

The Journey



Your neighbourhood centre

Quarterly Update

Winter 2017

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.



Focus on Expanding our Neighbourhood Connections

When The Journey was launched in November of 2013 we located our community centre in a plaza on Ardglen Drive.



From the very beginning our focus was on both the Ardglen and Orenda Court communities. However, over time we realized that the railway tracks between Ardglen and Orenda were a difficult barrier for people to overcome. The residents of Orenda Court have been

reluctant to travel the distance to the neighbourhood centre. While we have been able to offer some programs and services in Orenda Court, such as the Refresh apartment painting program, and while we have had some program and event participation from Orenda Court residents at The Journey, we really haven't had the impact on Orenda Court that we have desired to have.



So, last summer we applied for and received a *Safer and Vital Communities Grant*, with a focus on opening a second Journey site right in the apartment tower at 80

Orenda Court. We received that grant and on January 1, 2017 we took possession of apartment OB3!

Our New Centre

Our new centre is a two bedroom apartment located on ground level. It is a cozy space that is ideally located to provide the programming that the Orenda Court community is seeking. We are just setting it up now. It will contain programming space, an office, computers available to community members and a kitchen from which we can offer snacks and possibly some cooking lessons.



What We Have Been Doing

Our work at Orenda Court actually started back in the fall of 2016. The grant is a partnership between The Journey, Sheridan College, Peel



Regional Police and the YMCA. So, in the fall we held meetings with our core partners and with a contingent of 18 service agencies including – Boys and Girls Club, Early Years, Family Education Centre, United Achievers, Region of Peel, City

of Brampton, and so on. We also hosted a “block party” in the lobby of 80 Orenda Court with over 150 in attendance and we held a community safety meeting with the police and fire services. We are fortunate to also have the support of CAPREIT, the management company for the Orenda Court complex of buildings. They have embraced our vision for the community and have been supportive in helping us acquire the space and in promoting our program.

What's Ahead

Over the course of the winter months we will be surveying the community with the goal of identifying the needs of the residents. We are also working with our partners to determine our programming options.

Residents have already identified several concerns including issues with safety, poverty, disabilities and mental health. Also, we have seen a very evident need for after school programming.

What You Can Do To Help!

Setting up a second location is an expensive proposition. While the grant covers much of what we need to get our second location going, there are still many needs that have to be covered. We have created a list of resources, materials, equipment and goods that we need to equip our Orenda Court location. This list is long. Here are just a few:

A Sample List of Items Needed

Pedestal Desk	Blinds (3 Sets)
Mesh Office Chair	Storage Bins (6)
Printer/Scanner	Blu-ray DVD Player
Two Drawer Locking Filing Cabinet	Powered Speakers
Cordless Two Handset Phone	Heavy Duty Storage Shelves (3)
First Aid Kit	Security Cameras
Fire Extinguisher	Upright Vacuum Cleaner
Coat Hangers	Soap Dispenser (2)
Lamps (3)	Paper Towel Dispenser (2)

We are looking for either cash donations to cover the costs, or donations of appropriate items in good condition. Even the simplest item is important.

Aasia Khan – Welcome!



In order to facilitate our work in Orenda Court we have hired Aasia Khan in the role of Community Engagement Facilitator. Aasia comes with a background as an educator. She lives in the community and works for the Peel school board in the local schools. Aasia is well known in the community and she has a deep desire to empower the community and serve youth and families.

That is Not All – 2017 Goals

While we are excited to be opening a second location at Orenda Court, we have not lost site of the Ardglen community, nor most importantly of our vision to bring transformation to our community.

We are in the midst of setting our Goals for 2017. We have talked with community members and they have identified several key concerns.

Employment

One of the greatest concerns in our community is employment, or more accurately under and precarious employment. We will be working with our partners to address this issue over this coming year.

Landlord/Tenant

We will also be continuing to present relevant community meetings. One reoccurring challenge for our community residents are landlord & tenant issues.

Sex Trafficking and Youth

We have ongoing issues throughout Peel Region and specifically in our community with teenagers becoming involved in the sex trade. We have been hosting meetings with the Peel Regional Police, Elizabeth Fry, YMCA, HOPE 24/7, Bloom Clinic, CAS, etc. and we are planning on a couple of community information meetings later this year.



United Way
Peel Region



**NORTH BRAMALEA
UNITED CHURCH**

Check Out Our Website or Facebook Page

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www.facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre

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