



## Quarterly Update Spring 2021

### 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.*



## One Year Later

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

On that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we met as a staff, made some difficult decisions and then brainstormed what we could do as alternatives to the 13 programs we suspended. I remember writing a follow-up report, expressing a hope that we would be open again by May 2020. Well, as things stand as of the writing of this newsletter, we will not be fully open by May 2021. I don't think any of us thought that this pandemic lockdown would extend so long.

Our fiscal year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> and we plan both our budget and yearly goals based on our fiscal calendar. We are on our third revision of our yearly goals, as the pandemic continues to alter our plans.

### 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.

### Christmas



While we couldn't have an onsite Toys for Tots event, we still participated in the Toys for Tots program and distributed toys to 114 children. And,



through the generosity of Rotary, the HR department of Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services, Regeneration Outreach



Community, and Peel Regional Police, we were able to supply food, grocery and gift cards to 50+ families. It is always our privilege to be able to support our community through the generosity of so many others.

### Food Distribution

We continued to distribute food on a weekly basis throughout the fall and into the winter to about 50 families in our neighbourhood. We are able to do this through an arrangement with Regeneration and their Marketplace. Before COVID-19 hit The Journey did not distribute food on this scale, but there was a need in our community, one that is ongoing and as a result The Journey will continue this service for the foreseeable future.



## Learning and Laughing

We launched a virtual after school program in October called Learning and Laughing. The goal was to assist children with their Math and Reading skills and to offer science, art and music programming as well. We did this through a combination of a subscription to the IXL online learning system and our own science, art and music curriculum using Google Classroom.

Learning and Laughing has been a great success with 25 children enrolled (the limit of our IXL subscription). We find now that with the arrival of Spring and the very real online fatigue that children and parents are experiencing, our program is starting to wind down, but it has become a template for further ventures in online/virtual programming.

## Online!

The Journey has always had a strong and active online presence, especially through our Facebook page, but this past year has seen us ramp up our presence. We were able through a generous grant from OTF, hire a part time media specialist who is producing videos, revamping our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and making sure that we are posting a wide variety of information on a regular basis.

## Leadership Program

Through a generous grant from United Way Greater Toronto, this past summer we were able to add a staff member whose primary responsibilities were community leadership development and inter-agency partnerships. Of course, launching such an initiative during a pandemic adds layers of challenge to the whole task of connecting with agency personnel and recruiting community members. However, we are nothing if not persistent and the program is well underway with a team of enthusiastic community members engaged in the learning.

## Thank you for all your support from our Team!



## Coming Up!

Summer Camp, Spring Break, Easter, Fall 2021 . . . pandemic, or not we will continue serving our community and one day we will be completely opened up for full programming and events!

## 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 and governments for their support over this past year of the pandemic. Grants and donations from the United Way Greater Toronto, Government of Canada, Region of Peel, City of Brampton, United Church of Canada, Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation; Regeneration Outreach Community; North Bramalea United Church; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority; Capital Power; Red Cross; Ontario Trillium Foundation and The Gap (Cambridge) have enable us to run summer camp, fund after school programs, distribute PPE, purchase and loan Chromebooks, distribute food and clothing, etc., etc., etc.

## The Journey is funded by many great organizations including:



## Check Out Our Website and Social Media Pages:

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



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