

2021-2022 Impact Report

Centering joy in 2022 and beyond.



nyws

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We Acknowledge

Let us acknowledge what it means for us to be on this land. North York Women's Shelter gathers at the meeting place of Indigenous communities including but not limited to the Wendake-Nionwentsio, Mississauga, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Anishinabewaki, and Haudenosaunee.

Indigenous peoples have been in a mutual relationship with this land and have been stewarding it for a long time- long before any settler arrived on Turtle Island or Canada. Indigenous people made treaties with settlers, including the dish with one spoon wampum and two row wampum treaties, both of which implied shared land and separate governance by Indigenous and settler communities. **We are meant to walk alongside each other without disturbing the other's path.**

Settlers have been responsible for genocide in the Indigenous community through the introduction of colonialism, patriarchy, and racism. Settler colonialism in Canada has spread gender-based violence in the Indigenous community and led to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirited People. Generational trauma and harm has been perpetuated by the Residential School System (founded by the Canadian government) which was the basis for separating Indigenous children from their parents, home, community, and culture. Though the residential school system was abolished many years ago, we continue to find mass graves of Indigenous children who never made it home. Although the residential school system was abolished in Canada, the foster care system seems to have replaced it. The foster care system is made up of a high percentage of Indigenous children who have been removed from their homes. Since being in foster care is related to higher likelihood of homelessness, including homelessness caused by gender-based violence, more Indigenous individuals face homelessness after being removed from their circle of care. These are just a few of the multiple ways that the trauma of the continued colonial violence perpetrated to Indigenous communities is ongoing.

We acknowledge this harm that has been perpetrated by the Canadian government and people and we are committed to fight against the oppressive systems of colonialism, patriarchy, and racism.

We are committed to learning from Indigenous communities and organizations. We are committed to unlearning the colonial mindset. We are committed to action and not just words.



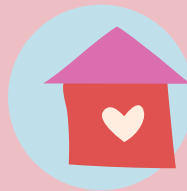
Leadership Message



The scope of the “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence remains as alarming as ever and continuously reminds us of the work we must do - together.

The HER Campaign and Build created a strong foundation for us to weather one of the worst crises to occur on a global scale. It helped us increase our capacity and operate at full or near-full capacity at a time when our community needed us. It allowed us to serve twice as many survivors as 2020-2021. By designing a shelter in consultation with survivors, we were able to create a 24,000 sq foot space that was able to be a space of **H**ealing, **E**mpowerment, and **R**efuge (**HER**) for survivors in the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is because our community mobilized and supported us in our vision for a new healing space that we are able to provide shelter with 17 private bedrooms for single survivors, families, and offer trauma-informed programs and services and continue to innovate. This year we have been able to offer:



Introduce a formal transitional support program to support survivors in many ways including securing affordable housing



Develop a case management program to connect survivors to resources including Financial Literacy



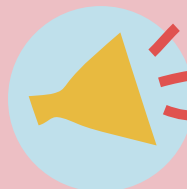
Academic and emotional support to school-aged children (of which makes up 60% of our residents)



Celebrate milestones and honour cultural celebrations such as International Women’s Day, Eid, Halloween, Orange Shirt Day, Black History Month, and countless birthdays



Serve thousands of culturally competent, nutritious, whole-food meals and offer gardening workshops for both adults and children



Continue our advocacy efforts for Fight for Justice: Affordable Housing petition to address the lack of secure housing for community members

We were able to successfully celebrate the naming of the Anne Marie D'Amico Community Collective and invite a community partner to offer a tax clinic to residents. Seeing a community partner come to host a tax clinic gave us a glimpse of the potential and future of this space and we are working diligently to staff and open it the same way we did the shelter- in consultation with survivors.

We increased our capacity to support survivors and were able to double our capacity to serve survivors. By centering equity, justice, and survivors at the forefront of our innovation of programs, services, and advocacy, we have been able to continue to grow despite the setbacks caused by COVID-19.

Here at North York Women's Shelter, we have navigated and continue to navigate the ongoing pandemics of COVID-19 and gender-based violence, we have been reminded again and again that the crisis of gender-based violence does not end when a survivor enters the shelter system. Poverty, lack of affordable housing, lack of community resources, food insecurity, and service deserts all contribute to the prevailing issue of gender-based violence. We are continuously reminded that our work is not just on the frontlines but at the policy and systemic level.

And so we will continue to work. We will continue to innovate. We will continue to provide non-judgmental safe shelter to survivors of violence. We will continue to operate trauma-informed programs and services. We will continue to center survivors to work towards our vision of a community characterized by gender equality.

Yours,



Kelsey Jones

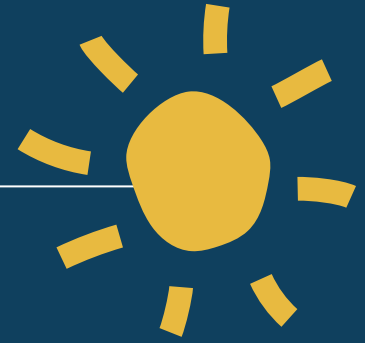
Executive Director

SAFETY. POWER. SISTERHOOD.

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Centering Joy



Our theme for this year's Impact report is Joy!

Being joyful, especially in the face of gender-based violence is not easy, but as Black Poet Toi Derricotte writes in her poem *The Telly Cycle*, she pursues joy “because I am human and my human dignity demands that I, too, experience unadulterated joy.”

When we created this shelter, we designed it listening to survivors, including children, to ensure that this space serves our community in the way they ask. From the playrooms for the children and youth, the spacious green backyard, to the artwork from local women and non-binary BIPOC artists that adorn our shelter walls; these are a few of the ways we cultivate joy within the shelter space. We are intentional in our efforts to make the shelter a place that cultivates healing and joy. In pursuing justice and equity and in the mission to fight gender-based violence, we cannot forget that joy is not only an essential tool but also, a right. It is something to be cherished, honoured, and celebrated- every day.



Inside our Shelter Space

Survivors Served by NYWS:



54

Adults

72

Children
and Youth



4

Dogs



8

Cats



Services provided by NYWS:

22



Children and Youth
programs and
groups

15

Children and Youth
received Educational
Assessment/Report Cards

55



Adults received
Counselling Services

72

Children and Youth received
Case Management (including
referrals to educational
services, daycare, health
services, children's programs)



1 Trauma Counseling

The Trauma Counseling Program supports survivors through individualized experiences of healing, which are guided and paced according to their needs. Our Trauma Counselors understand how the mental health of survivors is at the intersection of race, gender, and class is affected when they enter a VAW shelter. They work with the survivors in one-on-one sessions, assessing their needs and providing clinical support.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence, survivors' needs for support have not only increased but become much more complex. Survivors have access to Trauma Counseling for 6 months post transition from NYWS because we know that mental health support during transition is incredibly beneficial. We know that there is a lack of access to affordable therapy, so we made it our mandate to support our residents in adjusting to a life after staying at NYWS.

2 Transition Support

Our Transitional Support Worker ensures there's a link between the work we do in shelter to support women, trans, non-binary folks, and their children to continue to build lives free of violence post shelter living- including, but not limited to, securing affordable housing.

The housing crisis in Toronto makes it difficult for survivors to access affordable housing. The application process is deeply inaccessible and steeped in systemic barriers. The Transitional Support Worker is NYWS's skilled individual who helps navigate this process but also explain to them what the laws and policies were, and supports them with the rigorous process of applying for housing. They create an individualized plan for each resident, identifying the needs of the survivor, and setting goals in order to find a house. They help the residents advocate for themselves in relation to immigration, legal, and other matters. The Transition Support Worker's job extends beyond this application though, as they support survivors with their needs when they are transitioning back into the community.

Moment of Joy!

Our Transition Support Worker talked about the moments of joy in her work, when the survivors she has been supporting feel empowered and are able to advocate for themselves. NYWS's work is about supporting residents so that they feel equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to advocate for themselves. Many of our residents come into the VAW shelter systems with close to no knowledge of the affordable housing program and application procedure. When the same residents feel empowered to ask for what they need and are entitled to - it means we're fulfilling our mission.



3 Case Management

Our Resource Worker supports residents in accessing any services or resources in the community. This program is designed to support residents to advocate for themselves, feel empowered about making life choices, and learning crucial intergenerational skills to pass down to their children. Our Resource Support Worker helps survivors navigate various services, including medical appointments, employment services, accessing adult education courses or financial literacy.

Our Resource Worker provides support for residents to identify their needs and goals when they enter the VAW shelter and helps them navigate resources and services accordingly. With the Case Management program, we moved towards having dedicated staff and resources directed towards different needs of residents, allowing us to provide wrap-around services. We are able to provide services according to individualized needs of residents with this program. The different programs like transition support, resource support, and expressive arts therapy, work together to provide holistic care to survivors.

4 Children's Education Facilitation

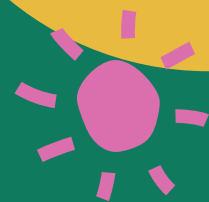
During the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing lockdowns, NYWS hired a full-time teacher to teach on-site at the shelter to reduce risk of transmission and ensure that children were given the support they need. 60% of survivors at NYWS are children and 80% of them are under the age of 7. We knew from peer-reviewed research that children who have witnessed violence at homes or experienced violence are more likely than their peers to experience difficulties in academics and personal growth.

After seeing the success of our on-site teacher, we identified the need for continued educational support for the children at NYWS and thus we launched our Children's Education Facilitation Program. Children's Education Facilitation Program is focused on creating individualized plans for each child at the shelter for academic support. This program is grounded in a holistic approach and it aims to understand where the child stands, what their needs are, and, truly meet them where they are given their academic and emotional history.



Moment of Joy!

When we talked to the Education Facilitator, she recalled feeling joy looking at her students grow, just within 6 months. She elaborated when she first met the kids a lot of them couldn't spell their names. After just a few months, they wrote their own names as a surprise for their mums on Mother's Day.



When a child enters NYWS, our Children's Education Facilitator (CEF) meets with their parents, teachers, and the child themselves to understand their history, their needs, and what goals they want to set. Accordingly, the Facilitator creates an academic plan for each child, which details their lesson plan and tracks their progress through the school year. For children with special needs or learning differences, the CEF program has supported both the child and parent access academic resources and navigate the education system with the support they need.

5



Expressive Arts Therapy

Our Expressive Arts Therapy Program helps individuals express themselves and heal through art. We understand that everyone has their own way of processing emotions and trauma and here at NYWS, we designed a program where women, trans, and non-binary folk, and their children, can express themselves through different modalities.

This program is especially beneficial for children and youth at our shelter, as they often find it difficult to heal through counseling alone. Expressive Arts Therapy supports children to find sustainable coping and regulating mechanisms and gives them the opportunity to process emotions through play and creativity.



6



Pet Kennel

NYWS is the first and only pet friendly VAW shelter in North York. NYWS understands that pets are a part of survivors' families and that survivors are often forced to choose between access to shelter services or staying with their pets. To remove this barrier in accessing services, NYWS built a kennel for pets on-site, as well as a pet lounge and a backyard area for them to play. The pet kennel has served as a space that allows survivors and especially their children peace of mind of knowing that their animals are safe.

7



Food Security and Food Justice Program

Our Food Security and Food Justice Programming is stemmed in the belief that food has different meaning in everyone's life. For many of our residents, food has been used as a tool of violence. Being mindful of these things, we designed our program to improve access to culturally diverse, nutritious food to create autonomy around food. As part of our new building, we have an industrial kitchen and a kitchen area for residents.

Throughout COVID-19, we have been able to provide culturally specific meals for our residents, while providing space for them to have personal cooking times. Due to the pandemic, there has been an increase in food costs, and community financial support has been integral to this program. It has also helped us provide gift card support for groceries when residents are transitioning out of the shelter.



Anne Marie D'Amico Community Collective

Naming Ceremony

Three years ago, while in the midst of our capital build, we were introduced to this amazing family. They brought with them a commitment to honour their beautiful daughter and sister Anne Marie.

On September 28, 2021, we were able to make a new beautiful memory in Anne Marie's name and officially celebrated the naming of the building to the Anne Marie D'Amico Community Collective. The event was notably attended by Anne Marie's Family, Members of the Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation, and Mayor John Tory. Anne Marie's Brother, Nick D'Amico, unveiling the name with his own two hands is one of our most treasured memories of the year.

We had our first event since the pandemic with our official naming ceremony for the Anne Marie D'Amico Community Collective. We held an intimate naming ceremony outside of the Collective to celebrate the life and legacy of Anne Marie D'Amico to support survivors of gender-based violence. This collective space was supported in partnership with the Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation.





WealthSimple Foundation



The Wealthsimple Foundation and North York Women's Shelter partnered to host a tax clinic at the Anne Marie D'Amico Community Collective (AMDCC) in April. We were able to support residents file their taxes and give them the coaching support they needed. Taxes are integral to so many other documents/housing applications etc. For many of our residents, it was their first time filing without their former partner so having this guidance with WealthSimple Foundation's expertise was an incredible opportunity.

This event was especially an important milestone for NYWS and the Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation because we were able to see our visions come to life. When we designed AMDCC, we wanted it to be a place where clients and participants from the community could access barrier free services. This tax clinic was one of our first steps towards realizing that. We continue to partner with WealthSimple Foundation to design financial literacy courses for crucial skills like everyday banking, credit-building, and budgeting.



Vaccine Clinic

We partnered with Planned Parenthood Toronto to host a vaccine clinic for COVID-19. We'd like to thank them for providing boosters to residents and staff during a rise in cases across Ontario.

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**PLANNED
PARENTHOOD
TORONTO**

JOY is Cultivated



Black History Month

We celebrated Black Excellence and Achievements during February through various activities for our residents and staff. NYWS believes that Black Talent, Black Excellence, and Black Achievements are just as important to highlight as Black Traumas, Anti-Black Racism, and White Supremacy.

We had so many fun activities at the shelter including a Quiz Night that featured questions about Black history, achievements, and pop culture. We also had a Paint-Your-Tote day where residents painted a canvas tote with the prompt, "What does Black History Month mean to you?". We played Arethra Franklin and enjoyed some delicious tropical flavoured ice cream from Sweet N' Nice Ice Cream. We shared a newsletter filled with Black History Month facts, recommendations for music and movies, resources for knowledge and history. Finally, we distributed a \$25 gift card for Black Owned TO so we could encourage supporting small, local, Black-owned businesses.

International Women's Day

In honour of International Women's Day, NYWS had a Tea Party catered by local small business, t-buds Toronto, to celebrate the day with residents and staff. We were able to take a midday break to enjoy each other's company with delicious desserts, sandwiches, scones, and, of course, tea. We gave each adult a beautiful care package which included gift cards, a craft kit, and some self-care items.

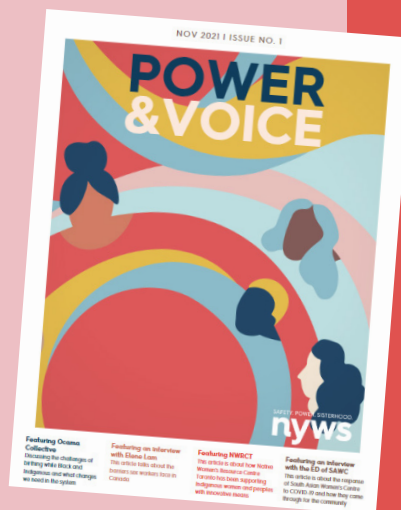


Community-Centric Fundraising

Since shifting to a fundraising model that centers equity and justice, the main takeaway we've learned is that we must not operate from scarcity but from abundance. In the nonprofit sector, there's always a palpable sense of scarcity and the prevalent feeling of shortage, anxiety. So many issues and so little resources to resolve them. How do we effect social change?

However, the model of community-centric fundraising reminds us that we are not in competition with other organizations but working with them. It's why we conceptualized, developed, and launched our very first digital magazine called "Power and Voice" on the topic of anti-racism. Speaking to fellow organizations in the nonprofit sector and listening to them speak on the work they do every day. It's why we hosted a film screening and panel discussion and invited fellow nonprofit organizations to come to discuss bodily autonomy, gender rights, and parenthood. We want to take this opportunity to thank Planned Parenthood's Mohini Datta-Ray (former Executive Director of NYWS), and Hirut from Ocama Collective, as well as our very own Director of Programs and Services, Brigitte Barikage, and Helene Klodowsky, storyteller and visionary, for sharing spacing and imparting their wisdom, experience, and expertise with us.

Our commitment to you is to always be transparent, honest, and center all of our communications, engagement practices, and fundraising strategies in equity. As a Community-Centric Fundraising organization, we will continue to remain resolved in commitment to justice and to centering community rather than individuals or ourselves. We will continue to honour survivors' autonomy and dignity in all of our communications. We will continue to be generous with each other and ensure that our door is open for conversations and dialogue of what we can do better.



Affordable Housing



In March 2022, we launched a campaign on the barriers survivors of GBV face when applying for government Affordable Housing programs in Ontario. After evaluating current housing needs and barriers for survivors of GBV through interviews with Trauma Counselors at NYWS, we proposed an increase in availability and diversity of Affordable Housing for Ontario residents who are survivors of gender-based violence in a letter addressed to local representatives in Ontario, Canada. We launched a campaign to spread awareness about this issue and invite people to send the letter to their local representative. This was the only online campaign at the time focusing on long-term affordable housing for survivors of GBV in Ontario.

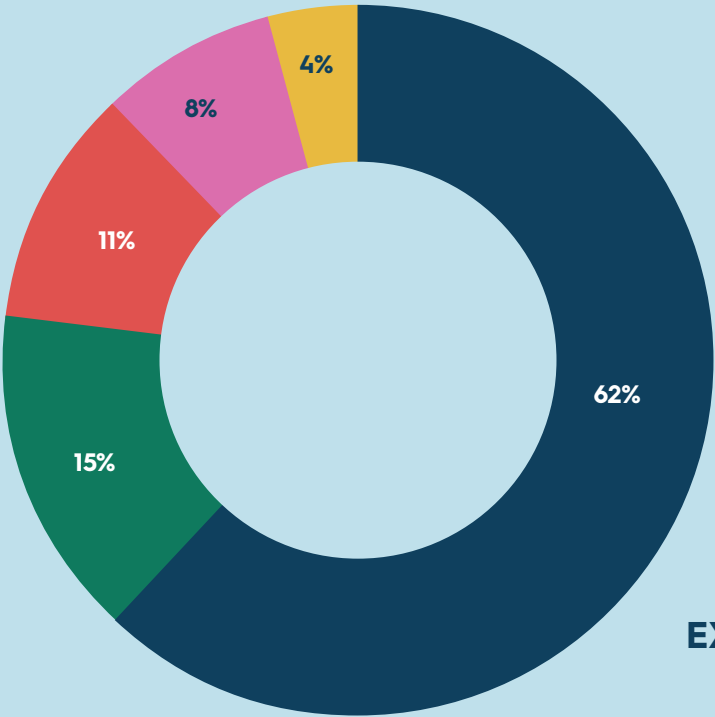
NYWS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE Power & Voice

In June 2021, we came up with the idea to create a magazine centering organizations that were involved in radical and intersectional anti-racist work. After thoughtful deliberation about what that would look like, who we would partner with, and what messages we wanted to relay to our community, we released the first volume of our community-centric magazine - "Power and Voice."

The first volume of "Power and Voice" discussed anti-racist work done by four organizations that work with BIPOC communities in Toronto. We interviewed Ocama Collective, Butterfly, South Asian Women's Centre, and Native Women's Resource Centre Toronto, to learn more about their work as an organization, the struggles faced by them, and their thoughts about systemic racism. We also discussed what barriers the racial community they served had faced in the VAW sector.

Financials

REVENUE



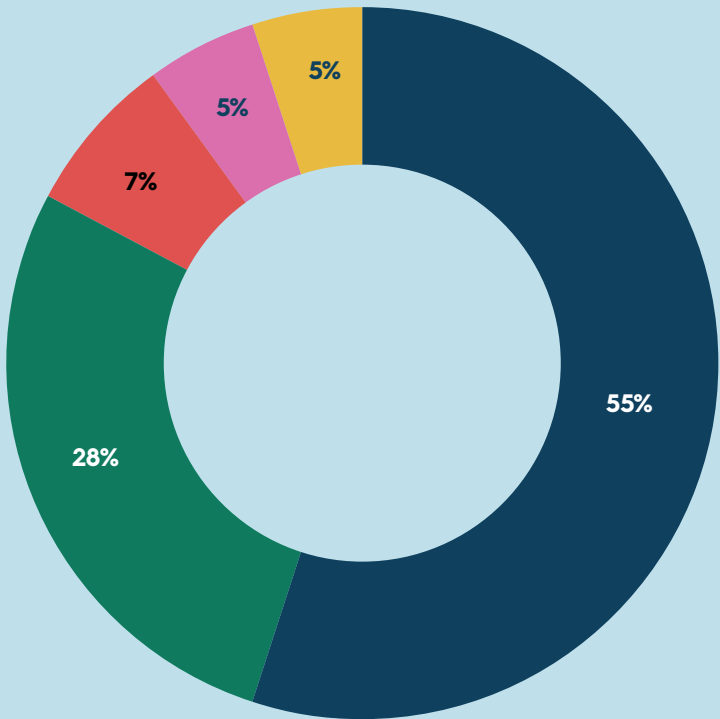
- Government Grants
- Contributions & Corporate Grants
- Foundation Grants
- Capital Campaign Contributions
- Rental Income
- Investment Income (< 1%)

Operating Revenue
\$3,640,010

Operating Expenses
\$4,057,257

Capital Campaign
Revenue
\$287,000

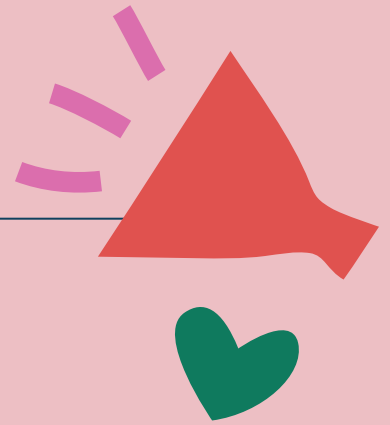
EXPENSES



- Staffing
- Property
- Administration
- IPAC Program
- Programs



Thank You



We want to thank our community of supporters, volunteers, donors, and activists.

In our mission to fight gender-based violence in all its forms, we know that our work can only be effective if it continues to create space within systems of oppression. As we continue to develop engagement and fundraising practices that reduce harm and center community voice and action, we want to thank you for trusting us. With support from funders, individual donors, foundations, businesses, partner organizations, and the government, we are able to continue the work of actively supporting women, trans, non-binary folks and their children build lives free of violence.

This work can only be done in community and we thank you for being part of ours.

2022 Contributors

CHARITIES

CanadaHelps
Fill A Purse Campaign
Kits For A Cause
Shoebox Project
The Redwood
United Way East Ontario

CORPORATE

Aesop Midtown Yonge
Andrea Gancotti Desjardins Insurance
Andrew Bernstein Professional Corporation
Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Bantrel Co.
Bell Community Affairs Team
Birds of North America
Boffo Landscaping Inc.
Canadian Pensions and Benefits Institute-Atlantic
Cosmo Prof Stores Canada
Dita Raji Desjardins
The French Imports
Green Shield Canada
Guusto Gifts Inc.
Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
IAMJENNIFERLE INC
L-3 Wescam - APS Operations
Mevotech LP
Midwifery Care North Don

River Valley
NDB Professional Real Estate Corporation
North York General Hospital - Dept Of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Onex Corporation
Paradise Homes Corp.
Proctor & Gamble Inc.
RBC Foundation
Rupi Kaur Inc.
Sade Baron
Shane Quinlan Desjardins Insurance
Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation
SiMPACT Strategy Group
Sirius XM Canada Inc.
Snouts Honour
Sol Yoga
Toronto North Dental Hygienist Society
Unifor Local 1701
Universal Studios Canada
Valu-Mart on Bayview
Verve Senior Living

FAITH GROUP/ COMMUNITY GIVING

Amesbury / Bert Robinson Minor Hockey League

Asbury & West United Church
Bond Academy
Comfy Cases
Don Heights Unitarian Congregation
Donway Covenant United Church
Earl Haig Secondary School
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Fairview Church Of God
Faith Lutheran Church
Mitchell Field Community Center Immunization Clinic
The Body Shop - Bayview
The Sisterhood of St. John The Divine
University Women's Club North York
Western Champions Of Change Club

FOUNDATIONS

Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation
Burgetz Family Foundation
Canada Gives
Community Food Centres Canada
Griggs Family Foundation
Neil and Shirley Macdougall Fund

Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Rand Kildare Charitable Foundation
Royal LePage Shelter Foundation
ScotiaMcLeod Foundation
Sigler Chapman Family Foundation
St. Andrew's Charitable Foundation
The Edwin & Miriam Merkur Charitable Foundation
The Isberg Charitable Trust
Women and Gender Equality
Women's Shelters Canada
ATID Charitable Foundation
Foundation Alex U. Soyka
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Charitable Fund At The Jewish Foundation Of Greater Toronto

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Giuseppina Maltese
A. Maziarczyk
A.M. (Monty) & MaryAnne McDonald
Abby Salole
Abdulkadir Bulle

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Adam Dumond | Ann Henney-Castel | Brian Schwartz | Crystal Shi |
| Adrian Cheung | Ann Katz | Brian Ward | Cynthia Bowden |
| Adriana Milani | Ann Reynolds | Bridget King | Cynthia Czigarenko |
| Aimee Cutten | Ann Tipper | Brigitte Barikage | Dalia Eidda |
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| Alexander Goel | Anne-Louise Sabo | Carolyn Keystone | Danielle Yaworski |
| Alexandra Orellana | Annemieke Wade | Carrie Nelson | Danny Calvano |
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| Alexandria Ktami | Anonymous | Cassandra Cappello | Darcy MacLean |
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| Alice Gough | Anton Erdody | Catherine AuYeung | Darlene Rhoden |
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| Andrea Nalyzyty | Belinda Longe | Christina Salmon | Dejana Manojlovic |
| Andrea Oreilly | Benita Margalot | Christina Swindells-Nader | Delia Yoshida |
| Andrea Parise | Benjamin & Esther Geva | Christina Wallaert | Denis McKee |
| Andrea Vukobrat | Bernard Gurian | Christine Balmes | Denise Prebul |
| Andrew Chronopoulos | Beth Malcolm | Christine Carlton | Dennis Halfpenny |
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| Angela Lin | Beverly Reisman | Cindy Ochieng | Diana Wong |
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| Anh Minh Ngo | Bobbi Martellacci | Clare Douglas | Diane Wilton |
| Aniceto Raposo | Boneh Roth | Clifford Rhee | Dianne Domelle |
| Aniket Kali | Bonnie Martens | Colette Hustwick | Dianne Erdos-Rush |
| Aniska Ali | Brandy Ryan | Colin Sam | Dmitri Mikhnevitch |
| Anita Khanna | Brenda Haddock | Corey Reid | Dominique Watson |
| Anita MacFarlane | Brenda Konigshofer | Corinne Abba | Don Feather |
| Anita Rothgiesser | Brenda Nixon | Cristina Postigo | Donald Bowman |
| Anita Wiklem | Brescian Reid | Cristina Tarnawski | Donald Colt |
| Ankita Mittal | Brian Flynn | Crystal Schreiber | Donald Murdoch |

| | | | |
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| Donna Bobier | Farah Lienaux | Harriet McCabe | Janet Regini |
| Donna Goldson | Fatemeh Masoumi | Harriett Brempong | Janet Solberg |
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| Doreen Porter | Fiona Herd | Heather Kaine | Jason Bolla |
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