

A Message from the Executive Director

This past year has certainly been a rollercoaster ride! A year ago we responded to support our community with an especially difficult situation when more than 50 households had to find temporary housing for 6 to 8 months while the roofs on several of the Ardglan townhomes were being replaced (to meet fire safety regulations). Through partnering with the Region of Peel housing department and with the cooperation of the landlord, each household that needed our help found it.

In March COVID-19 made its presence known, and along



with the rest of the province we had to close our centres. But while we couldn't bring people through our doors, we could continue to support them. In fact, we added a food security program in partnership with Regeneration Outreach, and shifted our programming to online delivery with our first virtual summer camp, and now our Learning and Laughing after-school program. We also established a computer lending service so that families needing a computer to access our programming, schooling or other services could borrow them from a pool of 22 computers.

The Journey also acknowledged and responded to the movement in our society for dignity and equality of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. Support and promotion for local Black-owned businesses is just one example of our response. We ended our year with preparations to open Journey Thrift, a thrift store in downtown Brampton dedicated to providing financial support for The Journey. The store opened in September and got off to a great start!

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 that reads "Steve Allin".

Steve Allin, Executive Director

The Journey Neighbourhood Centre – Annual Report

September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

Report from the Manager

This past year – 2020, is certainly the most unique and challenging one that The Journey has faced, and we have had some very big challenges over the years. Steve Allin, in his report has summed it up well, so let me illustrate a few highlights, provide some thanks and project into the future.

On Friday, March 13, 2020 we met as a staff and determined that we had to suspend the 13 programs that we were running at the time. I remember writing, as we brainstormed what we could do, that we should be back up and running by the end of May. I will never make it as a prophet. Hopefully, I didn't mean May 2021!



Since then we have done a lot of planning, only to cancel or delay. I guess we are optimists. But, we have also had some significant successes. Our partnership with Regeneration Outreach Community's foodbank has been a godsend for our community. Once a week on Thursday mornings we pick up and package bags of food to distribute to local families in need. This was a brand new initiative for us.



Our virtual summer camp was a great success and became a template for our afterschool Learning and Laughing program, which is fully enrolled and doing very well.

At the beginning of the pandemic we realized that there was a lot of misinformation and that many of our community members did not have easy access to the ever changing guidelines and rules, opportunities and resources available. So, we cranked up our social media and since then have provided a steady stream of information, links and opportunities for our neighbours.

Until the pandemic all but shut us down, North Bramalea United Church had gatherings on Sunday mornings called The Sunday Gathering. Since we can no longer meet we have been posting inspirational devotions and messages via email, YouTube and Facebook for our community members.

This year brought a lot of changes and not all of them were programming. Kyrel Thompson, our Program Coordinator, left us for full time employment, and Ashleigh Kelk, our Community Engagement Facilitator for Ardglen left us and moved up north. We appreciated their years of service with us and wish them well in their future endeavours. In the meantime Carrie Campbell joined us to be our Community Engagement Facilitator for both Orenda and Ardglen. We should note that last year our Community Engagement Facilitator for Orenda, Asia Khan had left us to pursue her career with the Peel Board of Education. As well as Carrie, Aminata Sow joined us as our Community Network Lead, working

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with other agencies and providing leadership development within our neighbourhood. So, we lost three valuable team members and gained two more.



No report would be complete without thanking and acknowledging our partners. Hammer Band has continued their violin lessons online and for the first time offered lessons during the summer. Bridgeway had to suspend their Early Years and EarlyON programs at our two locations, but have continued online and have been in contact with the parents of the pre-schoolers in our program. We had just started a very successful afterschool program at Sir Winston Churchill Public School and look forward to once again being back at the school. We also need to acknowledge our partnership

with Visions of Science. They have moved to online programs and we look forward to when they can once again be onsite at The Journey. Bike Brampton was offering their BikeWrx program at The Journey and were even able to offer a popup bike service day this past Spring.

And finally we want to acknowledge our supporters. They are too numerous to mention all of them, but we need to recognize all of our wonderful funders and financial supporters. You know who you are and we have links to many of you on our website: [About Us – The Journey Neighbourhood Centre](#)

As of this writing, there is no end in sight for the pandemic and we are actually in the midst of our second lockdown. But, even through this we continue to be hopeful, make plans and work solutions for the people we serve. One day the pandemic will be over and our 13 suspended programs, plus the new ones we have since instituted will once again be running.

I stated at the beginning of this report that I would project into the future. Well, we don't really know what the future holds for us, but I can confidently say that The Journey will still be here, still serve our community and still find new ways to reach out and make a difference!



This report was a little long, not unlike the pandemic, but we owe thanks and recognition to so many individuals, agencies, service clubs, donors, levels of government and to you who have made it this far in reading this Annual Report.

Kevin Birmingham, Manager

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Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020

Income

Grants

United Church of Canada	\$	70,000
Region of Peel	\$	35,057
United Way Greater Toronto	\$	49,656
Federal Summer Grant	\$	13,058
Other Grants and Foundations	\$	10,450

Total Grants \$ 178,221

Donations

North Bramalea United Church	\$	14,749
Blue Sea Philanthropy	\$	25,113
Service Clubs	\$	4,494
Gifts and Donations	\$	31,715

Donations \$ 76,071

Other Income

Program Fees	\$	00.00
Other	\$	12,947

Total Other \$ 12,947

Total Income \$ 267,239

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$	127,714
Programming	\$	32,929
Facilities	\$	57,742
Administration & Supplies	\$	13,913
Audit & Legal	\$	7,103
Other	\$	15,401

Total Expenses \$ 254,802

Net \$ 12,437

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The Journey Staff

Steve Allin – Executive Director • steve.a@thejourneymail.ca
Kevin Birmingham – Centre Manager • kevin.b@thejourneymail.ca
Carrie Campbell – Community Engagement Facilitator • carry.c@thejourneymail.ca
Aminata Sow – Community Network Lead • aminata.s@thejourneymail.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
-  facebook.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre
-  [@TheJourneyCtr](https://twitter.com/TheJourneyCtr)
-  Instagram.com/thejourneyneighbourhoodcentre