THE STOP ACKNOWLEDGES

The Stop Community Food Centre is located on the territory of the Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Haudenosaunee, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Given the historic context of the land on which The Stop resides, it’s imperative that we draw attention to the devastating impacts that decades of colonization have imposed upon Indigenous peoples. In the coming years, we will grow our Indigenous-focused programming and land work, while standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and other racialized communities that are seeking to reclaim their identities, health, land, and community resources.

When I came to The Stop, I had to two contacts in my phone: my doctor, and my ex. Now, my contact list is full.

...
2018 has been a year of challenges, resilience, and growth here at The Stop. Gentrification is rapidly changing our neighbourhood, and while this can bring resources and opportunities, it also represents a significant threat to our most vulnerable community members. They’ll struggle as one of Toronto’s last affordable areas is priced out of their reach.

Meanwhile, the political environment we face is a much colder one. The cancellation of the basic income pilot, cuts to social assistance rates, and the removal of hard-won labour protections will also force the poorest among us to do with less.

Yet 2018 also brought many opportunities to offer positive alternatives to these forces, and we enter this new year full of hope and enthusiasm. Over the past year, we welcomed close to a dozen new team members, launched new programs to connect more people to good food and to each other, raised our voices in support of more equitable policy, and deepened our relationships with like-minded local organizations advancing food security and social justice. We’re thrilled to share with you the results of many of these activities inside this annual report.

The Stop is currently embarking on an ambitious strategic plan that will build upon our decades of work in the community. The next three years will certainly be busy ones, but we’ll be carving out time to reflect on the core ideas that guide our work. Namely, how the food we eat and the land it comes from affects our wellbeing and informs our sense of identity, how connecting with our neighbours can build communities that are strong and healthy, and how social solidarity can grow lasting change.

As you read this report, we ask you to reflect on your own connection to food and your place in your community.

Became a monthly donor, volunteer at one of our events, talk to your friends and family about the issues facing our city—or perhaps most importantly—simply share a meal with someone you don’t yet know.

From all of us at The Stop, thank you so much for being part of our incredible community. Working together, there’s little we can’t achieve.

Rachel Gray, Executive Director & Sarah Powell, Board President
Creativity & Connection.
In 2018, we developed new opportunities for people to connect around healthy food, and encouraged them to use their creativity to enliven our spaces.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 184 young people developed their leadership skills and grew their sense of community in our Youth Program.
- Over 60 vendors—and countless musicians, performers, and activists—helped animate our Farmers’ Market.
- 82.13% of drop-in participants say they feel visible and included at The Stop.
NEW ACTIVITIES IN THE DROP-IN
The Stop serves breakfast and lunch to over 200 people in our Drop-in every day. But in recent years, participants have been eager to continue their lunchtime conversations and stay in this supportive space long after the final plates are cleared. Community members have taken the lead, organizing self-driven projects to engage with their peers. Stop by on any given afternoon, and you could find art activities, couponing workshops, computer classes, a knitting club, documentary screenings, and even karaoke!

ACTIVATING THE FARMERS’ MARKET
Anyone who’s been to a farmers’ market knows it’s about so much more than produce. The real nourishment comes from the intricate connections markets can build—between neighbours, farmers, and our food system. In 2018, The Stop’s Farmers’ Market at Artscape Wychwood Barns continued to grow as a community hub. We incubated budding newcomer-run food businesses, hosted local arts groups and performers, welcomed grassroots campaigns like $15 and Fairness, and worked to expand shoppers’ knowledge of sustainable farming practices and build awareness of their place in the food system.

SOWING THE SEEDS
If you’re struggling to navigate your identity, few things are as comforting as connecting with other youth who know what you’re going through. At The Stop’s recently revitalised Youth Program, young people experiencing marginalization or hardship can share their experiences, knowledge, and cultural traditions as they grow food, cook healthy meals, make art, or even design their own community projects—while leading discussions on topics like bullying, consent, and inclusion within a non-judgemental environment.

“Can we stay here forever? I feel so zen, this feels like home.”

“Farmers’ Markets like The Stop’s have taught eaters the joy of connecting food to your health, and to the health of your neighbours.”

“The Stop is the only time and place where I have been allowed to and encouraged to take part.”
Broadening Our Supports.
When a person struggles to access food, it’s the result of complex issues—poverty, trauma, chronic health conditions, and marginalization. This year, The Stop added new programs and expanded our current offerings to support people far beyond the dinner table.

**BY THE NUMBERS**
- 42 participants contributed to our Emotional Wellness Peer Support group
- $485,006 was returned to 242 Tax Clinic participants
- 100% of 10 Metre Greens participants felt better positioned to pursue education or jobs in the field
A GROWING OPPORTUNITY
A lack of work experience can be a major barrier in today’s tough job market. 10 Metre Greens, The Stop’s new social enterprise, works with people struggling to find employment by providing them with mentorship, resources, and a part-time living wage while they’re learning. Last year, the team grew thousands of organic microgreens in our Green Barn and sold them 10 metres away at our Farmers’ Market. After a successful three-month pilot run, we’re thrilled to welcome back 10 Metre Greens in 2019.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
Living in poverty is isolating, and without the opportunity to connect with others, our mental health can worsen. The Stop’s Emotional Wellness Peer Support Group, launched in 2018, brings people together to share their stories and struggles in an understanding environment—while enjoying healthy snacks, of course. This vital new project was launched with support from the ECHO Foundation.

FEEDING FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT
The best way to improve someone’s access to food is to improve their access to income. Every year, our team of volunteers and Community Advocates helps low-income people file their taxes so they can receive valuable rebates and afford more of life’s necessities. In late 2018, we were thrilled to receive funding to expand the tax clinic into a year-round offering, and provide one-on-one support to help people meet their financial goals.

“It was a stepping stone toward my future career, and gave me motivation to start my own business.”

“I didn’t believe that 6 years worth of taxes could be done! I just received a cheque with a large amount of money which I’m going to save so I’ll have enough to rent my apartment.”

“ Healing takes time, and needs place and people. I’m glad I have a place to be supported, and to help others.”
Seeking Equity in All We Do.

Food can be a powerful tool for health and justice, but it’s also been used to deny these very rights. In 2018, we built upon our work to embed Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive (AR/AO) values across our organization, and we celebrated the anniversary of our groundbreaking Community Advocacy Program—both of which encourage dignity, agency, and equity.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 62 volunteers participated in 7 anti-racism/anti-oppression training sessions in 2018
- Over 100 people have graduated the Community Action Training since 2008
EMBEDDING EQUITY ACROSS OUR ORGANIZATION
Volunteering provides powerful feelings of inclusion and purpose, and we work to make these opportunities available to everyone who uses our services. But bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and experiences can cause discomfort, especially if we’re not familiar with the underlying causes of poverty and oppression. To strengthen our community’s collective AR/AO skills, The Stop incorporated training into our volunteer program in 2018, and we closely examined our own organizational practices.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, POWER IS CHANGE
Far too often, decisions are made on behalf of people living in poverty without their input or support. But low-income people are the only experts on their own lives, and need to be meaningfully involved in identifying problems and building solutions. For over ten years, The Stop’s Community Advocacy Program has enlisted those most affected by poverty to use their knowledge and experience to support their peers and to advocate for broader change. We were proud to celebrate the program’s anniversary in 2018, and to welcome another cohort of Community Action Training learners at the start of 2019.

“I got to hear different points of view and personal experiences [at the training]. It helped me understand more about different forms of oppression, and how I can be an ally even in situations where I don’t feel comfortable.”

“To me, the Community Advocacy Program is the beating heart of The Stop.”
Our Commitment to Change-making. 
What happens in our neighbourhoods is the result of decisions made at all levels of government. In 2018, we continued to empower community members to take action on the issues that matter to them.

BY THE NUMBERS

The average monthly income of Toronto food bank client is $808.29
The average rent for a Davenport West resident is $1,206.

Despite overall population growth, Davenport West lost 10,815 immigrant residents from 2000–2015.
ORGANIZING FOR THE ELECTIONS

The 2018 provincial and municipal elections were critical opportunities to come together in support of equitable, inclusive and healthy communities. We hired Pauline Bryant, a graduate of our Community Action Training program, to organize civic engagement and voter education events in our Drop-in space. Pauline collaborated with groups like Put Food in the Budget, TTC Riders, $15 and Fairness, and ACORN to lead thought-provoking discussions on issues like food access, affordable transit, the minimum wage, and social assistance.

MAPPING OUR CHANGING NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Stop’s Davenport West community is gentrifying at a rapid pace. As an organization that holds space for those living in poverty, we feel a strong responsibility to enlist residents new and old in protecting our most vulnerable neighbours. In late 2018, The Stop worked with four graduate researchers from the University of Toronto’s School of Planning to record the changes brought on by gentrification, and to identify the organizations, small businesses, and local leaders that can act as our neighbourhood allies.

“What our community members ultimately need we can never give them, because what they need is economic justice and equity.”

“Planning happens all the time in a variety of ways and according to a variety of agendas. Developers have planners, the City has planners. But what if planning was directed by the community?”
Looking forward. The Stop’s 2019–2021 Strategic Plan is both a blueprint and a rallying cry for our vision of a more equitable community.

To view the full plan, visit our website at www.thestop.org.

2019

01

Amplify community power to challenge the systems of inequality and poverty.

02

Deliver innovative programs and services to build healthier, connected and more self-determined communities.

03

Foster connections and community engagement in thriving and dignified spaces that build a sense of belonging.

04

Build our organizational capacity to support our growth and resilience.
Our Community of Donors and Funders

THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO’VE MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE. TO JOIN THEM, VISIT WWW.THESTOP.ORG/DONATE (SADLY, WE ONLY HAVE SPACE TO LIST GIFTS OVER $1,000)

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 – AUGUST 31, 2018

$400,000+
The Sprott Foundation

$100,000+
City of Toronto
Community Food Centres Canada
Government of Canada - Public Health Agency of Canada

$50,000+
The Auxilium Foundation
Miiwe Bik Aboriginal Employment and Training
The Young Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation
Toronto Foundation Vital Ideas & Leadership Grant – The John & Jocelyn Barford Family Foundation

$20,000+
Arrell Family Foundation
City of Toronto - Investing in Neighbourhoods
Dragonfly Fund at Tides Canada
Kathryn Kennedy
Newlands Family Foundation
Pallare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
Scott and Leigh Lamacraft
The Alstair and Jennifer Murray Foundation
The Brian and Joanna Lawson Family Foundation
The ECHO Foundation
The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation
The Waterbury Foundation
The New Farm
United Way of Greater Toronto

$10,000+
Andrew Chisholm and Laurie Thomson Fund at Toronto Foundation
Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre
Inasmuch Foundation
Jane Taylor
Jeremy Guth & Nina-Marie Lister
Kelly Pronyk & Myron Pestalouky
Kindle Capital Corporation
Laurie & Adam Felosky
MacFeters Family Fund at Toronto Foundation
Mardy & Paul Campbell
McLean Smits Family Foundation
R. Howard Webster Foundation
RBC Foundation
Runnymede United Church
Sheyya Assi
Stuart Kedwell & Candice Holmes
The John & Jocelyn Barford Family Foundation at Toronto Foundation

$5,000+
Alex & Brad Krawczyk
Anthony Niro
B & B Hamilton Fund at Toronto Foundation
Buchman Fund at Toronto Foundation
Butterfield & Robinson
Caroline R. Zayid & Barney Savage
Chris & Christina Valentine
CHUM Charitable Foundation
Clayton Gyetoku Fund at Toronto Foundation
Conam Charitable Foundation
David Kirkwood & Sarah Crawford
Dawn Tattle Family Foundation
Donald Cranston & Megan Hill
Erica Shuttlesworth & Michael Rothfeld
Ernest McNee & Nancy Rowat
Ethel Harris
Eve-Maria Taylor
Gary & Donna Slaight
Gordon & Gillian Bogden
Howard & Diane Taylor Fund at Toronto Foundation
Karen Weinstein & Jason Hanson
Laura & Norm Lamarche
LBI Family Foundation
Linda Tyrell
Liz Rykert & John Sewell
M.E.H. Foundation
Margaret and Gordon Fleming Fund at Toronto Foundation
Martin & Christy de Goyer
Mary Pedersen
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Pamela J. Fleming Fund at Toronto Foundation
Paul & Gillian Smith
Ruth Richardson & Andrew Duffy
Sarah Powell & Stephen Shum
Shum Vourkoutiotis Fund at Toronto Foundation
Stephen Breen & Brenda Woods
Stephen Halliday
Susan A. Edwards & Mike Evans
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
The Harbinger Foundation
The Langar Foundation
The Mariani Elia Foundation
The Neighbors Table Drive
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
UBISOFT Toronto Inc.
Victor Gedris & Jennifer Niece
Amelia Ferguson & Brian Budd
Andrew & Susan Sharpack
Ann Dugan
Anne & Douglas Brooke
Aweii Restaurant
Barry & Wendy Gordon
Bill & Linda Saul
Bradd Hart & Corrina Lee Hart
Brendan Pennyregion
C. Jolana Foundation
Carol Lee
Catherine Brown
Cheryl Roddick
Christine Egy Rose & Sean Rose
CUPE Local 3902
Daniel Bloom & Jean Watson
Daniel Mudd
David & Alison Brennan
David & Anne Paterson
David Dime & Elisa Nayan-Dime
David & Martha Reeve
David Young
Deena DeZotto & Jamie James
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Doug Ewart & Judith Keane
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Elizabeth Julian
Elizabeth Lynn Saunders
Eugene Rovinelli
Farrm
Field Trip & Co Inc.
Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts
Frances Owen
Friart’s Restaurant
Fred & Wendy De Gasperis
Gamal Abdel-Shelhi & Anjula Gogia
Gandy Charitable Foundation
Geoffrey Belisle
George & Martha Butterfield
Gordon D. Capern Professional Corporation
Graham Woodhouse
Grocery-Locco Charitable Foundation
Heather Broughton & David Glen
Heather Spence
HeLEN Ryane
Honor & Michael de Pencier
Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
Howard J. Atkken
Hungry for Hockey Tournament
Hussain Amrashi & Kristen Thomson
Hylian Foundation
I. Scott McCain
Jan Doherty
Jane & Jeff Cowan
Janet Dewan
Janet Walker
Joanne Dereta & Bill Papageorge
Jock MacDonal & Janet Griffin
John & Elizabeth Gray
John & Gretchen Bingham
John & Marian Taylor Fund at Toronto Foundation
John Guglietti
Joseph & Judy Virgona
Joseph Frieburg Family Charitable Foundation
Katherine Hamilton
Kathryn Elder
Ken Finkelmann
Kent Pawluk
Kopas Family Foundation
Langar Foundation
Linda Saltarelli
Lisa Bennett & Ken Benner
Luciano Fiorini
M. Olivia & H. Douglas Lee
Mark Daitzman
Mary-Alice Haney
Maureen H. Thompson
Mercatto Restaurant
Michael B. Docter Foundation at Toronto Foundation
Michael McGowan & Shelagh McNulty
Michelle Belstedt
Mike Allen
Ndl Family Foundation
Neal & Dominique Lee
Northbridge Financial Corporation
Pat & John Saul
Patricia Fleming
Paul Belanger
Peter & Dyan Sheppard
Propeller Coffee Co.
R & M Lang Foundation
Raschikow Foundation at Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
The Crafted Dish
Richard Morton
Robert Vokes & Jane Edwards
Rod Miller
Roland Wong
Ronald & Anne Foerster
Ron Faggetter & Cynthia Ledgley
Sanyo Lue-Kim & David D. Friesema
Sara & Michael Angel
Sarah & Tom Milrey
Saverio & Rossella Veltri
Sean Caragata & Renee Kerman
Shelley Ambrose
Silvio Guglietti
Simon Nuk
Sol Kornogil & Carla Barbora
St. James Cathedral York Group
Stacey Family “Aurora” Fund at Toronto Foundation
Stacey McLean & Pierre LeBrun
Steelworkers Humanity Fund
Susan & Ian Fairbrother
Terry & Lilla Stuart
Tim & Laurie Foe
The BLG Foundation
The Carmichael-Willis Fund at Oakville Community Foundation
The Dickhurst Family Foundation
The Gerald Conway Fund at Toronto Foundation
The Hermant Family Foundation
The Marjie and Joseph Wright Memorial Foundation
The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation
The Salden Foundation
The Vine
Ubsiof Chill Cook-off
Unifor Social Justice Fund
Vice Studio Canada Inc
Wilkinson Family Fund at Toronto Foundation
Workshop Architecture
York Lions Club
Victoria Foerster
Zoe Krezker

R & M Lang Foundation
THE STOP’S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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GROWING COMMUNITY. FEEDING CHANGE.
Donor Profile.
Our neighbours at FreshBooks have gone far above and beyond the typical corporate donor relationship. Every FreshBooks staff member is given three paid volunteer days off, and their contributions to The Stop have been as diverse as their skill sets—they’ve done everything from setting up equipment for our Night Market fundraiser, to teaching beginner computer courses in our Drop-in and helping us plan a new website. Our favourite highlight? In just ten minutes, one intrepid FreshBooks team tore down a trellis from our Earlscourt garden that we’d been wanting to remove for years.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FINDING UNIQUE CORPORATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STOP? CONTACT CARA@THESTOP.ORG
The Stop. Annual Report Financials
2017–2018

**Revenue**

- 26% $1,033,808 Special Events
- 14% $78,220 Food Donations
- 11% $464,005 Individuals
- 7% $257,930 Corporations & Organizations
- 5% $204,048 Government Funding
- 10% $391,612 Social Enterprise
- 1% $52,872 Other

**Expense**

- 69% $2,786,719 Program
- 17% $856,664 Development & Communications & Special Events
- 10% $395,238 Administration
- 4% $153,448 Social Enterprise
- 5% $204,048 Other
I feel a sense of community that I didn’t know existed within Toronto. I feel supported as an immigrant, as a woman, and as a mother.

...