



## Quarterly Update

Autumn 2016

### Our Mission

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



### Focus on 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.

### But First Here Is a Sampling of Our Programs

- **Homework Club** for kids Grades 3-5
- **Kidzone** for kids from JK – Grade 5
- **Think Tank** a Teen homework/social group
- **Art Start** an art group for kids Grade 1 and up
- **Hammer Band** violin lessons for kids
- **Women's Wednesdays** a weekly group for friendship and support
- **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
- **Visions of Science** for kids Grades 4-8 on Saturday mornings
- **Family Literacy** on Thursday Evenings from 6-8pm
- **The Sunday Gathering** on Sunday Mornings – 10:30 to Noon
- **Parent Support Group** for parents of children with learning disabilities
- **Artistic Expressions** an adult art group

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.

### Stories

The Journey exists to bring hope and transformation to our community, so what have we done lately?

#### Day Camp

Each summer we run a six week 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, we're sure, to his JK teacher.

### New Start

We have a young mom in our community who has had many challenges in her life. She has struggled with family 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 women from the community. They have moved from showing up, to full

participation, to assisting, to leading. We see confidence rising, creativity developing, and new ideas coming to fruition.

### Challenges

It isn't always easy running a program in our community. Earlier this year one of our programs was struggling with attendance and so the leaders took a closer look at why. They reported that there were many issues with the kids and their families including; unemployment, evictions, overcrowding, separation, divorce, custody battles, attempted suicide, poor nutrition, relocation and multiple community tragedies.

They went on to find that in one program cycle we lost 4 children due to single moms having to move out of the community, 3 children caught in a custody battle, 2 children due to family separation and 1 child who suffers from Separation Anxiety due to a traumatic experience. Sometimes just getting some of these children to attend on a regular basis is a real accomplishment!

### 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 Court 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.



### Check Out Our Website or Facebook Page

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

[www.facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre](https://www.facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre)

### Come, Connect, Be Inspired



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