

# THE JOURNEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INFORMATIONAL GUIDE: HOW THEY HELP CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN LOW- INCOME NEIGHBOURHOODS



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The Journey Neighbourhood Centre helps give hope to those in the Ardglen/Orenda communities in Brampton. They work with children/youth and their families in the community, while they take positive steps in their lives.

**Partnerships:**

The Journey has collaborated with many agencies and partners such as: North Bramalea United Church, Rapport Youth & Family Services, Regeneration Outreach Community, United Way, Greater Toronto, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Government of Ontario, Region of Peel, Regeneration Brampton and more.

**“Journey Thrift”:**

The Journey has a thrift store, like the salvation Army or value village. The Journey thrift shop mainly sells used goods. It is a separate business from the Journey Neighbourhood Centre. This is a different organization, but all the profits go to The Journey. This is a way of the Journey providing steady basic funding, but this organization is not happening at the moment during the Peel-wide lockdown. The Journey Thrift can be a good place for low-income children and families to go to find inexpensive goods.

**Pre-Covid Times:**

The Journey had provided programming, information, access to technology and the internet, seminars and community events. Since the pandemic, The Journey has provided online programming, different information, food and access to technology. The programming before Covid was for all ages. The Information was primarily for where to go for different places that help people in the community. For example, clinics, employment centers, food banks and places

for legal advice. The access to technology was using their computers, FAX machine, printers and internet.

### **Current Times at The Journey:**

The Journey now offers online school programming (Learning and Laughing program), online art classes, zoom meetings, food distribution through Regeneration Brampton, grocery cards, PPE, clothing, Toys for Tots (Christmas charity event), food for Christmas time, a lot of information being put out onto the internet and onto their different social medias and loaning out Chromebooks to people in the community. The Journey now has limited community access to their technology at the moment, unfortunately (computers, printers, FAX machine).

### **Please Check Out [Our BLOG](#) For The Latest Posts and Information**

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre has had to all but close our doors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been a difficult time for all of us in our community. The Journey has undertaken a few initiatives to try and make a difference:



1. **Food** – We are now distributing basic prepacked food bags to our community on Thursdays (thanks to Regeneration Outreach Community).
2. **Information** – Via our social media and website we are posting relevant and up-to-date information on a variety of topics including: financial compensation, job postings and health advisories.
3. **Resources** – We are distributing family resources via our Little Library. Those resources consist of a variety of educational worksheets, colouring pages and family crafts.
4. **Care** – We are directly contacting people in our community to check-in on how they are doing and we are also posting videos and inspiring stories to try and lift people's spirits during the lock down.
5. **Virtual Programming** – This past summer we ran a virtual camp. This autumn we have an elementary after school program called Laughing and Learning. We are also offering online art classes, Zoom meetings and prepping for our annual Christmas outreach.

We continue to check our email and phone messages. So, do not hesitate to contact us. Our door may be locked, but we are still here!

(via their website)

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**Being a Resource for the Community During Difficult Times:**

The Journey not only provides programs for children/youth and families online right now and gives out resources like food, gift cards etc., they also respond to emergencies since the start of the pandemic. There were two fires that broke out in a few townhouses and they have been providing resources such as clothing, different information, etc. The Journey is available to people in the community and all senior citizens as well. Not long ago someone had lost a significant other and from time to time they would check in with that individual to see how everything was going. There are some parents in the community who have been struggling with online schooling and they have reached out to support and provide school resources, while giving a listening ear to them.

**Advantages of Connecting with The Journey:**

The advantages of connecting with The Journey are both practical and emotionally supportive. The Journey meets the practical needs such as providing food and grocery cards, but at the same time, they are always there to listen and empathize, which is very beneficial for some people. Some people in the community need a listening ear and the staff at The Journey are always willing to lend one to anyone in need of support. Overall, they are very giving and helpful to anyone that connects with them. If you need any type of support at all or even advice about life, they are there to help.

**Who They Connect With:**

The Journey's primary focus is on the Ardglen/Orenda community, but it has not stopped them from letting anyone in the Peel Region/Brampton area to take advantage of their programs, services and events. They mostly see children and families from Brampton when they

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host their summer camps. They are also the lead agency for the McMurchy Community Network in Brampton and co-chair a human trafficking group with Peel Regional Police, which they have information sessions with different communities like Port Credit and Malton.

**Neighbourhood Helping & Connecting:**

The Journey has done neighbourhood clean-ups in the past. They have mowed lawns, dug and planted gardens, hauled garbage and even cleaned up a burned-out apartment. They also take a look at personal development, making an effort to invest in individuals. Over the years, they have recruited many community members and treated them as more than just volunteers/staff. They want to make differences in people's lives, provide them with many opportunities and perspectives to encourage them and help them grow as individuals.

**To check out more information on the Journey Neighbourhood Centre, check out the following links:**

**Website:** <http://www.thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre.ca/life/>

**Instagram:** @thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre  
<https://www.instagram.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre/>

**Facebook:** The Journey Neighbourhood Centre  
<https://www.facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre/>