

## A Message from the Executive Director

This past year continued the rollercoaster ride of the pandemic. The shift to fully online programming required a complete rethinking of how to best serve and support the Ardglen Drive and Orenda Court neighbourhoods, and to respond to a changed set of needs within the community. As pandemic restrictions have eased we began re-introducing some in-person programs like our summer camp. We also continued our anti-trafficking work and our contributions to supporting dignity and equality of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. Despite the many challenges, our mission and our commitment to the people of Ardglen/Orenda remained unchanged.



This past year also saw the opening of our new thrift store, Journey Thrift, on September 27, 2020. Lockdowns imposed as a result of the pandemic resulted in several lengthy closures. Finally, in June, 2021 the store re-opened and has remained open since. Located at 24 Nelson Street East in downtown Brampton, Journey Thrift operates to support the work of The Journey Neighbourhood Centre, but it's so much more. It's also a place where people can purchase gently used and very affordable clothing and household items. It's a place where people can find a good home for the items they

no longer need, and where they can volunteer as a way to contribute to the community.

I'd like to take a moment to express my personal thanks to my staff team, to our Board of Directors, to our programming and funding partners, to our volunteers and to all those who've supported The Journey. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Steve Allin, Executive Director

## Report from the Manager

As we entered autumn in 2020 and as that year ended, we had anticipated that the impact of the global pandemic would significantly lighten and that we could resume much of our programming. But, as all of us know so well, that was not the case. A third and even a fourth surge continued the ongoing restrictions to in-person programming at The Journey.

However, this has not kept The Journey from reaching out to our community and doing all that we can do!

Children’s education has always been a priority for both the parents in our community and for The Journey, so since we couldn’t offer a program at The Journey, we went online with “Learning and Laughing”. Through Google classroom we offered a combination of curriculum materials that we either created, or resourced and we gave out free subscriptions to IXL’s online math and reading program. Learning and Laughing was a great success through the fall of 2020 and many children engaged and benefited from the opportunity to go online at their leisure to learn.

One of the challenges within our community is access to technology. With the children having to go online for school over much of the past year, many kids did not have computers to access online classes. Through several grants The Journey was able to purchase and loan Chromebooks to families without computer access.



Offering programming online was not the only major pivot that The Journey engaged in over the past year. We have never been a food bank, but the needs in our community were obvious, and since we had the space, over the course of 11 months of the pandemic The Journey served over 50 families distributing food, clothing, essentials and grocery cards once a week in our community. While we no longer distribute food weekly, we continue to hand out grocery cards and distribute food for special events.

We couldn’t hold our special events in the usual way onsite such as Halloween, Christmas and Easter, but that didn’t stop us from reaching out. For Halloween we distributed candy, along with our weekly food distribution. We still held Toys for Tots, but as a pickup event at The Journey. And, through the generosity of many agencies we distributed turkeys, ham and halal chickens along with other goods and articles for Christmas. For Easter we hid over a hundred bags of candy throughout the neighbourhood for a community wide Easter Egg hunt.

Our onsite partners – Bridgeway/Early Years, Hammer Band and Visions of Science, weren’t able to offer programming at The Journey, but all three have continued to offer online programming and during the warmer weather Bridgeway has run their program at Centennial Park. We continue to support Hammer Band by swapping and tuning violins for the children the program – I guess my violin lessons, were not a complete waste after all!

# The Journey Neighbourhood Centre – Annual Report

September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

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While the pandemic has prevented us from offering group programming, we didn't completely shutter our doors. Our computers, internet access, fax machine, copier and printer were still available to the community on a safe and limited basis. Community members were able to come in to use our technology, or for help with their resumes and filling out documents.

This past summer we were finally able to offer our first onsite program since the pandemic began – Summer Day Camp. No

one, neither parents, nor children, wanted to do a virtual camp, so in a safe and numbers limited way, we were able to offer camp to 22 children. We heard nothing but appreciation from both kids and parents for the opportunity to be back at The Journey.

Programs and food distribution were not the only activities that The Journey has engaged in over the past year. Aminata Sow, our Community Network Lead, has run a very successful leadership development program, Carrie Campbell, our Community Engagement Facilitator, has been coordinating food distribution and both have been connecting with other agencies. Rebecca Freer, Our Media Specialist, has been producing and posting videos and podcasts and all three of our staff have been actively engaged in anti-Black racism programming and outreach.

These were just some of the many activities we engaged in, but this report is getting too long to tell you about them all. Yes, the pandemic has had an impact on onsite programming at The Journey, but it hasn't prevented us from effectively reaching out to our community. As we enter into our 2021/22 year we know that things will open up even more and we look forward to next year's report when we can tell you about our college placement students, our onsite after school program and our "Meet The Staff" BBQ, but you will have to wait until next year to find out about them!

Let me close by thanking all the organizations, agencies, levels of government, service clubs and financial supporters. There are far too many of you to name, but you know who you are. Without you we couldn't do what we do!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Birmingham".

Kevin Birmingham, Manager

# The Journey Neighbourhood Centre – Annual Report

September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

## Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Grants</b>	
United Church of Canada	\$ 70,000
Region of Peel	\$ 37,598
United Way Greater Toronto	\$ 62,490
Federal Summer Grant	\$ 33,031
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$ 15,566
City of Brampton	\$ 11,041
Other Grants and Foundations	\$ 8,840
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$ 238,566</b>
<b>Donations</b>	
North Bramalea United Church	\$ 5,000
Blue Sea Philanthropy	\$ 10,053
Service Clubs	\$ 3,851
Gifts and Donations	\$ 40,484
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 59,388</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Program Fees	\$ 00.00
Other	\$ 10,128
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 10,128</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 308,082</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 182,440
Programming	\$ 28,981
Facilities	\$ 55,355
Administration & Supplies	\$ 9,217
Audit & Legal	\$ 8,094
Other	\$ 27,994
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 312,081</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (3,999)</b>

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September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

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## The Journey Staff

Steve Allin – Executive Director • [steve.a@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:steve.a@thejourneymail.ca)  
Kevin Birmingham – Centre Manager • [kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca)  
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Rebecca Freer – Media Specialist • [rkabiseba@nbuc.ca](mailto:rkabiseba@nbuc.ca)

## Collaborative and Programming Partners

The Journey has a number of partners including; North Bramalea United Church, Rapport Youth & Family Services, Regeneration Outreach Community, The Hammer Band, Visions of Science, Bridgeway, and YMCA-GTA.



## Funding Partners

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre relies on a large number of organizations, community groups, corporations and individuals as well as fundraising to provide the financial resources needed to deliver the programming and events offered by The Journey. The following are many of our funders, past and present.



Check Out Our Website, Facebook Page or Twitter Feed:

-  [thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre.ca](http://thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre.ca)
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