

A Message from the Executive Director

Last fall The Journey Neighbourhood Centre celebrated its 5th anniversary. In the couple of years prior to its opening I was part of a team from North Bramalea United Church that began to get to know the people of this community, to understand some of the issues and barriers they faced, to offer a few simple programs and events, and to find ourselves caring deeply for the people. I remember clearly from those early days a resident asking me if we were going to continue working in the community or if, like so many other well-meaning groups, we would come for a while and then disappear. She told me that when these groups disappeared they left children and families' disappointed and feeling abandoned. In fact, she felt it might have been better if they hadn't come in the first place. So when North Bramalea United Church established The Journey Neighbourhood Centre back in November, 2013 it was with a commitment that we would be in the community 'for the long haul' – and here we are 6 years later, going strong with centres at Ardglen Drive and Orenda Court!



There have been many changes in the community over these last 6 years, but still a continuing saga of trials and tragedies, the most recent being the evictions of 58 households from 3 rows of Ardglen townhomes to carry out mandatory fire safety roof replacements. The Journey responded the way we always have, working with and advocating for residents, engaging officials and service providers, providing compassionate care, and doing our absolute best to support the community. So, six years since the founding of The Journey we remain committed for the long haul; bringing hope and transformation, walking alongside the children, youth and families of Ardglen/Orenda as they take positive steps in their lives.

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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Allin'.

Steve Allin, Executive Director

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre – Annual Report

September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

Report from the Manager

September 2018 seems so long ago, mostly because so much has happened in the past year. September is the transition time from summer programming to fall program launches. Our fall started with our most successful Street Party yet. We had close to 200 people show up for a fun filled afternoon. With that party came the launch of all our usual fall/winter programs: KidZone, The Learning Spot, After



School Club, etc. As well, two of our program partners: Hammer Band, and Visions of Science, participated. One new development was that The Journey took over responsibility for the Super Star Readers program at Sir Winston Churchill Public School which had been led by North Bramalea United Church. With strong cooperation and support from the school, this program flourished.

One of the developments of this past year is a stronger relationship with CAPRIET, the owners of 80 Orenda Court which houses our Orenda Centre. In September they invited

us to be at their residents' barbeque. We had a great time meeting residents, sharing some information about The Journey, and eating very well!

Our 2018 Halloween event was also our biggest ever. Over 149 kids and their parents showed up, for lots of candy, games and fun. We barely got past Halloween and Thanksgiving, when it was time for our 5th Anniversary Celebration. We pitched a tent and filled The Journey with community members, volunteers, funding partners, programing partners and more to celebrate the occasion.



As we got into late November it looked like our Christmas Outreach was going to be very modest, but then the calls and donations came in and what looked like a small response turned into our biggest



outreach ever! For Toys For Tots alone, we handed out gifts to 171 children. Our list of thanks is long: Legacy Supply Chain, Toys for Tots, Zonta, Rotary Club of Brampton, Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Peel Regional Police, Regeneration Outreach Community and North Bramalea United Church.

We held all of our usual camps and special children's events this past year: Winter Camp, March Break, the Easter Egg Hunt and of course Summer Camp, which was one of our best ever.

The beginning of 2019 saw a lot of snow and The Journey, along with the local schools, found itself closed on several occasions. In the midst of the snow storms we held a Community Safety Meeting at

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Sir Winston Churchill, on the only Wednesday in the middle of the storms when the school wasn't closed. It snowed that day, but we still had an excellent turnout.

One of our newer partnerships is with the Peel Living Seniors building at 1 Maple. Our Empowerment Through Art programs visited 1 Maple in the early part of the year to do art with the seniors.

Of course there has been lots of other stuff happening at The Journey: a pancake breakfast, St. Patrick's day dinner, an Albion Hills outing with the

Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, CRA Tax Clinics, etc., etc.

The Journey continues to provide co-leadership, along with the Peel Regional Police, of a Human Trafficking group. This group came about because of the ongoing issue of young teen girls being sex-trafficked out of our community. Our outreach has since gone Region wide with community information meetings this past year in Port Credit and Knightsbridge.

In the midst of all of this extended outreach, came a huge blow for our community. 51, 53 and 57 Ardglan Drive are townhouse complexes that years ago had peaked roofs illegally installed over the flat roofs. It was one of these types of roofs that contributed to the extent of damage that occurred when 59 Ardglan went up in flames in 2014. The fire department ordered the removal of the roofs on these three buildings and because of how they are constructed, it has necessitated the eviction of the residents of the 62 units that make up these three buildings.



The owners and management company of the three buildings met with the residents on June 26th to inform them that the next day they would receive their eviction notices to be enforced as of October 31, 2019. The Journey provided space for the landlord to meet with impacted residents and gathering information on resident's issues and needs. We held a number of special Board meetings with government and housing representatives and set about working towards assisting the residents. Throughout the summer and fall the Region of Peel's Housing Support Workers met with over 30 families at The Journey, working toward making sure that everyone who needed housing would be housed. We also contacted the Canadian Mental Health Association and arranged for counselling services for impacted residents.

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The Journey became a point of connection for many of the residents. They would drop by to discuss their fears and concerns, we collected and distributed packing boxes, walked the halls and talked with



the residents and acted as a liaison and information centre. While technically the conclusion of this process is really for next year's report, we can say that as of November 4, 2019, everyone had vacated their premises. The construction is supposed to take 6-7 months, so hopefully next April 2020, people will be moving back. About half the residents indicated a desire to return.

On a personal note, we at The Journey dealt with a personal tragedy. Our Community Engagement Facilitator, Ashleigh Kelk, lost her husband early in 2019. We grieved with Ashleigh and her children at their loss. Matt was a kind and gentle man, who struggled with addiction and unfortunately lost his battle.

On another personal note, this past May 12, 2019, I (Kevin Birmingham) celebrated five years at The Journey. It has been a privilege to serve this community and I look forward to many more years in service.

Kevin Birmingham

Kevin Birmingham, Manager

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Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019

Income

Grants

United Church of Canada	\$	63,943
Region of Peel	\$	29,973
United Way	\$	16,667
Federal Summer Grant	\$	17,367
Other Grants	\$	4,819
Total Grants	\$	132,769

Donations

North Bramalea United Church	\$	24,995
Blue Sea Philanthropy	\$	8,255
Service Clubs and Foundations	\$	17,200
Gifts and Donations	\$	39,611
Donations	\$	90,061

Other Income

Program Fees	\$	1,405
Other	\$	35,360
Total Other	\$	36,765

Total Income	\$	259,595
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Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$	125,918
Programming	\$	44,051
Facilities	\$	61,833
Administration & Supplies	\$	10,469
Audit & Legal	\$	6,361
Other	\$	12,569

Total Expenses	\$	261,201
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Net	(\$	1,606.00)
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The Journey Staff

Steve Allin – Executive Director • steve.a@thejourneymail.ca
Kevin Birmingham – Centre Manager • kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca
Ashleigh Kelk – Community Engagement Facilitator, Ardglen • ashleigh.k@thejourneymail.ca
Aasia Khan (Former) – Community Engagement Facilitator, Orenda • aasia.k@thejourneymail.ca
Kyrel Thompson – Program Coordinator • kyrel.t@thejourneymail.ca

Collaborative and Programming Partners

The Journey has a number of partners including; North Bramalea United Church, Rapport Youth & Family Services, Jet Mentors and Community Services, Regeneration Outreach Community, The Hammer Band, Visions of Science, Elizabeth Fry Society, 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:

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 facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre
 [@TheJourneyCtr](https://twitter.com/TheJourneyCtr)
 Instagram.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre