

# The Journey Neighbourhood Centre – Annual Report

September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

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## A Message from the Executive Director

Since its opening in November, 2013 The Journey has been an integral part of the Ardglen/Orenda community. Together with community members, volunteers and partner organizations thousands of children, youth and adults have been positively impacted. The list of all that's been provided is long but I'd like to name a few; summer camps and after-school programs, women's support groups, opportunities to create art and learn to play the violin, helping people find jobs, housing and financial supports, addressing human trafficking and anti-black racism, offering mental health education, and responding to crises in the community.



Our community, our staff, volunteers and partners are rightly proud of The Journey. I am too. It's a time of transition at The Journey as we embark on building anew the work of The Journey as we come out of the pandemic. At the end of September I will be leaving the role of Executive Director and transferring it to Kevin Birmingham who has so wonderfully led our Journey team as Centre Manager since 2014. We welcome Onzhane Walker as our new Centre Manager and Fantasia Meredith as our new Community Network Lead. We are excited to see how The Journey can continue to work

together with the community to bring hope and transformation to the children, youth and families of Ardglen/Orenda.

I'd like to take this opportunity 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

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## Report from the Manager

This past year at The Journey has been one of renewal. Renewal hope, renewal of programming, renewal of the community, renewal of events and renewal of staff and volunteers. The past two years of the pandemic lead to a suspension of many programs and a pivot towards other ways of delivering services, programs and events such as online programs, expanded social media presence, food and grocery care distribution, etc. However, this past year has meant a return to onsite programming and events, as well as continuing our online programming and social media presence.

### Online

One of the most exciting online ventures for The Journey was youth programming. We ran three online programs for teens and young adults covering topics such as personal finances and preparing themselves for “the world”. Online attendance varied from 21 to 31 youth. The most exciting program was a series on financial literacy, which attracted 31 registrants.

The one online area where we saw the greatest drop-off was children’s school programming. After two years of on again/off again online school, children were not interested in more online education.

We continued to expand our online presence through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Spotify, etc. During the pandemic we set up a small studio space in our lower level and we record topical videos aimed at issues within our community such as the immigrant experience and racism. We also use our online presence to promote programs and opportunities from other agencies and to provide relevant information for our community.



### Onsite

In both the summers of 2021 and 2022, we were finally able to offer onsite summer day camp. The energy of having The Journey full of children and young adult leaders was exciting. To have children back in The Journey lifted everyone’s spirits and gave us all hope that the worst of the pandemic was over.

Also, during the 2021/22 school year we were able to offer an onsite after school program for three days a week. Unfortunately, Omicron disrupted the program for six weeks after Christmas, but when we returned to onsite programming in February, all the children came back.

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## Placement Students

One of the great pleasures at The Journey is being able to invest in placements students' education. This past year we had seven students – six CYCs (Child and Youth Care) students and one SSW (Social Service Worker) student. Because of restrictions on how many people we wanted at a time in The Journey, for the first time ever the students, designed, promoted and ran the afterschool program. They did a tremendous job and had a very successful year.



## Community Events

Over the course of the pandemic, we held several online community events, including a townhall and some informational events. However, the highlight was to finally be able to hold a couple of community BBQs in our parking lot. The community came out in full force with about 150-200 attending each event. We had various organization, such as the YMCA, Bramalea Multicultural Centre, The Learning Place, Bridgeway, etc. come out and display and meet with the community.

## Thank you!

This report would not be complete without a heartfelt thank you to our staff team. This past year has been challenging, especially during the deepest part of the pandemic. So, I want to extend a thanks to Aminata Sow, CarryAnn Campbell, Rebecca Freer and Steve Allin. Without you we could not have accomplished half of the outreach that we did, especially the Christmas outreach, grocery card distribution, our online presence and the after-school programming. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all our placement students and summer staff, who over this past year made our programming so successful. And finally, I would like to thank all those who stand behind The Journey making sure we can “take care of business” – our Board, George Watson and the many organizations and service clubs who fund us.

Sincerely,

Kevin Birmingham, Manager

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## Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

### Income

#### Grants

United Church of Canada	\$	70,000
Region of Peel	\$	61,575
United Way Greater Toronto	\$	66,514
Federal Summer Grant	\$	27,988
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$	12,434
City of Brampton	\$	11,041
Other Grants and Foundations	\$	5,276
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>254,828</b>

#### Donations

Journey Thrift	\$	20,000
Blue Sea Philanthropy	\$	15,270
Service Clubs	\$	10,580
Gifts and Donations	\$	26,009
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>71,859</b>

#### Other Income

Program Fees	\$	00.00
Other	\$	11,008
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,008</b>

**Total Income** \$ **337,695**

### Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$	185,699
Programming	\$	54,582
Facilities	\$	52,931
Administration & Supplies	\$	22,942
Audit & Legal	\$	7,460
Other	\$	19,472
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>343,086</b>

**Net** \$ **(5,391)**

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## The Journey Staff

- Steve Allin – Former Executive Director • [steve.a@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:steve.a@thejourneymail.ca)
- Kevin Birmingham – Executive Director • [kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca)
- Onzhane Walker – Centre Manager • [onzhane.w@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:onzhane.w@thejourneymail.ca)
- Fantasia Meredith – Community Network Lead • [fantasia.m@thejourneymail.ca](mailto:fantasia.m@thejourneymail.ca)
- Rebecca Freer – Media Specialist • [rfreer@nbuc.ca](mailto:rfreer@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)
-  [facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre](https://facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre)
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