# **WOODGREEN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

# ANNUAL REPORT



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IN THE NEWS

# THE GLOBE AND MAIL\*

<u>Prefab units help to speed Toronto</u> <u>church conversion</u>

# A Message from the Chair and President & CEO

The past year has been one of remarkable progress and growth for WoodGreen Community Services. We have continued to work tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of our city, responding with dedication and innovation to the pressing challenges facing so many Torontonians. The stories in this report are a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we work together.

We've made significant progress toward our goals, expanding our services to reach more people than ever before. This also marked the first year of our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, which lays out an ambitious roadmap for building a stronger, more inclusive Toronto. We are proud to share that we have already made important progress against these priorities, setting a strong foundation for the years ahead.

This year, we proudly celebrated the 20th anniversary of our transformative Homeward Bound program, a milestone that reflects two decades of changing lives for single mothers and their children. We marked this achievement by launching a new partnership with Toronto Community Housing to bring Homeward Bound to community housing residents, expanding access to this vital program. This year, we also welcomed Turning Point Youth Services and East York Meals on Wheels into the WoodGreen family, allowing us to broaden our impact and serve even more of Toronto's most vulnerable residents.

We're thrilled to have made great strides in our housing initiatives, adding five new housing locations, along with many others in the pipeline, and we are particularly excited about the upcoming expansion of our Youth Wellness Centre, which will provide a much-needed haven for young people. These are just a few of the many accomplishments we were able to achieve this year.

This work would not be possible without the incredible support of our community. We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, and generous donors and partners. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us address critical issues and in building a stronger, more inclusive city for all.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We hope you enjoy reading about the meaningful difference we are making together.



Nupi Zubair Chair, Board of Directors WoodGreen Community Services



Anne Babcock President & CEO **WoodGreen Community Services** 



# **ABOUT WOODGREEN**

For 88 years, WoodGreen has built innovative and evidence-informed solutions to meet critical social needs across Toronto. Today, we are one of the city's largest community agencies, helping meet the UNMET needs of over 40,000 Torontonians each year. We are a United Way Anchor Agency and member of the East Toronto Health Partners (ETHP), working to create innovative solutions to address vital social needs.

#### **OUR VISION**

A Toronto where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

#### **OUR MISSION**

WoodGreen Community Services enhances self-sufficiency, promotes well-being and reduces poverty through innovative solutions to critical social needs.

# **OUR VALUES**

#### We are client-centric.

Our clients are at the core of everything we do.

#### We are collaborative.

We work in partnership with our community to build a better Toronto.

#### We are inclusive.

We value equity and diverse perspectives and create safe spaces for everyone.

#### We are impactful.

Our work has value, meaning, and impact for our clients and Toronto.

#### We are compassionate.

The well-being of our staff, clients and volunteers is essential in our organization.

#### We act with integrity.

We honour and uphold the trust our community places in us.







# Impact at a Glance

1,846

social housing units located at 39 properties

2,836

attendees supported at our Youth Wellness Centre

29,437

calls for support answered through the **Toronto Seniors Helpline** 

64,422

Meals provided to seniors and people living with disabilities by Meals on Wheels

166,695

Assisted Living days of service delivered to 600 clients

41,048

days of attendance at WoodGreen's Senior Active Living Centres by 1,834 clients

1,260

clients employed with our support

36

new college acceptances for Homeward Bound clients

4,356

newcomers welcomed from 124 countries

8,930

Hours of English language instruction provided

4,802

clients served through the new Asylum **Integration Program** 

839

children served in our childcare centres

\$22M

in tax benefits received by 5,284 clients through our Income Tax Clinic

18,218

trips completed by our **Transportation Services** team

921

Walk-In Counselling visits

volunteer hours 25,510 contributed by 450 volunteers

**1,118** Staff

# **Expanding Affordable and Supportive Housing**

As Toronto continues to face an unprecedented housing crisis, WoodGreen has made housing growth and innovation a cornerstone of our strategic plan. This year, we made significant progress toward our ambitious goal of expanding our affordable housing portfolio, while also ensuring that our current communities remain vibrant, sustainable, and supportive.

#### **Innovating housing and care for seniors**

In February, WoodGreen and Michael Garron Hospital officially opened our newest Cluster Care site at 1080 Oueen Street East. This innovative housing model combines affordable personal with 24-hour housing support, allowing older adults to age in place with dignity and independence.

The nine new units, converted from former office space, expand our existing Cluster Care portfolio and provide a crucial pathway for seniors transitioning out of hospital care to maintain their independence in a supportive community setting.





WOODGREEN

Last October, we also celebrated the grand reopening of St. Hilda's Seniors Community after a major renovation that secured the long-term viability of more than 330 affordable



homes for seniors. The project, supported by all levels of government, ensured the preservation of this vital community asset and brought new life to the buildings with modernized, safe, and affordable homes.

St. Hilda's now stands as a model of agingin-place best practices, where seniors can access supportive care services and continue to thrive in community.

# **OUR IMPACT**

**1,846** social housing units located at 39 properties

capital projects completed across 15 housing sites 49

#### Growing and greening our housing portfolio

We continued to expand our housing footprint with the addition of five new sites that added 85 new housing units to our portfolio, along with many more in development over the next year. At the same time, we advanced major initiatives to make our housing portfolio more sustainable. WoodGreen secured federal funding through CMHC's Canada Greener Affordable Housing program, allowing us to lay the groundwork for deep energy retrofits across multiple properties. This essential planning will ensure our buildings are greener, more energy-efficient, and healthier for the residents who call them home.



We also launched the 444 Logan Net Zero Retrofit Project, supported by \$27 million in CMHC funding. Once complete, this project will transform the site into one of the most energyefficient affordable housing communities in the country.

To accelerate new housing growth, we are in the process of launching an Equity Fund, which will play a key role in new

capital for development. Meanwhile, our housing pipeline progressed with four key partnerships that together could deliver 500 new affordable units, now moving through due diligence and city applications.



IN THE NEWS



**WoodGreen, Michael Garron Hospital** build supportive senior housing in East **Toronto** 

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we are also building for the future. This past year, we broke ground on two new developments that will bring much-needed affordable and supportive housing for seniors.



At 185 Cummer Avenue, 59 new units will provide permanent housing for older adults and seniors who are at risk of housing insecurity, along with supports to help them age in place.

At 60 Bowden Street, a heritageinspired redevelopment will add 50 units, including dedicated spaces with 24/7 supports for residents who need daily assistance.





Both projects mark exciting progress toward our housing goals and reflect our commitment to creating inclusive communities where seniors can thrive.



# **Supporting Youth on Their Path to Success**

This year marked a transformational moment for youth services at WoodGreen. With new partnerships, inspiring events, and bold plans for the future, we expanded our ability to ensure young people across Toronto have the support they need to thrive.

#### A stronger future together

This past year, WoodGreen officially welcomed Turning Point Youth Services (TPYS) into our organization. By joining forces, we have created a stronger and more coordinated response to the complex needs facing youth in Toronto.



Together, we are able to offer a more complete continuum of care, including mental health, employment, housing, newcomer support, and youth justice services. This integration strengthens our shared commitment to empowering young people and their families and expands our impact across East Toronto.

# **OUR IMPACT**

attendees supported at our 2,836 Youth Wellness Centre

Rites of Passage clients 476 served





#### **Inspiring pathways at the Youth Success Conference**

Last October, we hosted the first-ever Youth Success Conference - Mino Bimaadziwin ("the good life") in partnership with MLSE Launchpad and the Toronto Council Fire Native

Cultural Centre. More than 150 students and young adults came together for a day of skill-building, wellness activities, and inspiration. Youth explored career options, connected with mentors, and learned strategies to navigate systemic barriers.

The event began with a traditional opening led by Council Fire, grounding the day in Indigenous teachings about balance of body, mind, emotion, and spirit. The conference left participants with new skills, renewed confidence, and stronger community connections.









#### **Connecting youth leaders internationally**

WoodGreen's Idagba Rites of Passage team represented Toronto at the International Rites of Passage Conference in Washington, DC. Youth participants connected with other young leaders from across North America, sharing their experiences and building networks of support.

While in Washington, the group also toured Howard University and explored the National Museum of African American History and Culture, deepening their understanding of heritage and leadership.



#### **Expanding essential supports**

This year, WoodGreen's Youth Housing Navigator program expanded its reach by embedding life skills supports directly in the community and forging new partnerships with Downtown Legal Services and Justice for Children and Youth. These collaborations ensure young people facing housing instability can also access crucial legal supports, helping them to secure stability and plan for their futures. Over the past year, the program supported 88 youth in finding stable housing, a 33% increase from the previous year. This growth reflects both the rising demand and the effectiveness of the program in helping young people build a foundation for long-term success.





#### **Looking Ahead: A New Youth Wellness Centre**

Perhaps our most exciting milestone is the development of WoodGreen's new Youth Wellness Centre, a 20,000 square foot hub at Birchmount and Eglinton. Set to open in the next year, this dynamic space will bring together mental health, employment, housing, recreation, settlement, leadership, and justice supports under one roof. Designed through consultation with youth, the Centre will serve more than 3,000 young people annually, creating a vibrant community where every young person is seen as a whole person with unlimited potential. This new Centre represents a bold step forward in how Toronto supports its next generation.



# **BLOG FEATURE**

**WoodGreen Unites Communities By Building Bonds Through Sport** 



# **Homeward Bound: 20 Years of Transforming Futures**

This year marked an extraordinary milestone for WoodGreen's Homeward Bound program, which celebrated 20 years of empowering single women-led families and their children to build lives of stability, independence, and hope. Since its launch in 2004, Homeward Bound has supported 320 women and 476 children to transition off social assistance and into meaningful employment, transforming not only individual lives but entire family trajectories. We are thrilled to see this number continue to grow, with a record 40 participants successfully completing the first phase of the program this year, with 90 per cent of them receiving college acceptances!

At the heart of Homeward Bound's success is the vision of creating a holistic, four-year pathway that combines housing, academic upgrading, fully funded college education, employment training, internships, and wraparound family supports such as child care, after-school programming, and trauma-informed counselling. This comprehensive approach breaks the cycle of poverty and creates lasting change that ripples across generations.





The program's inception and continued growth would not have been possible without the steadfast support of Ed Clark and the Clark Family Foundation, whose leadership and generosity have instrumental in Homeward Bound's impact. For two decades, Ed Clark has stood beside WoodGreen and the women in the program,

championing a model that empowers women to lift their families out of poverty and into sustainable careers.

# **OUR IMPACT**

**\$50-60k** average starting salary earned by Homeward Bound grads

**36** new college acceptances for Homeward Bound clients



As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, WoodGreen highlighted the story of Nawal Arshi, who entered Homeward Bound with her mother in 2004 as a four-year-old. Today, she is a Master's student in Physician Assistant Studies, inspired by her mother's journey through the program and determined to serve marginalized communities. Their story is a moving example of how Homeward Bound transforms not just one life, but generations. Read more about their journey here.

#### A New Chapter with Toronto Community Housing

Building on 20 years of proven success, Homeward Bound is beginning an exciting new chapter through a transformative partnership with Toronto Community Housing (TCHC). Launching in early 2025, this three-year pilot will bring the program directly to women-led families living in TCHC communities.





Up to 25 single mothers will participate in the pilot, gaining access to Homeward Bound's full suite of education, training, and supports while continuing to live in their TCHC homes. This innovative model eliminates the need to build new housing, allowing the program to scale more quickly and extend its reach to women who are eager for change. By moving through the program together as a cohort, participants will gain the

added benefit of peer support and community, which has been a key factor in Homeward Bound's long-standing success.

For TCHC, where 53% of households are women-led, this partnership represents a powerful opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and create lasting economic independence for families. Together, WoodGreen and TCHC are ensuring that more women and their children have the tools and opportunities to realize their potential.

#### **Looking Ahead**

After 20 years, Homeward Bound has proven that when women are given the right supports, they succeed, and their children succeed with them. With the continued commitment of partners like the Clark Family Foundation and the expansion into TCHC communities, the program is poised to reach even more families in the years ahead. The legacy of Homeward Bound is clear: empowered mothers, thriving children, and a stronger, more resilient Toronto.





IN THE NEWS

**WoodGreen and Toronto Community Housing partner on Homeward Bound** program for women-led households

# **Expanding Support for Vulnerable Populations**

This year we were thrilled to see the Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) expand city-wide, providing critical mental health support to residents in need. WoodGreen has long partnered with TCCS, and with this expansion, we were able to formalize our role in the East Expansion alongside the Gerstein Crisis Centre. This work allows us to deliver timely access to



psychotherapy and strengthen connections between TCCS and COSS (Crisis Outreach Service for Seniors), ensuring that people in crisis can receive compassionate, client-centered support in the community without involving police.



This year, we formally joined up with East York Meals on Wheels (EYMOW), growing our collective impact with an 18 percent increase in meals served, from 54,607 last year to 64,422 this year. This coming together allows us to provide an even more comprehensive range of programs and services to seniors and residents across the GTA.



EYMOW's focus on nutritious meals and personalized support perfectly complements WoodGreen's broader community care work, helping seniors maintain independence, health, and connection within their communities.

# **OUR IMPACT**

**921** Walk-In Counselling visits

**1,570** Clients supported through the Crisis Outreach Service for Seniors

Meals provided to seniors and people living with disabilities by 921 Meals on Wheels

# **Celebrating and Supporting Seniors**

This year, WoodGreen's seniors programs continued to grow in both innovation and impact, offering older adults more ways to connect, stay active, and share their voices with the wider community.

## **Building community through NORCs**

Our Seniors Active Living Centres have been at the forefront of developing Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) on Toronto's east side. In the Distillery and Canary District, our team partnered with the Living Long in the Distillery NORC to cocreate new community-based programming that reflects the interests of local seniors.

Together, we secured funding to launch new falls-prevention classes, ensuring older adults can stay safe and independent while remaining engaged with their neighbours.



#### Bringing technology to aging

This year we expanded the use of CaregiVR, a program that uses virtual reality to create immersive experiences for seniors. Now available across multiple cluster care and community sites, this program opens up new opportunities for seniors to explore the world, revisit meaningful places, or try something new, all from the comfort of their own community.

#### Amplifying senior voices through media

WoodGreen's Seniors Advisory Council played a leading role in two creative projects



projects that celebrated the stories, wisdom, and resilience of older adults.

The Council launched the Students of Aging podcast, a series researched and hosted by seniors themselves, offering thoughtful conversations on topics ranging from aging in place to poetry, travel, and friendship. Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, the podcast gives listeners a chance to



hear directly from seniors about the challenges and joys of aging.

# **OUR IMPACT**

29,437 calls for support answered through the Toronto Seniors Helpline

**15,392** visits to WoodGreen's Adult Day Program

**166,695** Assisted Living days of services delivered to 600 clients

days of attendance at WoodGreen's Senior Active 41,049 Living Centres by 1,834 clients

The Council also partnered with young filmmaker Stella Racca to create When You Find the One, a documentary commemorating the 20th anniversary of same-sex marriage in Ontario. Featuring 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors who were among the first in the province to marry, the film captures stories of courage, love, and equality. Seventeen seniors, many active members of WoodGreen's Rainbow Club, took part in this intergenerational project, leaving a lasting record for future generations.

Together, the podcast and documentary show the power of storytelling in celebrating aging, honouring history, and challenging stigma. Through these projects, WoodGreen seniors continue to shape the narrative of what it means to age with purpose, connection, and pride.





**Documentary honours 20** years of same-sex marriage in **Ontario** 

#### **Food security for seniors**

Food security is an essential part of supporting seniors to live healthy, independent lives. This past year, WoodGreen expanded access to nutritious food across our seniors' housing communities, helping residents stretch their budgets and maintain their wellbeing. In some buildings, seniors can visit an on-site food bank designed to feel like a neighbourhood grocery store, where they choose the items that best suit their needs and preferences. Beyond food access, these programs also create opportunities for connection, reducing isolation and strengthening community within our housing sites.

# **BLOG FEATURE**

**How WoodGreen is ensuring food** security is a right, not a luxury



# **Supporting Newcomers and Building Community**

Toronto continues to be a first stop for many newcomers, and this year WoodGreen was proud to stand alongside them as they built new lives in Canada. We successfully completed three major five-year contracts with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), ensuring thousands of newcomers had access to vital settlement services

across the city.

Looking ahead, we are excited to have signed a new three-year Contribution Agreement with IRCC, valued at more than \$15 million. This investment will allow us to expand our programming across East and West Toronto and continue to meet the growing needs of newcomer families.



Over the past year, our newcomer team also focused on building strong partnerships with local community organizations to bring complementary services directly to those who need them most. Together, we made it easier for newcomers to find everything from language training and employment supports to housing and health resources.

We also wrapped up a specially funded provincial program for asylum seekers, which provided tailored services to more than 450 individuals in just one year. For many, these supports offered a critical lifeline at a time of great uncertainty.

# **OUR IMPACT**

4,356 newcomers welcomed from 124 countries

22,251 settlement service appointments completed

8,930 hours of English language instruction provided

4,802 clients served through the new Asylum Integration Program

756 newcomer financial empowerment clients served

# **Expanding Pathways to Employment**

This year marked the successful launch of WoodGreen's Integrated Employment Services, which are now performing above target across all locations and supporting nearly 5,000 intakes annually. These services provide one-on-one employment counselling, resume and interview preparation, job development and matching, and professional development opportunities that help job seekers upgrade their skills and work toward long-term career goals. By pairing practical tools with personalized support, we are helping more

Torontonians find meaningful, sustainable employment.

We were proud to see our Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship Program renewed, providing another cohort of participants with the hands-on training they need to succeed in a high-demand trade. We also launched new initiatives, including the ILEO Construction Union Pathways Program and the Gooder Building Maintenance Operators Program for youth, which are creating fresh pathways into stable, well-paying careers.

Our Building Maintenance Operators program celebrated a milestone year, with all program targets achieved and 22 graduates moving directly into employment. These successes highlight the power of tailored training programs to break down barriers and connect job seekers to industries that need their skills.





# **OUR IMPACT**

**23** 

1,260 clients employed with our support

100% graduation rate of plumbing pre-apprenticeship program students

> graduates of the Building Maintenance Operators Program gained employment



# **BLOG FEATURE**

# Tapping into a new life and career with Plumbing Program at WoodGreen

# **Building Financial Stability Across the GTA**

This year, WoodGreen made significant strides in expanding financial supports that help people build stability and independence.

The Income Transition Project completed its first full year, supporting 1,930 clients with workshops and one-on-one financial counselling to help Ontario Works recipients navigate the complex process of moving from social assistance to employment.

The Financial Foundation for Vulnerable Seniors program saw remarkable growth, reaching 3,659 clients—an increase of more than 260 percent from the 994 clients served the year before. By connecting lowincome seniors living in assisted housing with tax support and financial counselling, we are helping them maintain stability and remain housed.



WoodGreen's Income Tax Clinic also played a critical role, helping 5,284 clients access more than \$22 million in tax benefits while saving them over \$1.2 million in filing fees. Among its unique offerings is the Tax Skills for Self-Employed Workers program, funded by Intuit, which remains the only free tax program of its kind in Canada, providing essential support for low-income gig workers.



Collaboration continued to be a cornerstone of our efforts through the United Financial Empowerment GTA initiative. All six participating agencies delivered services and engaged in cross-sector work to address the financial empowerment needs of communities across the region.

Together, these programs are giving people the tools, resources, and confidence they need to strengthen their financial foundations and move forward with security.

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\$22M	in tax benefits r	eceived by 5,284	clients through our	<b>Income Tax Clinic</b>
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<b>1.377</b> Financial Empowerment Counselling clients served
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1,286 clients served through financial literacy workshops

756 newcomer financial empowerment clients served

1,930 clients served through the Income Transition Project

# **The Power of Volunteers**

WoodGreen's work would not be possible without the generosity of our volunteers, who give their time, energy, and compassion to strengthen our community. This year, we were excited to launch the CARES (Community Active Response for Elder Support) program, which connects seniors with vital supports such as friendly phone calls, in-home visits, grocery shopping assistance, and escorts to medical appointments. In just its first year, CARES welcomed 50 dedicated volunteers, each making a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults.

# **BLOG FEATURE**

**Volunteering keeps Nick in love** with Toronto. Here's why



We also celebrated our volunteers through a special recognition event, which brought together community members. featured volunteer speakers, and offered engaging activities. The event was filled with warmth and gratitude, a reminder of the impact volunteers have not only on clients, but also on one another.

# **OUR IMPACT**

25,510

volunteer hours

450

volunteers



# **Advancing Our DIBE Journey**

Over the past year, WoodGreen took an important step forward in our Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Equity (DIBE) journey by adopting the Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Benchmarks (GDEIB) framework. This globally recognized,

evidence-based tool is guiding our transformation and represents a shift from education and awareness toward the systematic implementation of equity best practices.

We also completed a comprehensive maturity assessment across 15 categories of DIBE practice, ranging from "inactive" to "best practice." This assessment established a clear baseline of where we stand today and will inform the creation of a multi-year roadmap to guide our strategic priorities.



This foundational work is positioning WoodGreen to move beyond good intentions toward measurable, sustainable change. By aligning our internal practices with our mission of developing innovative solutions to critical social needs, we are ensuring that equity is embedded not only in our workforce, but also in the services we deliver to communities across Toronto.



Celebrating the 9th graduating class of WoodGreen College, our internal, 10-month, cohort-based leadership development program, which equips future leaders with the skills, confidence, and vision to drive impact across WoodGreen and beyond.



#### **IN THE NEWS**

# TORONTO STAR

'Almost like part of the family': **How Susan's community keeps** her out of hospital and longterm care

# **Financial Statments**

# WoodGreen Community Services

REVENUE (\$)	2025	2024
Government of Canada	\$6,299,498	\$7,564,099
Government of Ontario	\$35,836,968	\$33,478,869
City of Toronto	\$13,619,816	\$12,866,721
Fees for services	\$6,478,865	\$6,178,509
United Way	\$1,116,954	\$1,073,282
Investment income	\$1,097,718	\$1,341,420
Fundraising & productive enterprises	\$3,916,763	\$3,685,349
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	\$110,743	\$119,786
Service contracts and Other	\$8,696,262	\$6,175,280
TOTAL	\$77,173,587	\$72,483,315
EXPENSES (\$)		
Salaries and benefits	\$58,436,687	\$53,168,180
Purchase of services	\$4,713,730	\$4,912,692
Building occupancy	\$4,857,529	\$4,550,051
Programs, food & transportation	\$6,285,181	\$7,107,775
Training incentives	\$767,525	\$1,274,027
Office	\$1,615,112	\$1,676,985
Recruitment and education	\$371,001	\$409,621
Promotion and publicity	\$91,453	\$120,123
Amortization of capital assets	\$252,875	\$309,548
Other	\$85,807	\$80,642
TOTAL	\$77,476,900	\$73,609,644
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(303,313)	(1,126,329)

# The WoodGreen Foundation

REVENUE (\$)	2025	2024
Donations	\$7,142,025	\$5,734,826
Investment Income	\$565,314	\$520,374
Other	-	\$1,439,152
TOTAL	\$7,707,339	\$7,694,352
EXPENSES (\$)		
Fundraising and special events	\$183,396	\$379,956
Administrative	\$1,574,831	\$1,505,381
TOTAL	\$1,758,227	\$1,885,337
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE DONATIONS	\$5,949,112	\$5,809,015
Change in fair value of investments	\$617,008	\$689,272
Donations to WoodGreen Community Services	(\$3,478,465)	(\$3,494,061)
Donations to WoodGreen Community Housing Inc.	(\$1,002,705)	(\$111,000)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$2,084,950	\$2,893,226
FUND BALANCES		
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$15,878,927	\$12,985,701
FUND BALANCES END OF YEAR	\$17,963,877	\$15,878,927
COMMUNITY CARE EAST YORK FUND (\$)		
OPENING BALANCE	\$1,094,672	\$976,703
Transfers out of fund	\$1,226,037	-
Expenditure for Seniors Housing Project at 1117 Gerrard St. E.	-	\$5,867
Investment Income	\$131,365	\$123,836
CLOSING BALANCE	-	\$1,094,672

# Message from the Chair and Executive Director of The WoodGreen Foundation

The past year has demonstrated the profound impact that can be achieved when generosity and purpose come together. This year's impact report is filled with stories of transformation, of people finding hope. It shows how our combined efforts can bring about dramatic change.

Two years ago, we launched the UNMET Needs Campaign to raise \$25 million campaign to support the escalating UNmet needs across our city. Your response has been extraordinary. As the fiscal year closed, we were nearing the successful completion of this ambitious campaign goal - a testament to the compassion and vision of a community determined to create a healthier, more equitable Toronto.

Your support has allowed WoodGreen to grow to new heights – to innovate programs, expand housing, and provide wrap-around supports that empower individuals and families to reset the trajectory of their lives. We are immensely grateful.

As we look ahead, we know that the work continues. Our city continues to grapple with increasing challenges - rising costs of living, deepening inequities, and urgent humanitarian needs that call for bold and compassionate responses. With you by our side, we are confident that we can continue to rise to meet them.

Your generosity inspires us, sustains our work, and strengthens our shared vision of an inclusive, equitable, and thriving city where UNmet needs are MET. Thank you. With deep appreciation,



**Bill MacKinnon** Chair The WoodGreen Foundation



**Teresa Vasilopoulos Executive Director** The WoodGreen Foundation



# **The UNMET Needs Campaign: Nearing Our Goal**

As the fiscal year came to a close, we were proud to share that we were nearing the successful completion of our ambitious \$25 million UNMET Needs Campaign. Launched to meet the rising demand for WoodGreen's services, the campaign has inspired extraordinary generosity from our community, helping us innovate, expand housing, and provide critical supports for Toronto's most vulnerable residents.



This year, we also saw strong momentum through signature events and partnerships. Tickets for our second UNMET Gala, taking place early in the next fiscal year, sold out well in advance — a testament to the leadership of our stellar gala committee chaired by Krystal Koo and Fernanda Dovigi, and the commitment of our supporters and the growing awareness of the unmet needs in our city.

We were also inspired by the generosity of campaigns like Find Your Stride, one of our most loyal and engaged partners in support of the Homeward Bound program, which you can read more about below. Their sustained financial, in-kind, and skills training support is changing the trajectory for single mothers and their children.

Together, these milestones demonstrate the campaign's reach and the dedication of our community. With your support, we are on the cusp of reaching our \$25 million goal and ensuring that unmet needs in Toronto are met with bold, lasting solutions.

# **Donor Spotlight:** *Find Your Stride*

Since 2019, Find Your Stride has been one of WoodGreen's most loyal and generous supporters, helping to empower women and children in our Homeward Bound program to transform their lives. Their partnership extends far beyond financial contributions, combining sustained funding, generous in-kind product donations, and hands-on engagement which strengthens the program in countless ways.

The impact of their in-kind donations has been profound. Women and children in Homeward Bound, as well as clients across other WoodGreen programs, have been able to select clothing, toys, and household goods that meet their needs and bring



dignity, comfort, and joy. From dressing children for their first day of school to furnishing new apartments and celebrating the holidays with gifts, Find Your Stride's contributions have provided moments of pride and hope during times of transition.

#### **One Homeward Bound participant shared:**

"Find Your Stride was one of the supportive donors that have made every year end special with the toy drives and gifts for all the children — giving mothers the opportunity to provide that moment of joy that will never be forgotten."

Beyond direct program support, Find Your Stride's national at cash campaign raises awareness and resources for WoodGreen's work, engaging customers across the country in supporting women-led families. Their commitment is strengthened by regular communication and collaboration with our team, ensuring that their contributions are always aligned with the greatest needs.

We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary partnership. Through their generosity, creativity, and hands-on involvement, Find Your Stride has helped Homeward Bound empower women and children to stride toward brighter, more independent futures.

# **Cocktails for a Cause with Andre De Grasse**

This year, The WoodGreen Foundation's Young Leaders Council hosted Cocktails for a Cause, an inspiring evening that brought together community leaders, supporters, and youth champions. The event featured Olympic gold medalist Andre De Grasse, entrepreneur Tony Chapman, and WoodGreen alumnus Alhamin Animashaun, who shared their stories of resilience, leadership, and giving back.

Andre reflected on his journey and the importance of supporting youth through initiatives like WoodGreen's Youth Wellness Centre, which is helping create new pathways to brighter futures. Alhamin, a former participant of our Rites of Passage program, spoke passionately about how WoodGreen's youth programs



were pivotal to his own settlement journey as a newcomer and the impact they continue to have for youth across Toronto.

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youth programs were pivotal to his own settlement journey as a newcomer and the impact they continue to have for youth across Toronto.

The success of the evening was made possible through the support of the Andre De Grasse Family Foundation, our event partners and sponsors. It has helped support the upcoming expansion of WoodGreen's Youth Wellness Centre, which will open in the next year. With greater capacity and expanded programming, the Centre will provide even more young people with the tools, opportunities, and supports they need to thrive.

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