



Quarterly Update Fall 2020

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.



Opportunities!?

As I wrote in our Spring Newsletter, “. . . on Friday, March 13, 2020 everything changed – The Journey had to mostly close.”

Since the Spring Newsletter was published, much has changed and at the same time little has changed. As of this writing the spike in COVID-19 cases continues unabated in Brampton and so The Journey is still mostly closed, which means our onsite programming continues to be suspended.

However!

Being mostly closed has not stopped us from reaching out to our community and focussing on what we CAN do. We have discovered the world of virtual programming and limited access resourcing. So while our doors are mostly closed we continue to actively serve our community.

Summer Camp



This summer The Journey hosted a successful virtual summer camp. We were able to hire back three of our camp staff from 2019. We had 32 children enrolled in camp which, because camp was at home, meant we really had 32 families involved.

Camp consisted of a combination of activity and craft packages that we sent

home to our campers, daily online Zoom calls, instructional videos posted on a camp Facebook page and WhatsApp messages for the parents. Feedback to our new camp was very positive.

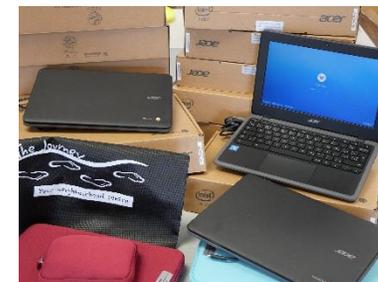
Our successful camp experience became a template for our virtual afterschool *Learning and Laughing* program that we are launching this fall.

Learning and Laughing

Because of the ongoing pandemic, we still can't open our doors for our afterschool programs. So, we are launching a brand new virtual after school program for the children in our community.

The program consists of four modules a week: math, reading, science and art/music. As of this writing the program is just launching and is already full.

Everything Else



We received grants from the Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation and from the City of Brampton, that have enabled us to purchase 22 Chromebooks to loan to students who do not have access to learning technology.

We have increased our social media presence with frequent postings such as job opportunities, stories of Black owned businesses, messages of encouragement, educational links and resources, and information updates.

Through numerous generous donations we have been able to distribute clothing, personal items, school supplies and backpacks.

In the Spring, Bike Brampton was able to stage a bike tune-up through their BikeWRX program in our parking lot.

Our work through the McMurphy Community Network and The Journey Human Trafficking Committee continue through virtual meetings and planning for future events.

We are now preparing to launch a Personal Development Program for community members, consisting of several modules, including: self-leadership, communication skills and leadership.

We have also, on a limited and safe basis, provided access to computers, and to print, photocopy and fax documents. We have also assisted several people to create, post and print out their resumes.

Just before COVID-19 hit we'd purchased a sewing machine for our Orenda women's team to use to teach sewing techniques.



As of this writing our Orenda women are starting to sew masks to give to community members.

We are also in the midst of preparing "Welcome Home" bags for the new and returning residents of buildings

51, 53 and 57 Ardglan. For those unfamiliar with the situation, the families in sixty-one townhouse units were evicted last year in order to replace the building roofs, which were deemed a fire hazard. They are only now just returning to their homes.

Journey Thrift

On September 29, 2020 our Journey Thrift store opened in downtown Brampton (24 Nelson St. E.). We were presented with a unique opportunity to take over the space previously occupied by the Mission Thrift store.

A team of amazing volunteers gutted, painted, rearranged, setup and stocked the store. Sales have been excellent and all proceeds support The Journey Neighbourhood Centre.



A Note to Our Funders and Supporters

THANK YOU for all of your support. We trust that this report illustrates just how important your funding is and how needed our services are in the community, especially during this continuing crisis.

We wish to acknowledge many organizations, agencies, and governments for their support during this pandemic. Grants and donations from the United Way Greater Toronto, Government of Canada, Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation; Regeneration Outreach Community; North Bramalea United Church; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority; Capital Power; Red Cross and The Gap (Cambridge) have enable us to run summer camp, fund after school programs, provide PPE to our staff, individuals and other businesses, purchase Chromebooks to loan to families without technology, distribute food and clothing, hand out school supplies and hire summer staff.

We would also like to acknowledge our many individual doors, as well as everyone who participated in and sponsored participants in the Ride for Refuge fundraiser.



The Journey is funded by many great organizations including:



Check Out Our Website and Social Media Pages:

-  www.thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre.ca
-  facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre
-  [TheJourneyNeighbourhoodCentre](https://www.instagram.com/TheJourneyNeighbourhoodCentre)
-  [@TheJourneyCtr](https://twitter.com/@TheJourneyCtr)



The Journey Neighbourhood Centre

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