

Annual Report 2008-2009

WoodGreen Community Services

Imagine a Toronto where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

GOODERHAM & WORTS

This was an extraordinary year for WoodGreen.

Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly on the front lines helping clients through the economic downturn. New programs were launched in response to pressing community needs. At the same time, it was a year of taking stock, and of dreaming of what could be – for our clients … and for Toronto. WoodGreen's Board and staff gathered to think about what kind of future we wanted for our city, and envision the role that WoodGreen might play in making that future happen.

We agreed on some fundamentals, the most significant being that everyone in our city should have the opportunity to thrive. It sounds logical, but we realized that it takes an organization like WoodGreen to help break down the barriers that prevent people from achieving their life goals. We also saw

that, with our long history as a cornerstone service provider, WoodGreen is able to bring well-designed solutions to complex issues challenging the community. Finally, we reaffirmed our commitment to our core work of enhancing self-sufficiency, promoting well-being and reducing poverty every day, with every client.

After months of analyzing the issues at hand, a powerful new direction for WoodGreen emerged:

WoodGreen is committed to becoming a leader in social innovation. We will develop and implement leading-edge programs by leveraging best practices in the field, new ideas and dynamic research. We will also magnify our positive social impact, as we share our knowledge and best solutions with new partners and use what we have learned to influence public policy.

WoodGreen has often taken a stand for social change, and others have certainly taken notice. Recently, our child care work at the Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre has been put forward as the model for the future of early learning in a special report by Dr. Charles Pascal to the Province of Ontario. Our Homeward Bound program was also consulted by the Senate Subcommittee on Cities for insight into affordable housing strategies and the path out of poverty. Last fall, youth from our Rites of Passage program were invited to the International Federation of Settlements' conference in Finland to talk about the how the program is impacting youth in priority Toronto neighbourhoods.

We invite you to read on, and learn about some of the new initiatives we have launched this year, all of which set the pace for service excellence to come. More importantly, this report tells the story of an organization deeply committed to a Toronto where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. In each instance, WoodGreen is tackling critical Toronto issues with solutions that are making a positive social impact.

We'd like to thank our 500 staff members, hundreds of volunteers and community partners who are helping clients transform their lives. WoodGreen is also deeply grateful for the generous donor and funder support that allows us to continue to do what we do best.

Sincerel

Betty Augaitis, Board Chair

Brian F.C. Smith, President & CEO

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH RECORDED OVER 1,300 CALLS REGARDING BED BUGS IN 2008. - TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH



STRENGTHENING URBAN HEALTH

Did you know?

- Last year, WoodGreen served 11,173 seniors, their caregivers and older adults with disabilities through programs like Meals on Wheels, social work, transportation services & more.
- WoodGreen also served 2,096 people with mental health and developmental challenges through programs like the friendship club, guitar program, lobby drop in program and supported independent living last year.
- Catering of organic, healthy food is provided to each of WoodGreen's eight child care centres each day by Real Food For Real Kids.
- As one of eight partner agencies with Family Service Toronto, WoodGreen offers Growing Up Healthy Downtown, focusing on the health and well being of children and providing support services for their caregivers.



WoodGreen staff first noticed a rise in phone calls from distraught community members with bed bug infestations about five years ago. Worried parents were lying awake in fear of their children being bitten in the night. Seniors, many of whom were living on limited incomes, could not afford a private pest control company. Elderly people and those with physical disabilities could not complete the laborious tasks - like bagging all clothing, and repeated vacuuming - needed to fight the infestations. WoodGreen knew that bed bugs had to be addressed, and fast.

Bed bugs are back in Toronto. And they're back in a big way. In fact, Toronto Public Health received 1324 calls from

Although bed bugs are not considered a health risk, their presence can cause significant anxiety, labour-intensive work and be a costly nuisance to address. Effective treatment of bed bugs often requires intervention by a pest control company followed by months of diligence on the part of the resident to prevent further infestation. Often, out of sheer desperation, people with infestations resort to unproven and unsafe methods of pest control such as dousing their beds and belongings with toxic substances like kerosene.

Staff in our Homelessness and Housing Help and Mental Health and Development Services unit responded by organizing a Town Hall that was attended by more than 300 Toronto residents, health groups and members of the media, bringing significant attention to the issue.

The need for more research and public education was clear, so in October 2008, after extensive consultation, WoodGreen published a Bed Bug Resource Manual. Distributed widely across Ontario, this manual is an invaluable resource for not only people affected by bed bug infestations, but public health agencies, pest control firms and more.

In 2008, WoodGreen was also asked to co-chair The Toronto Bed Bug Project, initiated by Toronto Public Health. The committee is working to produce a Toronto-wide strategy to fight bed bugs and educate the public about prevention.

That initiative even drew praise from the Mayor of Toronto. "The work WoodGreen is doing in partnership with Toronto Public Health on the issue of bed bugs is fantastic," said Mayor David Miller.

Based on our work and reputation, Habitat Services - an organization that funds supportive housing services for people with serious mental health challenges - recently approached WoodGreen to work on a tenant education and outreach project in 45 Habitat Services-funded homes. Led by program manager Elaine Magil, WoodGreen staff completed 1500 bed bug inspections, and hosted training for 300 people on the issue.

"WoodGreen's leadership role in bed bug work made them a natural to take on the project," said Leslie McDonald, Executive Director of Habitat Services. "The team put together by WoodGreen did great work that was at all times respectful of the tenants."

Leslie McDonald, Executive Director, Habitat Services Elaine Magil, Manager, WoodGreen Tenant Outreach and Education Program



BUILDING MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Did you know?

- 1,000 people call WoodGreen housing home, and our tenants have access to the complete basket of services we offer.
- WoodGreen operates five supportive housing sites giving residents access to 24-hour personal support and homemaking services. We deliver an additional 8,760 hours of supportive housing services to people living in other facilities within the community.
- Through our Homeward Bound Program, WoodGreen removes the barriers to affordable housing for single mothers living in shelters with their children, often providing them with the first safe, stable housing environment they've ever had.
- Last year, WoodGreen helped 4,047 people with serious homelessness and housing issues.



Toronto faces an affordable housing crisis. According to Housing Connections at the City of Toronto "the wait ranges from about one to five years for a bachelor; seven to ten years for a one-bedroom; five to ten years for a two-bedroom; and up to ten or twelve years for a three- to five-bedroom home."

And for those in need of affordable housing with support services, the painful wait for help is even longer.

WoodGreen operates 590 units of affordable housing in Toronto's east end, making us one of the largest non-municipal providers in the city. We also deliver supportive housing services to 84 housing units where tenants get help with homemaking, meals and personal care, and have access to a full basket of community support services to enhance their ability to remain living in the community.

In Toronto, there are so many more seniors who need this type of housing, and are without it.

So, when the opportunity to build an additional 112 units of supportive housing for some of the city's most vulnerable people arose, WoodGreen was eager to



participate. Through a unique partnership with Fife House and The Wellesley Institute, The Wellesley Central Residence Inc. (WCRI) opened its doors in August 2008. Located on the grounds of the old Wellesley Hospital, The WCRI is specifically designed to accommodate both seniors in need of moderate support for day-to-day living, and people living with HIV/AIDS. The WCRI is the first of its kind in Canada.

Doris Barry (pictured) is a WoodGreen client and resident of the WCRI. In addition to her affordable apartment Doris accesses many WoodGreen services including a weekly shopping trip to Gerrard Square and a biweekly group dining program provided by WoodGreen's Meals on Wheels. Doris also gets assistance with personal care and housekeeping.

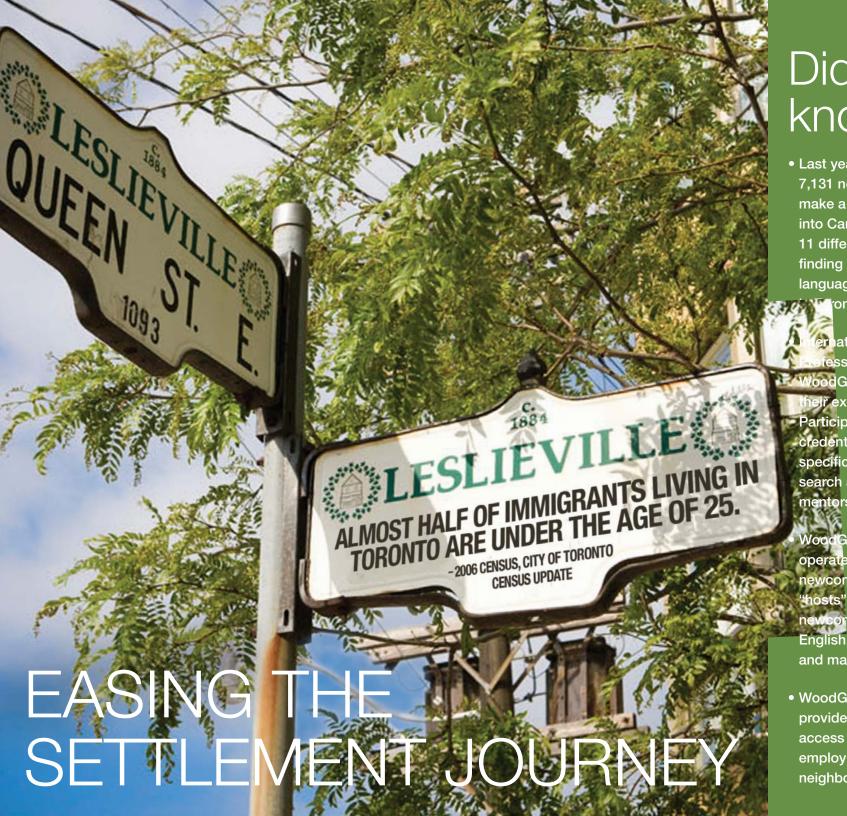
"WoodGreen should be very proud of their support workers at The Wellesley," said Doris. "And I add my utmost appreciation for the services I receive there. Thank you very much."

The Wellesley Central Residence aims to help promote health and independence for residents with a wide range of case management services and social activities, as well as a wellness centre, community kitchen and even a beautiful Rooftop Healing Garden that provides residents with a serene space for private reflection.

"The innovative partnership blends two communities in need of supportive housing," said Keith Hambly, Executive Director of Fife House. "WoodGreen and Fife House work together to deliver the best possible services to each of the two communities. And now, the building is becoming one community."

Our client, Doris Barry (pictured far left), passed away on August 12, 2009. Doris was a valued member of the WoodGreen community and she will be missed very much. We would like to dedicate this story to her.

Doris Barry, WoodGreen client Keith Hambly, Executive Director, Fife House Cristina Pascual, WoodGreen Program Supervisor, Wellesley Central Residence



Did you know?

 Last year, WoodGreen helped 7,131 newcomers of all ages make a successful transition into Canadian society through 11 different programs geared at finding sustainable employment, language instruction and settling

ernationally Trained essionals come to WoodGreen to find work within neir existing professions. Participants are connected with credential assessments, jobspecific language training, job search and job development, and mentorships.

WoodGreen's Immigrant Services operates the Host Program for newcomers to Canada. Volunteer "hosts" act as mentors to newcomers, helping them practice English, learn about their new city and make social connections.

WoodGreen's satellite offices provide newcomers with easy access to settlement and employment services in their own neighbourbood.

More than 100,000 newcomers settle in Toronto every year. WoodGreen's Immigrant Services has been helping newcomers to Canada with all aspects of settlement for decades. In our work with families, we have discovered that it isn't simply the parents who need support finding their way in Canada. Young people also need to adapt to a whole new culture and way of life, often with increased pressure from their peers.



In early 2008, WoodGreen launched Newcomer Youth Services to meet the specific needs of youth who are new to Canada, arriving either with their families or on their own. The program offers a wide range of settlement services for newcomer youth ages 13-24 aimed at helping them through their own unique settlement journey.

In the summer of 2007, Frank Bongolto (pictured) arrived in Toronto from the Philippines. Then just 19 years old, Frank found himself in a new country, using a new language. Going to school and trying to make friends was daunting. His settlement search led him to WoodGreen's Newcomer Youth Services.

> Frank joined the program's conversation circle, Say What, to practice his English, and took a resume-writing workshop. He also made use of the homework club, where he felt more comfortable asking questions than in the school's classroom. For youth whose first language is not English, schoolwork can be a challenge. Students, who excelled in their studies before arriving here, can become frustrated because of the language barrier. WoodGreen staff offer one-on-one help with homework every week. In fact, the staff at WoodGreen speaks 24 different languages. For newcomers, being able to communicate in their own languages - be it Mandarin, Cantonese, Bengali, Urdu, Turkish, French or another - provides a bit of relief for those struggling to communicate everywhere else they go.

> Another concern for newcomer youth is one shared by almost every young person, regardless of their country of origin: they want to "fit in" with their peers. Making friends is a top priority for them. WoodGreen is able to create a safe and comfortable environment for newcomer youth, who all face the same challenges. And to encourage socialization, there are plenty of free or discounted group trips around Toronto to various cultural and recreational spots.

> WoodGreen runs a parallel program for parents to help them understand the Canadian settlement system, and provide them with opportunities to meet other newcomer parents.

Above all, our programs for newcomers of all ages are designed to build greater self-confidence and a proud sense of belonging to Canada.

"I am now working at a job I enjoy because of WoodGreen's help. Thank you very much!" - Frank Bongolto, WoodGreen client

Frank Bongolto, WoodGreen client Janet Ridell, Supervisor, WoodGreen Youth Settlement Services



REACHING OUT TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Did you know?

- Over 675 children are enro in WoodGreen's eight child centres, located in the city end. One of those, the Bru WoodGreen Early Learning is noted as a model for the by Dr. Charles Pascal in his ground-breaking report on early learning.
- With two locations, our Afte 4 child care program include healthy lifestyle activities, homework clubs and the opportunity to participate in fun outings with a network o volunteers from the commun
- Rites of Passage is an Afro C program piloted by WoodGre to help young people develop foundational skills of leadersl confidence and purpose that help them succeed in school future employment.
- The Sisters in Action program provides an opportunity to you Muslim women to engage in s recreation activities, sports an develop skills through mentors

It was hard for Travis Dixon, 20, to find work. Like so many of Toronto's young people, he had barriers to employment. For Travis, these included an unsustained work history, no post secondary education and a past criminal record. The opportunities to make fast money on the street were always there, but Travis was looking for legitimate work that could make use of his interests and skills. He just needed an employer to give him a chance.

Referred to WoodGreen by a friend, Travis was identified as a great candidate for Making Work Work for Youth. Launched in 2008 and funded by the African Canadian Christian Network (ACCN), the program is designed for young people aged 16-24, who have had previous contact with the criminal justice system and are currently out of school and unemployed.

One of 12 participants in the program, Travis started the project by meeting with WoodGreen's employment counsellors and job developers. During these meetings, participants and staff worked to establish a list of interests, skills and talents for each young person. Participants also received help with interview skills, resume writing



and mock interviews. The ACCN provided each of the 12 participants with a phone buddy from St. Francis NESBF Archdiocese of Canada, one of its network of churches. Each phone buddy provided ongoing support, encouragement and mentorship to the young people throughout the process.

Once Travis completed the information-gathering sessions at the outset of the program, he had identified what he wanted to do. His passion was for music, writing and photography. WoodGreen was able to connect Travis to Canadian music magazine Urbanology.

During his work placement at the magazine Travis conducted phone surveys and acted as a Publishing Assistant. He proofread and edited stories before they went to press, and transcribed phone interviews with artists.

"The whole experience of being around different people and learning from them was great," said Travis. "I learned how to be respectful of other people and they were respectful of me. It also kept me busy, and gave me somewhere to be every day."

Travis has big plans for his future. He wants to go back to school for a paramedic or nursing designation and work in a hospital.

"Anything to do with helping people," he says.

WoodGreen and St. Francis received funding through the ACCN to pay 100 per cent of the wages received by the participants. The employers could then focus on providing on-the-job experience, supervision and direction.

"We supported this innovative project with WoodGreen because we felt it was essential that young people who wanted to work were given that opportunity, no matter what barriers they faced," said Khary Collins, Job Coach at St. Francis. "We look forward to continuing our involvement with WoodGreen."

Qazi Hasan, Manager, WoodGreen Employment Services Travis Dixon, WoodGreen client

Strategic Plan 2009-2014

Create a Culture of Innovation WoodGreen will develop a more innovative and creative organizational culture, whereby all staff are empowered to share information and ideas, collaborate and help implement changes that improve the service quality, effectiveness and efficiency of our programs and internal processes.

• Empower and inspire staff for service excellence and innovation • Foster performance excellence • Renew organizational design and development • Improve business systems and infrastructure

Develop Better Solutions WoodGreen will expand its research capability and develop partnerships with educational institutions and other organizations to strengthen our knowledge resources. This will better enable us to identify trends affecting Toronto, explore emerging social issues, evaluate program results, develop new models and implement the most effective solutions. These research activities will be closely linked to front-line service delivery.

• Develop and implement a WoodGreen innovation model • Build external partnerships for solution development • Expand research and development capability

Maximize Community Benefit WoodGreen will maximize community benefit by developing partnerships to share information and replicate our best practices. We will also use our knowledge and proven solutions to foster discussion on current issues and influence public policy.

- Leverage our knowledge for community impact • Engage social opinion leaders
- Establish brand leadership Build private
- sector support

WoodGreen Board of Directors, L to R: Angelina Vaz, Valerie Mah, Mary Johnstone, Maureen Helt, Mike Macdonald, Betty Augaitis (Chair), David Sin, Brian F. C. Smith (WoodGreen President & CEO), Reg Swamy, Sue Graham-Nutter, Diana Alli, Thomas Hofmann (Vice-Chair), Amy Charles, Karen Malone

Resigned Board Members (not pictured): Claire Barcik, Wade Hall



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Financial Highlights

	25,951,089	22,865,670	
e contracts and Other	1,603,418	1,285,433	
zation of deferred capital contributions	161,927	168,377	
aising & productive enterprises	947,189	728,513	
nent income	33,665	84,329	
Way	842,234	672,539	
or service - Individuals	3,297,886	2,678,096	
Toronto	6,091,549	5,402,372	
nment of Ontario	8,092,159	8,396,611	
nment of Canada	4,881,062	3,449,400	
INUE			
	\$	\$	
	2009	2008	

EXPENSES

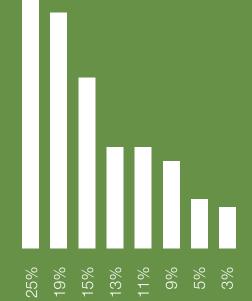
	25,875,446	22,779,594
ization of capital assets	422,468	401,811
ption and publicity	113,871	170,143
, loan interest, and general	624,611	600,433
ng subsidies	919,792	902,531
ams, food & transportation	1,968,453	1,380,173
ng occupancy	2,822,463	2,103,060
ase of services	956,894	2,103,392
es and benefits	18,046,894	15,118,051

Operating surplus

75,643

86,076

Where Our Financial Support Goes



Child Care
Community Care & Wellness for Seniors
Employment Services
Immigrant Services
Administration
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Mental Health & Developmental Services
Neighbourhood Programs

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Textile Museum of Canada The Academy of Spherical Arts The Artisans The Diamond Showcase Ltd. The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre The Factory Theatre The Falls Inn in Walter's Falls The Bagg Group The Old Spaghetti Factory The Palace Restaurant The Real Muskoka Experience The Second City Timex Canada Toronto International Film Festival Group Toronto Police Service, 55 Division Trademark Electric Co. Ltd. Umbra Inc. Wellington Brewery Whistler's Grille & Café Bar Wild Water Kingdom Winners Merchants International Woodbine & Mohawk Bacetracks Workers United Local 1821 Your brother Lisa 7103.5 FM

Thank You.

We would like to thank everyone who supported WoodGreen in our effort to create a Toronto where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



WoodGreen at a Glance

CHILD CARE

Clients served: 675 children and their families Programs:

Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre Debbie Yeung Child Care Enderby Child Care Leslieville Child Care Morse Street Child Care RAC camp - KinderRAC division Riverdale Child Care Special Needs Resource Program Win Harris Child Care Woodfield Child Care

COMMUNITY CARE & WELLNESS FOR SENIORS

Clients served: 11,173 Seniors and Older Adults with Disabilities

Programs:

Adult Day Program for Seniors with Alzheimer's Disease and/or Dementia Adult Day Program for Frail Seniors Case Management Crisis Support and Assistance Full Circle- Psychogeriatric Case management Group Dining Health Promotion and Education Home Help or Homemaking Meals on Wheels Personal Care or Personal Support Security Check Shopping Trips Social Work Social and Recreational Activities

WoodGreen Seniors Club

 WoodGreen Cantonese Seniors Club WoodGreen Mandarin Seniors Club Support for Individuals or Families Caring for a Senior

Support Groups for Individuals or Families Caring for a Senior Supportive Housing for Seniors Transportation

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES Clients served: 9.024

Programs:

1080 Queen East:

- Employment Resource Centre
- 1450 O'Connor:
- Employment Placement Program Employment Resource Centre

Youth Job Centre:

Job Connect Information and Referral Services Employment Planning and Preparation Job Development and Placement Support Our Voice Rites of Passage Summer Job Services

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING HELP Total Clients served: 4,047

Programs:

Emergency Homeless Rent Supplement Program Guitar Lounge Program Info Link Housing Help Centre Rent Bank Service Rooming House Emergency Relocation Service Shared Care Clinical Outreach Service

HOMEWARD BOUND

Clients served: 32 women and their children Programs:

Academic Upgrading College Diploma Program Employment

Housing for Single Mothers International Computer Driving License Internships Life Skills Program

HOUSING

- Clients served: 1,000 individuals and families Locations: 570 Coxwell Avenue 444 Logan Avenue
- 55 Pape Avenue 17 Renwick Crescent 841 Queen Street East 1070 Queen Street East 490 Sherbourne 137 Sears Street

IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Clients served: 7.131 newcomers and their families

Programs:

All-level Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada with Free Child Minding Bridging Programs for Internationally Trained Professionals Chinese Workers Support Network Homework and Sports Club for Youth Job Search Workshops, Mentorship and Job Coaching Support Newcomer Social and Recreational Program Newcomer Volunteer Program Newcomer Youth Services One-on-One Newcomer Settlement Counselling Social Support and Leadership Development for Young Muslim Women Volunteer Host Program Workshops and Group Programs to Promote Adaptation and Employment in Canada

MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Total Clients served: 2,096 Programs:

Adult Protective Services Worker Program Case Management Service Harm Reduction Housing Program Lobby Drop-In Programs Mental Health Case Management Service Mental Health Specialized Services Mental Health Supportive Housing Cluster Parent Outreach Program Social Group and Friendship Club Social/Recreational Group Programs Supported Individualized Living Tenant Outreach and Education Program

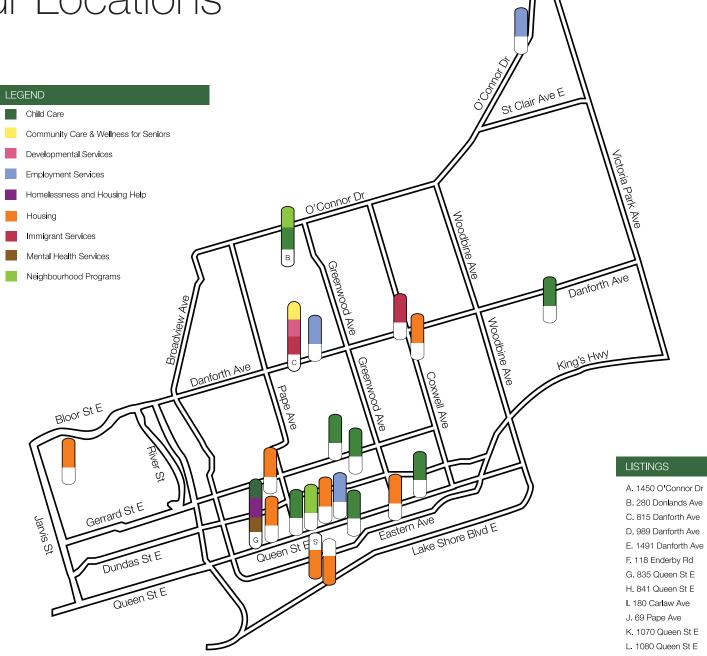
NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMS

Clients Served: 170 Programs:

Pape Neighbourhood House Programs: After 4 Program Focus on Youth – United Way Growing Up Healthy Downtown Kraft Meatless Cooking Program Leadership Training Summer/March Break Camps East York Rotary Neighbourhood House Programs:

After 4 Program Focus on Youth – United Way Kraft Meatless Cooking Program Summer/March Break Camps Summer Buddies

Our Locations



LISTINGS

B. 280 Donlands Ave C. 815 Danforth Ave D. 989 Danforth Ave E. 1491 Danforth Ave F. 118 Enderby Rd G. 835 Queen St E H. 841 Queen St E I. 180 Carlaw Ave J. 69 Pape Ave K. 1070 Queen St E L. 1080 Queen St E

M. 51 Larchmount Ave N. 1094 Gerrard St. E O. 254 Les**li**e St P. 70 Woodfield Rd Q. 570 Coxwell Avenue R. 444 Logan Avenue S. 55 Pape Avenue T. 17 Renwick Crescent U. 490 Sherbourne V. 137 Sears Street



WOODGREEN

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