive relationships with fellow participants and mentors like Michael.

Garnett is going into grade 12 and hopes to be a professional basketball player when he grows up!

The Community Connect Garden is generously funded by Nieuport Aviation, Ports Toronto, and Billy Bishop Airport.

“(As a volunteer in the garden) I get to harvest and provide food through weekly markets held on Wednesdays during the growing season. Feeding people experiencing food insecurity is another passion and it is so important that everyone has enough food to eat.”



Community and Student Placement Volunteer Program

Every Moment Matters!

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Waterfront Neighborhood Centre (WNC). In the 2023 annual report we would like to highlight WNC's volunteers' generosity, knowledge, and devotion are crucial to making our work possible. Every Moment Matters highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment when we need support more than ever!

At WNC our community and student placement volunteers are present every step away. In 2023 WNC engaged 183 community and student placement volunteers, a 94% increase from 2022 and contributed over 24,397 service hours at in-kind added value of \$775,824. WNC volunteers excelling providing exceptional programs and service to the community namely supporting our vibrant community gardening programs; seniors programs; providing home visit; outreach; hosting workshops; helping client at shelters specialty our unhoused community residency; taken the initiative hosting workshops and much more!

WNC is privileged to share a heartfelt testimonial from Yixuan, a placement student in our Family and Children's Program. Yixuan's words echo the sentiments of many who have had the honor of serving within our community:

"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible experience I've had working with everyone in WNC.

The past 22 days have been nothing short of learning, and I am genuinely grateful for the opportunities, challenges, and growth that came with this placement. The guidance, support, and mentorship of everyone here have played a pivotal role in shaping my understanding of early childhood education. This placement has been a crucial chapter in my academic and professional journey. Through this crucial experience, I have a newfound appreciation for volunteering and communities. I am leaving with a wealth of knowledge and practical skills that will undoubtedly contribute to my future endeavors.

I look forward to crossing paths again and hope to maintain the valuable connections forged during my time here. I wish the WNC, and everyone continued success and growth"

- Yixuan

Yixuan's testimonial exemplifies the profound impact that volunteering at WNC has on individuals, not only in terms of professional development but also personal growth and community connection. It is through the dedication and passion of volunteers like Yixuan that we are able to continue our mission of serving and empowering our waterfront communities.

183

Volunteers

24397

Volunteer
Service Hours

94%

Increase in
Volunteers

\$775,824

In-kind
Volunteer
Value



Facility Operations

In 2023, the concerted efforts of the Facilities Team led to significant enhancements in safety and accessibility within our storage spaces, reflecting the vital role of meticulous organization and strategic upgrades in optimizing functional efficiency.

By leveraging the resources and expertise of the City of Toronto's Facility Management Department, WNC successfully implemented a series of strategic upgrades in 2023, including the replacement of lobby doors and installation of storage solutions. In line with our safety procedures and protocols, quick locks and blinds were installed on room doors to enhance WNC's ability to respond effectively to unforeseen situations. This ensures the well-being of our community members and facilitates efficient evacuation/lockdown procedures if needed.

Special thank you to Aramark/Care Force who visited WNC on April 27 for their Community Volunteer Day. Major projects for their volunteer day included the painting of the Youth Room, After School Program Room, Main Kitchen, and the pillars throughout the facility. Their generous contribution of their time and effort brought a refreshing transformation to these spaces.

A huge thank you to our team Israel, Lula, Shanice, Mariane, Tricia, Destiny, and Lawrence whose perseverance, hard work, and commitment to providing excellent services to our community members would not be possible without them. WNC is fortunate to have a fantastic group of people who work collectively to elevate the experience of the many individuals who visit our facility everyday.

"I wanted to send a huge thank you to you and your team for hosting Fred Victor team meeting yesterday. Everyone loved the venue, and we will definitely look to come back again some time soon! Your team was super pleasant and helpful and made everyone feel right at home".

-Fred Victor

"Thank you for all of the ways you made it easy to schedule our meeting at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre. All of you and the staff at the centre were fantastically responsive and made it so easy for us to move forward with our schedule. Your help was in no small way responsible for how well the day went".

-Loft Community Services

"I wanted to send a quick thank you for all of your help in supporting our event yesterday in WNC's Dance Studio! The room was great, we love the space and the waterfront view, and your colleagues were wonderful to work with".

*-City of Toronto
Environment and Climate Division*

123

Rentals

24575

Users

727

Rental Sessions

3911

Rental Hours



Staff Recognition

The cornerstone of the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre's excellence lies in its remarkable staff members. Throughout 2023, several members of our staff achieved significant milestones in their journey with WNC, symbolizing not only their personal growth but also the enduring strength of our organization.



**Eneyda
Guerra**
20 Yrs

Eneyda embarked on her journey with the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre as a Canada Summer Jobs student staff member in the family programs back in 2002. Over the years, she has wholeheartedly contributed to various facets of our children and family programs, including PEEP and the After School program. Notably, Eneyda played a pivotal role in launching initiatives like 'Together We Fit,' aimed at fostering physical activity among parents and children alike. Her unwavering dedication to the community is evident in every project she undertakes.

In 2013, Eneyda assumed the role of supervisor for Children's Programs, and in 2020, she ascended to the position of Assistant Executive Director. Her passion and commitment not only extend to the human beings but to all animals. She's best known for reuniting a baby squirrel with its family.

Here's to celebrating Eneyda's remarkable 20-year journey of service at WNC!

**Israel
Slater**
20 Yrs

Israel, affectionately known as Isszie, embodies the epitome of dedication and commitment as a valued member of the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) family. For two decades, Israel has served as our esteemed Caretaker Coordinator, leaving an indelible mark on our organization and the community we proudly serve.

Beyond his professional prowess, Israel's infectious enthusiasm and jovial nature illuminate every corner of WNC. With a penchant for humor and a knack for lighthearted pranks, he infuses joy and laughter into the daily fabric of our center, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who walk through our doors.

Thank you, Isszie, for being the heartbeat of WNC and for embodying the true spirit of community.



Staff Recognition

**Sarah
Brisson**
10 Yrs

Sarah's began her journey at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) as a placement student from Humber College. After her placement, Sarah worked in the youth, family and children's programs.

In 2021, Sarah's journey reached a pivotal milestone as she assumed the role of Children's Program Supervisor. In this role, Sarah demonstrated that she has grown in her leadership skills and developed a deeper dedication to the children and families that she works with.

Sarah is currently developing partnerships with different organizations to assist families with children who have special needs.



**Donna
Galasso**
Retirement

In 2023, Donna Galasso, our time Manager of Finance Operations, retired. Donna started in 2009 and made an indelible mark on WNC. Donna spearheaded successful budget submissions and audits, playing a vital role in ensuring the financial health of our organization. Her expertise in accounting and finance has contributed to the Waterfront Neighbourhood success in delivering programs and services in the community.

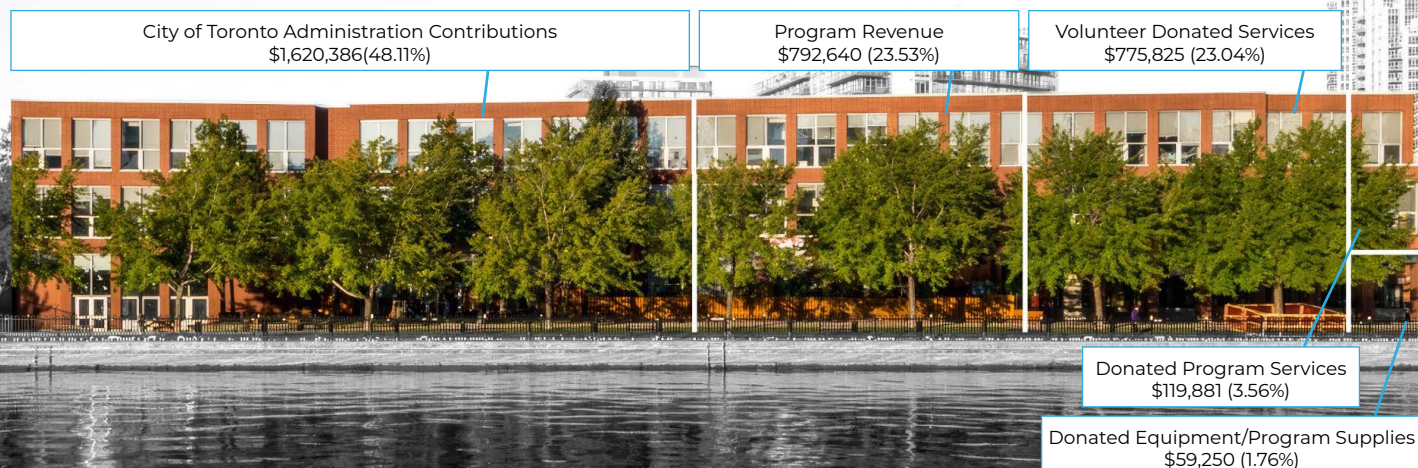
Donna also spent her time at WNC sharing her talents with the community. From leading holiday baking with the youth program to quilt making with the seniors, Donna consistently demonstrated her commitment to community involvement.

WNC thanks Donna for all of her efforts and contributions. We wish her all the best on her next chapter!



2023 Financial Review

Program Revenue	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Grants		
Government of Canada	165,912	136,429
Provincial	51,527	62,560
City of Toronto	210,628	212,006
Other Foundations	8,125	26,378
Donations/Fundraising/Other	53,026	56,026
Program and Membership Fees	178,386	163,286
Rental Fees	66,482	64,605
Interest	58,554	21,040
Amortization of deferred Capital Cont.	9,773	15,809
	<u>366,221</u>	<u>320,766</u>
Total Program Revenue	802,413	758,139
Program Operating Expenditure		
Salaries and Wages	503,513	489,523
Employee Benefits	63,256	54,468
Materials and Supplies	182,727	189,545
Purchase of Services	7,401	6,803
Asset Amortization	1,398	2,528
	<u>758,295</u>	<u>742,867</u>
Excess of (expenditures over revenue)		
Revenue over expenditures - Program	44,118	15,272
Administration Operating Expenditure	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Salaries and Wages	976,504	987,285
Employee Benefits	284,298	268,338
Employee Benefits - post-employment benefits	11,733	13,035
Materials and Supplies	116,817	90,609
Purchase of Services	242,767	195,299
Amortization of Capital Assets	9,773	15,809
Total Administration Operating Expenditure	1,641,892	1,570,375
City of Toronto Funds		
Core Administration	1,550,914	1,512,012
Section 37 funding	69,472	30,528
Vacation Payable	0	(1,009)
Post-Employment Benefits	11,733	13,035
Funding payable by City of Toronto	NIL	NIL



Programs & Supporters

PRE-SCHOOL & FAMILY

PROGRAMS (AGES 0 – 6)

Baby Family Support Drop-In Program (EarlyON Child and Family Centre)
Ballet & Fairy Tales (Sat. & Sun.)
Family Drop-In Program (GUHD)
Ready, Set, Grow
Learn and Play
Little Chef's Cookin' in the Kitchen
PEEP for Tots – Mon. & Tues.
PEEP Mon. Weds. & Fri.
Wednesday Evening Family Drop-In Program (EarlyON Child and Family Centre)
WNC Strollers Walking Group

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS (AGES 5 – 12 YRS)

After School Daze Program
Children's Basketball
Children's Badminton
Children's Ballet Sat. & Sun.
Children's Jazz Funk
Children's Jazz
Children's Hip Hop
Children's Soccer
Children's Tennis Beginners
Children's Volleyball
Children's Yoga
Family Karate – Beginners
Kidz Fun Club
Kids in the Kitchen
Kids Karate Level 1 & 2
Musical Theatre for Kids
March Break Camp
PA Day Camps
Summer Daze Camp
Salsa & Merengue, Cha Cha & Congo
Tumble Kidz Gymnastics – Class 1
Visual Art Club

TWEEN/YOUTH PROGRAMS

Get Jobs for Youth
Girls Sports & Health
Midnight Basketball (TCHC)
Multimedia Studio
Tween After School Program
Tween PA Day Camp
Tween Cooking
Tween March Break Camp
Youth Afterschool Program
Youth Basketball
Youth Cooking
Youth Info, Support & Referrals
Youth Homework Help
Youth Leaders in Training (YLIT)
Youth Lounge
Youth March Break Camp

Young Men's Group
Youth Sports and Recreation
Young Women's Group

SENIORS PROGRAMS

Afternoon Tea and Social
Art Studio 60
Baking for Fun
Board Games and Fun!
Euchre and Bridge Games
Full Body Strengthening
Funky Fitness
Gentle Fitness
Gentle Yoga (Hatha)
Men's Coffee Social
NHSP Stronger Together
2SLGBTQ+Ally
Older Adult Games
Pilates for Seniors
Seniors Advisory Committee
Seniors Crafts with Shirley
Seniors Dance
Seniors Evening Drop In Program
Seniors March Break Camp
Seniors Tech Talk
Seniors Sports
Seniors Walking Group
Tai Chi
Women's Circle
Zumba Gold

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ OTHER SERVICES

Community Kitchen Program
Community Knitting and Crochet Group
Community Connect Garden
Food Access Program/Food Vouchers
Transportation
Clothing Program
WNC Subsidy Program
Individual Support & Referral Services
Waterfront Good Food Market

ADULT FITNESS, WELLNESS & DANCE

Afro Cuban Dance
Art Night Out!
Baby and Me Yogalates
Beginner Contemporary
Body Sculpt and Condition
Co-ed Adult Badminton
Co-ed Adult Volleyball
Dance Mix Sundays
Pilates
Yoga
Zumba

WNC WEIGHT ROOM

Women Only Weight Room
Indoor & Outdoor Ball Courts
10 Visit Punch Card
20 Visit Punch Card

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram
Twitter
Facebook

SPECIAL EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

Black History Movie
International Women's Day
Stronger Together & Storytelling – End of Year Bash
Iftar Gathering
Aramark Volunteer Day
Elevation Church Youth Volunteer Day
Cinco De Mayo
Mother's Day Celebration
Indoor Plants Care Workshop
Arabic Speaking Group
Senior Month Fun Day
Ports Toronto – Docking Docks
Toronto Region Conservation Authority Bird Box Workshop
Elevation Church Garden Volunteer Day
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
Power of Attorney & Wills
Philippine Independence Day
Father's Day Event
Luminato – Little Amal Puppet Making Workshop
World Indigenous People Day
WNC Pride March
WNC Job Fair
Elevation Church – Latino American Festival
Horticultural Therapy Workshop
Back to School Community BBQ
Alzheimer's Society of Toronto
Cookie Decorating Homes First
Basketball Tournament 3 on 3
Senior Trip to Centre Island
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Walking Group
Annual General Meeting
Seniors Halloween Party Day of the Dead Seniors Act Out
Seniors Diwali Celebration
Toronto Public Health Workshops
EarlyON & GUHD
Fort York Toronto Public Library Reading Circle
519 Glitter Bug EarlyON Mobile Unit
Sales Force Seniors Holiday Brunch

Programs & Supporters

Lions Club -Childrens Holiday Party
Starbucks Volunteer Day
Youth Holiday Dinner
Volunteer Appreciation Event
Winter Warm Up

SUPPORTING PARTNERS & GENEROUS DONORS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

City of Toronto - Children's Services
City of Toronto - Community Services Partnership Program
City of Toronto - Downtown West Cluster
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
Government of Canada - New Horizons for Seniors
Ontario Ministry of Education
Toronto Public Library - Fort York
Toronto Public Health
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility - Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC).
Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO - Seniors Fair)
Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)

AGENCIES & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Access Alliance Multicultural Health & Community Services
Association Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)
Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association (BQNA)
Brands for Canada
Canadian Mental Health
Community Police Liaison Committee - 14 Toronto Police Division
College Montrose - Children's Place - EarlyON Child and Family Centres
Cliff Ojala - Community Music Lessons
Elder Abuse Ontario
Elevation Church
Family Service Toronto - Growing Up Health
Downtown (GUHD)

Fanshawe College - Fanshawe Toronto@ILAC
George Brown College
Homes First Shelter
Humber College
Jays Care Foundation
Kensington Health Mid-West Toronto Ontario Health Team
Kids Up Front Foundation Toronto
Lakefront Medical Pharmacy
Harbourfront Centre
Heart and Stroke Foundation
Pirate Life
Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)
Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association (BQNA)
North York Community Centre
North York Community House
Older Adults Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO)
Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre
Social Planning Toronto
Scadding Court Community Centre
Spadina-Fort York Community Care Program (SPAFY)
St. Stephen's Community House Childcare
The Bentway Conservancy
Toronto District School Board - City School
Toronto District School Board - City Adult Learning Centre - TDSB
The Neighbourhood Group | St. Stephen's Community House
The Neighbourhood Group (TNG)
TNC- Affinity Groups
Seneca College
Starbucks
Toronto Metropolitan Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)
Toronto Bathurst Lion's Club
Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)
Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (TNC)
UHN Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
University of Toronto
Waterfront BIA
Waterfront Good Food Market/ FoodShare 25 Bishop Tutu
Waterfront Public School (TDSB)
West Neighbourhood House
York University
Youth Employment Services (YES)

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Aramark
Bargains Group
Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport Exhibition|Enercare Centre|Beanfield Centre
Ports Toronto and Nieuport Aviation - Community Connect Garden and Room 13 Multimedia Studio for Youth
Porter Airlines
RBC Royal Bank
SalesForce
Starbucks
Tim Hortons Children's Foundation
Toronto Star Children's Charities - The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund & The Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund

Thank you to the many generous individuals who support our agency.





Waterfront
Neighbourhood
Centre

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