

Our Mission

The Journey is committed to bringing hope and transformation to the Ardglen/Orenda communities, walking alongside children, youth and families as they take positive steps in their lives.



A Message from the Executive Director

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre is still a young organization, like a new tree grower deeper roots into the Ardglen-Orenda neighbourhood of Brampton. Over the course of this past year it's been wonderful to see the building of new relationships and the strengthening of those we already have in the community. It's been encouraging to see the level of engagement of the community. The Journey is making a difference in the lives of the children, youth and families living here, as well as in the lives of those who lead, volunteer and serve the community through The Journey. I feel blessed to be a part of it all. Thank you to my staff, to our board members and advisory team members, to our program leaders and volunteers, and to our sponsors and partners. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

Steve

Our Programs

The Journey is lots of things – outreach, advocacy, hanging out, events – but most importantly we are about programs – lots of programs. Our programs are aimed at the total community and they include; children and teen after school programs, women's programs, family programs and seniors programs. These programs provide a wide range of support and skills development including; homework assistance, social skills, cooking, art, music, science and jobs support.

The 2015/16 year saw the addition of more programming to support our neighbourhood including;

- **Art Start** an art group for kids Grade 2 and up
- **Couponing Club** is a great way to find big savings
- **Seniors Connecting!** for adults 55 years and up
- **Early Years** for Parents and Tots on Thursday Mornings
- **Family Literacy** on Thursday Evenings

And, we haven't even mentioned our events like Toys for Tots, Halloween, March Break, Street Parties, Summer Camp, etc. There are always new programs coming on stream and older programs that are being revamped.



Events

The Journey has offered a wide variety of events for the community. These range from topics such as how 911 works from the Region of Peel Police, how to get into home ownership from Habitat for Humanity, an awareness session on the issue of Sex Trafficking, plus fun activities like a street party that attracted 150 of our closest neighbours!

Spiritual Growth

The Journey believes that to bring hope and transformation to our community involves spiritual transformation too! Over the past year monthly church services have been offered through our lead partner, North Bramalea United Church. These services have been well received and will be expanded to weekly in the fall of 2016.

Stories

The Journey exists to bring hope and transformation to our community. Here are just three of our stories.

Day Camp



Each summer we run six weeks of summer day camp. This past summer as we were visiting over backyard fences in the community we met up with a mom who thanked us profusely for our camp. Her son had attended camp for the previous two summers. We remember him well, because he was always in timeout. He wasn't a bad kid, just very unfocused and hyperactive. To his credit, he did his timeouts very well! So, why was his mom thanking us? Well certainly not for giving him the opportunity to spend two summers in timeout. No, it was because she is convinced that his experience at camp helped him

in transitioning into a very successful Junior Kindergarten year. This is a small story, a small victory, but one that meant the world to this mom and, I'm sure, to his JK teacher.

A New Start

We have a young mom in our community who has had many challenges in her life. She has struggled with addiction, an unhealthy marriage, children before she was ready, poverty, and more. However, there has been something about The Journey that attracted her. She has volunteered, participated in our women's and family programs and helped out with events. We have seen her life transform as she has made some critical life changing decisions that have allowed her to develop and use her talents and abilities to now serve her own community.

Leadership

One of our successes has been the raising up of leadership within the community. We have several programs that are now led by community members. They have moved from participating, to assisting, to leading. We see confidence rising, creativity developing, and new capabilities being realized.

Enhancing the Neighbourhood

The Journey has worked with a number of partners to contribute to a cleaner and greener neighbourhood. One such partner is Legacy Supply Chain. This local business led an initiative to acquire and plant trees in Centennial Park, and The Journey organized some of our community members to help with the planting. Legacy also assisted with an initiative of The Journey to plant several backyard gardens with some of the local residents. Working with Legacy Supply Chain has been a blessing!

Hopeful Views – A Community Assessment

This past year The Journey undertook a community assessment using a process called Photovoice, which gathers information and insights from the community through photography. The work culminated in the Hopeful Views exhibit at PAMA, showing many of the photos taken by 26 community members. More than 150 people attended the exhibit, many staying to look at every photo and read every caption. It was exciting, it was moving, it was profound and informative. Here are just a couple of the photos from that exhibit.

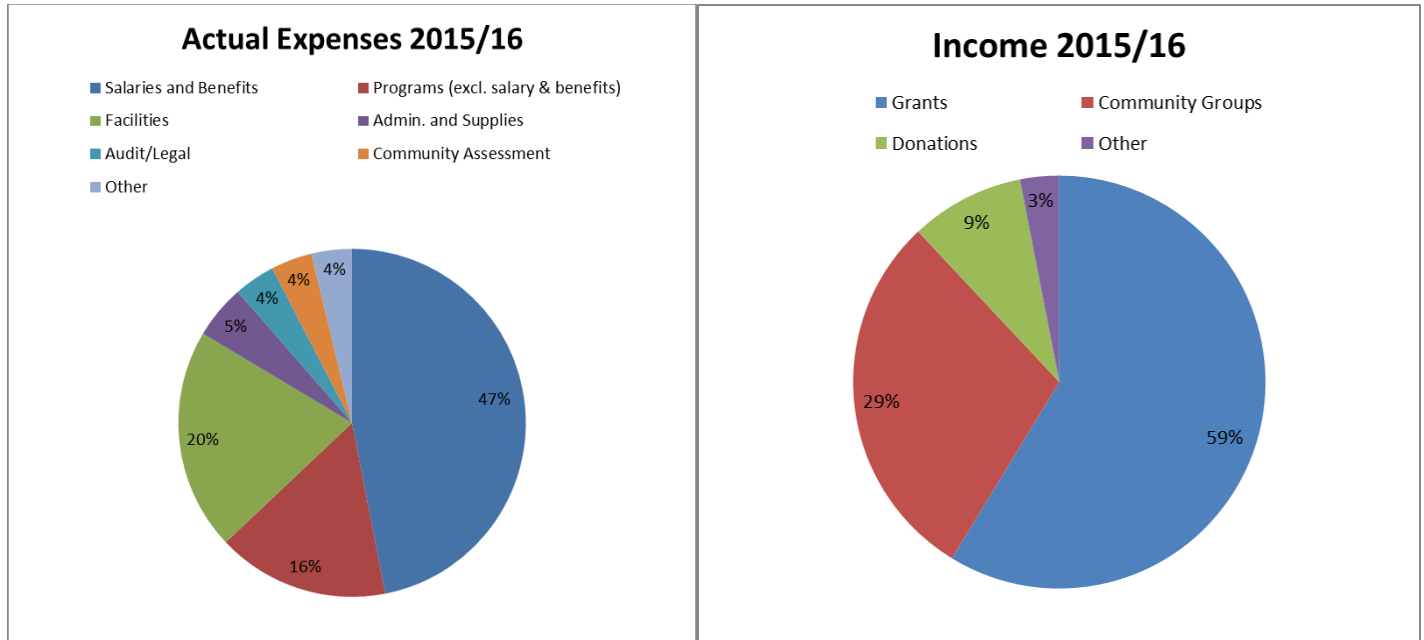


"Fun can be had in the most broken places"



"I need to use these ramps, but they are just not safe for me to use or anyone else that needs them".

Income and Expenses



We're growing!



We are always exploring and pushing the boundaries for new opportunities to serve our community. Whether it's hosting new programs like Visions of Science, holding neighbourhood street parties, offering information nights from organizations like Habitat for Humanity, or simply making our computers and copier available to residents, we want to do more. So **we are excited to announce that we have received a provincial "Safer and Vital Communities" grant to establish a second centre to be located in the Orenda Court neighbourhood.** This grant is an exciting partnership for us with the Peel Regional Police, Sheridan College and the YMCA GTA.

This fall we are engaged in research to get to know the community, discover what their needs are and to develop relevant and effective programs for the Orenda Ct community. Then, starting in January, we have arranged with the management to rent a unit from which to run our programs.

There is a lot that we need to accomplish over the next few months to put all of the pieces in place, but we are excited by the possibilities ahead of us.

The Journey Staff

Kevin Birmingham – Centre Manager
 Chevonne Campbell – Program Coordinator
 Ashleigh Kelk – Community Engagement Facilitator
 Steve Allin – Executive Director

Funding and Programming Partners

The Journey relies on a variety of organizations, community groups and individuals for core funding and programming support. There are too many to name, but you know who you are and we are eternally grateful. Thank you!



Check Out Our Website or Facebook Page

www.thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre.ca

www.facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre

Come, Connect, Be Inspired



The Journey Neighbourhood Centre

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