

Community Action Resource Centre

Keele Site:

1652 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M6M 3W3
Tel: 416-652-2273
Fax: 416-652-8992

Davenport Site:

1884 Davenport Road, Unit #1
Toronto, ON M6N 4Y2
Tel: 416-654-0299
Fax: 416-654-0522

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Toronto, ON M6M 1T4
Tel: 416-651-2273
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www.communityarc.ca



2010-2011 Annual Report

Our Team

Board of Directors:

CHAIRPERSON: Luanne Rayvals
 VICE-CHAIR: Diane Walter
 TREASURER: Jane Zener
 SECRETARY: LaToya Williamson *
 DIRECTORS: Alain LeBlanc
 Amina Sharif Hassan
 Dora Ey
 Dulce Gaspar **
 Gillian Dennis *
 Jaime-Anne White

* resigned during year

** joined during year

Staff 2011:

Ana Leon
 Asif Rawji
 Ayan Yusuf
 Belinda Goncalves
 Charlyn Ellis
 Genevieve Komanyor
 George Martin
 Leah Woldegiorgis
 Leticia Boahen
 Mahbooba Zewari
 Marilia Lana
 Marion Newrick
 Maureen Arlain
 Peggy Liendo
 Peter Thai Tran
 Rocio Arguelles
 Ted O
 Yaquelin Hechavarria Soto
 Yasmin Mohamed

Contracted Services:

Pia Di Giovanni, ThinkABC Bookkeeping
 Peter Jellard – Technical Support

Placement / Summer

Students:

Andres Monsalve
 Anna Parousley
 Azar Douraghy
 Emmanuel Enotemwonison
 Gladys Calderon
 Jamar Hall
 Jemima Harrison
 Kaydian Glave
 Latoya Gray
 Peta Brown
 Rodel Dickson
 Samantha Abel
 Keely Morandin

Volunteers:

Abdullah Sara Gabris
 Ada Varga
 Aden Abduk Qudir
 Afrha Hassan
 Alana Des Vignes
 Alba Menjivar
 Alefirova Nataliya
 Amina Abdi
 Andrea Rondinelli
 Angela De Silva
 Anis Safia
 Asha Ali Goal
 Asha Jama
 Ayesha Ashrafi
 Brittany Lima
 Carla Antonio
 Carolina Mateo Gonzalez
 Claire Shirland
 Clara Lue Flores
 Cleidina Lima
 Denise Samuel
 Dhamarys Santana
 Diana Robinson
 Dora Ey
 Eharlynis Sisth
 Eliane Felipe
 Elimar Bertolino
 Elizabeth Shawn
 Elvira Fernandez
 Emouchir Mustafa
 Erellys Diaz Madruga
 Esmeralda Silva
 Ester Zacarias
 Ezgi Erol
 Fauziah Daoud

Fowzia Ahmed
 Fumiro Ohno
 Giselly Signoretti
 Gladys Escobar
 Habiba Abdi Adan
 Hamdi Nur
 Hostense Hamlet
 Hussein Ash Abukak
 Izabel Fernandez
 Jean Myers
 Jose Vilche
 Keisha McFarlane
 Khadijo Hilowle
 Laila Malliam
 Leyla M. Suudi
 Leyla Osman Mohamud
 Lizette Ruiz
 Lucas Kennedy
 Lucimar Cameiro
 Luisa Fajardu
 Maria Ortiz
 Maria Varas
 Maria Ross
 Marlene Totillo
 Maryan Asir
 Matheus Rondinelli
 Maymuna Mahadke
 Mishka Baptiste
 Mohamed Hussein
 Nadia Valez
 Nasra Ahmed
 Natacia Fontenelle
 Natalia Alefirova
 Nur Siraad Huseen
 Odessa
 Oscar Ortiz
 Paul Nadin
 Pegla Solorza
 Raquel Da Cruz
 Rodriguez Javier
 Rosa Vargas
 Rosy Samuel
 Ruby Abrill
 Ruiz Camacho Lizet
 Sado Aden
 Saeed Abshir
 Sahna Aboillahi
 Saida Jama
 Sandra Anesetti
 Sara Barreto
 Sarah
 Shara Siyael
 Siraad Huseen Nur
 Sonia Vilche
 Taiye Ayodebe Pepers
 Thines Kumaar Kesavan
 Waveney Matthews
 William L. Mackenzie
 Yahirama Dias
 Yasuf Fatima
 Yvonne Asare Bediako

The following Community Dining program volunteers are supported in partnership with Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre:

Arlene Brown
 Antonio Lamanna
 Charles Murdoch
 David Dumais
 Grace Walsh
 Iris Richardson
 Laura Antonio
 Millicent Lapa
 Nelson Membreno
 Paul Gikhour
 Peter Gikhour
 Regina Wilson
 Rosa Lamanna
 Roslyn Thompson
 Timothy Heslip
 Tony Lamanna
 Triacia Jones
 Valeri Kazbekov

Youth Mentors:

Antonio Shaw
 Gillian Campbell
 Jamar Carter
 Jennifer Petiro
 Jessica Peters

A special thank you to all our volunteers - Board, program, admin and fundraising - you are an integral part of the CARC team.

Report from the Chairperson and the Executive Director

Community Action Resource Centre is proud of its growing impact on our community. We have had another amazing year and was the strong support we have from our volunteers and staff, funders and friends that made it all possible.

This past year showed amazingly strong support coming from the provincial government. Responding to the federal government's unexpected withdrawal of \$54m in CIC settlement funding (\$18m in Toronto alone), the Ontario Government implemented a Sustainability Fund that provided financial support to the most severely impacted settlement agencies. We were proud to host Ontario Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, the Hon. Dr Eric Hoskins, at 1652 Keele Street in February to make the public announcement of the new Sustainability Fund. In addition to the Ministry's financial support, MCI, United Way Toronto and OCASI joined forces to bring a series of workshops and consulting supports to affected Toronto-area agencies. We very much appreciate the supports provided and the Province's vision in ensuring a strong settlement sector in Ontario, particularly in Toronto, home of choice for so many newcomers from every corner of the world. Because of this, our settlement program remains vibrant and relevant, and we can look forward from a place of strength.

The 1652 Keele Street lobby renovation that we announced last year, funded by The Ontario Trillium Foundation, was delayed due to circumstances beyond our control, but it is now back on track and about to 'break ground'. As well as the space renovation, this project includes a program of community engagement that will facilitate us reaching into new communities and engaging residents around new programming that will grow from their own identified interests.

In the year to come we will also continue our work to establish a cross cultural women & girls' space in our community. This is something that is so needed to support the many women from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds who have told us that such a space would provide them with a focal point in their community, allowing them to come together at times that meet their needs, to receive culturally appropriate support in the languages they speak, to reduce their isolation, and to help them be actively engaged in their city.

This year we took on a more active role in the Emmett Avenue Community Garden. Through the efforts of Evergreen, the garden was established in 2006 in Eglinton Flats, with the cross cultural women's program helping in the space search and since then has been an active participant every year. Now Evergreen has passed the torch to us to support the community in managing their garden within the beautiful Eglinton Flats park. With all the unending rain this past Spring, and with the garden located in a low-lying flood area close to the Humber River, we definitely took over at a challenging time!

During the year we also supported three new community kitchens at different locations in the community. One was in partnership with York Hispanic Centre for the Spanish speaking community, another one focused on the Somali community in a local apartment building, and another one was in Martha Eaton Way, the building where we operate our Children's Program. All of these unique kitchens meet the differing needs of their respective participants, and all contribute to community building, reducing isolation, and food security.

Another new project this past year was a Community Safety Project, that will see safety ambassadors trained to work within designated neighbourhoods, as well as a permanent "community safety corner" where local residents can connect around issues of safety that affect their neighbourhoods. Community safety is not just the role of law enforcement, it is the responsibility of the whole community, and this project will facilitate neighbourhood involvement.

As well as these new initiatives that are so exciting to work on, the core services of our organization continue in the background as always, providing supports to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Staff are available on a walk-in basis daily, helping people in crisis, providing needed items from our donations room, registering people without telephones for our voice mail program, helping young families find childcare or needed supports and services, filling out forms, providing income tax clinics for low income individuals and families, sharing donations and toys in the Christmas Holidays season, helping people to access the internet, and on and on. This is rewarding work that makes a real difference in people's day to day lives, and we appreciate the hard work of our staff and volunteers who make this happen.

This past year was amazingly challenging, productive, and interesting. We are so fortunate to work within a community that is so resourceful and resilient, so talented and so willing to contribute. We feel inspired by the CARC family, friends and other partners who contribute to making Toronto such a great place to live and work.

LUANNE RAYVALS, Chairperson, Board of Directors
MARION NEWRICK, Executive Director



Hon. Dr Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, above with MPP Laura Albanese at 1652 Keele Street, announcing a new \$500,000 Sustainability Fund to support newcomer settlement agencies seriously impacted by federal CIC funding cuts

Programs & Services

COMMUNITY/GROUP SERVICES

- Community Development
- Community Dining
- Community Garden
- Community Kitchens
- Child Care Registry & Information
- Children's After School Program
- Summer Day Camp
- Community Access Program (CAP) - internet access
- Housing Connections - Access Centre for subsidized housing
- Group workshops

SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Information and referral by telephone or drop-in
- Form filling, letter-writing, advocacy, follow-up, worker liaison
- Informal supportive counseling
- Crisis counseling
- Interpretation and translation
- Voice Mail, mail and messages
- Income Tax Clinics

SERVICES FOR NEWCOMERS

- Settlement services & support
- Information, referral & orientation
- Interpretation and translation
- English conversation group
- Spanish-speaking women's group
- Group workshops on topics of interest to newcomers



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Child Care Registry

The Child Care Registry assists parents to locate suitable care for their children. The program also included information, referral, support and resources for care providers and seekers, including a bi-monthly newsletter "Kids 'N Care". The Registry provided referrals to other forms of child care including licensed child care centres and licensed home child care options.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

Satellite to Ontario Early Years - Davenport Riding

As a satellite site of the Davenport Ontario Early Years (OEYC) program, we support families and caregivers of children 0-6 years of age, providing information, referral, orientation, guidance and translation regarding programs and services offered at Davenport OEYC, as well as providing workshops on topics of interest to those caring for young children.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Emmett Avenue Community Garden

Emmett Avenue Community Garden was initiated by Evergreen in 2006. We have been an active member of the garden since its inception, including the original search for suitable space. This year we took on the role of supporting our community in managing their garden as Evergreen passed the torch. So far it has definitely been an interesting year. We have battled flooded plots with swimming ducks, shoulder high weeds when the rain finally subsided, a family of deer who are now probably the best-fed deer in Toronto, and numerous park visitors who also became well fed at our expense ! We are meeting with City Parks staff to try and resolve these and other issues, so with their support we will continue to work with the gardening co-ordinating committee to reach our goal of making the Emmett Avenue Community Garden the best community garden in all of Toronto!



Garden Co-ordinating Committee meetings ... what a difference a few weeks makes!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Community Kitchens

Since 2009 we have been a member of a Community Kitchens Collective, a Healthy Communities initiative lead by Unison Community Health Centre, with additional supports provided by George Brown College including program funds and training.

Our role in the collective was to support the community in initiating new community kitchens, and we developed three in the neighbourhoods we work in -one in collaboration with York Hispanic Centre serving the Spanish speaking community; the second in a local apartment building for the Somali speaking community; and the third in another local apartment building where our Children's Program operates.

These programs foster a sense of community, reduce isolation, promote healthy eating and food security. The participants choose what to cook and therefore the food meets their cultural needs and preferences, and they participate in workshops that educate around issues of healthy lifestyle choices which therefore leads to improved long term health outcomes.

**NEW CARC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES !**

At the end of July 2011 we will be launching our new website,
please check us out at:

www.communityarc.ca

Also, check out the two new FACEBOOK pages,
and remember to "like" us!

Community Action Resource Centre

Emmett Avenue Community Garden

Children

Summer 2011 got off to a great start, nearly 40 children registered for the first few sessions. Thankfully Camp Team Leader Latoya Gray returned for a third year! Day trips are scheduled to places of interest both in and out of Toronto, the first trip being to the amazing Riverdale Farm. Check out the CARC Facebook page by the end of August, which should be filled with awesome memories of an amazing summer. Thank you to all the hardworking Camp Counsellors, youth mentors and volunteers for giving our kids another great summer to remember.

As well as the Summer Camp, we also provide an afterschool program for 7-12 year olds in the same community. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities promote good health and positive interactions between the children.



Newcomers

In the past year, our settlement services program provided culturally and linguistically appropriate services to newcomers in various languages - Cantonese, Dari, English, Farsi, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin, Pashto, Somali, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Due to the unexpected and sudden withdrawal of federal CIC settlement funding to many agencies at the end of March, we lost the capacity to serve many of these newcomer communities. This had a particular impact on the Cantonese and Mandarin speaking communities, since there are no other settlement services in these languages in our community. A growing Vietnamese speaking client base was able to be referred to other settlement agencies on St Clair and on Sheppard Avenue, and we were able to absorb Spanish speaking clients thanks to recently increased resources from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration, although we will need to closely monitor our staff's increased workload. Nonetheless, a very busy year saw continued increase in one-on-one client services, as well as a wider variety of group programs.

- Even with the need to wind down ISAP services in the period between January and March 2011, we still coordinated and delivered 133 workshops and groups for ISAP or NSP eligible newcomers in 2010-11, attended by over 2,000 participants. These sessions provided information relating to immigration, citizenship, finance, education, family violence, health and wellness, employment, housing, legal, and taxation, as well as weekly group activities designed to reduce isolation and foster civic engagement
- We continued to be an active member of the York South-Weston Local Immigration Partnership Council, lead by Social Planning Toronto, as well as participating on each of the Work Groups. As well, we participated in the West Downtown Toronto LIP, lead by St Stephen's House, being a member of the Bloor-Junction Council, whose boundaries cover the area served by our Davenport site.
- We collaborated with a variety of community partners throughout the year, including benefiting from the amazing resources provided by Unison Community Health Centre, in a partnership providing weekly sessions to Somali speaking women focusing on health and disease prevention.
- We collaborated with York Hispanic Centre in the delivery of settlement services to the Spanish speaking community, including starting a new weekly community kitchen program that helps reduce isolation, provides the opportunity to prepare and eat healthy foods with friends old and new, and to learn about daily choices that promote good health while helping to reduce lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, stroke and heart disease



Financial Statements

Statement of Operations and Net Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

	2010	2009
REVENUE		
Government funding	\$ 774,508	\$ 629,456
Davenport Ontario Early Years Centre funding	21,800	21,200
United Way Toronto - Enterprise Fund - CyberEquality	55,000	
United Way Toronto - Winter Relief Fund and other	9,775	17,825
The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant - CyberEquality	14,700	
Fundraising and Donations		
Foundation and other	34,335	25,499
Bingo and Nevada	20,940	21,662
Other special project funding	17,397	
User Fees	7,220	6,650
Membership and other	1,990	519
	<u>957,665</u>	<u>772,811</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	632,355	525,095
Office and general	93,292	58,353
Building occupancy	54,949	14,305
Professional fees and subcontracting	41,911	37,098
Repairs and maintenance	32,686	
Program	29,737	27,358
Industry Canada (CAP) flow through grants	17,305	19,090
Staff and volunteer development	9,467	5,704
Voice Link	7,178	6,969
Travel	5,675	3,173
Fundraising	4,125	4,620
Utilities and other premises expenses	1,950	
Food and related supplies	1,082	
Other	1,599	1,627
	<u>933,311</u>	<u>703,392</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	24,354	19,419
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>68,809</u>	<u>49,390</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 93,163</u>	<u>\$ 68,809</u>

Funders, Donors and Partners

Funders

- City of Toronto
- Citizenship & Immigration Canada
- Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)
- Industry Canada
- Ontario Early Years Centre funding - Davenport Riding
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
- Ontario Ministry of Culture
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- United Way Toronto

Donors /Contributors

- CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish
- The Bargains Group - Project Water
- Windfall Clothing
- Individual donors
- Project Warmth
- Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids

Foundations

- Artisan Charitable Foundation
- CHUM Charitable Foundation
- George Cedric Metcalf Foundation
- Mazon Canada - A Jewish Response to Hunger

Partners/Program Support

- Davenport Perth Neighbourhood & Health Centre
- Davenport Perth Community Ministry
- Eritrean Canadian Community Centre
- Evergreen
- Free Geek Toronto
- George Brown College
- Housing Connections
- Immigrant Women's Health Centre mobile health unit
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO)
- Social Planning Toronto and 1652 Keele Street Community Alliance
- The Stop Community Food Centre
- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto District School Board - Brookhaven Public School
- Unison Community Health Centre

Together we create a sense of community, a healthy and positive space in which all feel free and comfortable to speak their minds in an environment that fosters respect and promotes mutual support.

Mission Statement:

" Our organization works to build the capacity of our communities by mobilizing resources and providing supportive social services, for the empowerment of individuals and groups. "

We are Members of:

- Girls Action Foundation - National Network
- Middle Years Matter Coalition
- OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
- Social Planning Toronto
- TNC - Toronto Neighbourhood Centres

