ANNUAL **REPORT** "We are more than on the Frontlines. We are Frontlines"

)n The Frontlines

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BY FRONTLINES

www.frontlines.to

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Our Mission

TO ADDRESS THE PRESSING NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF WESTON AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

Our Vision

OUR COMMUNITIES WILL BE A PLACE WHERE OUR YOUTH WILL EXPERIENCE SAFETY, TRUE VALUE AND WELL BEING.

Our Values

SERVING THE WHOLE CHILD RELATIONSHIP BUILDING STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIVENESS TRANSPARENCY

Our Model

Frontlines' model involves youth giving back to each other. For example, youth of our culinary program provide meals to our younger youths (6-17). The 13-17 youth volunteer to support the younger children in the after school programs such as homework club. The younger children in turn, help teach important values such as patience and responsibility to the older youth. Additionally the younger children help the older youth explore their career aspirations and interests such as if they like working with kids.

Message from Executive Director

In one of my previous Annual Reports, I shared that I center my work on 4 P's- People (including participants in programs and personnel), Pennies, Promotion and Place, and these P's in 2020 continued to be at the forefront of the work that is happening at Frontlines. Unfortunately, the P word that was used most often, beside the word Pandemic in 2020, was Pivot.

Frontlines adapted to the pandemic very quickly. Within 2 days of the first lockdown in March 2020, we pivoted programming to online; utilizing platforms such as Zoom and Instagram to engage youth who were roaming on social media and we channeled our food resources to appointment-only food distribution; as well as delivered groceries, meal kits and prepared meals through several partners. While each program was altered uniquely, we would like to highlight how we pivoted the culinary training program as an example. We implemented a hybrid model in which students did some classes online using platforms such as Zoom and Google Classroom. It was the first time using platforms like these which allowed students to do some self work such as quizzes and uploading photos. To get food items and other supplies out to students/participants, we sent them via InstaCart and Amazon. We had small, physically distanced batches of students come into our facility to do their practicum. In June 2020, while already dealing with the pandemic burnout, the emotional toll and racial awakening surrounding George

Floyd's death, we had a collapse of the roof at Frontlines at 1844 Weston Road, after a severe rainstorm. It was all too much and it was time for me to enact what I mentioned around "Place" for several years. The youth, particularly the teens, had been asking for their own space for many months, as they found the space at 1844 Weston Road cramped and not meeting their needs. The building needed major renovations, and we could no longer deal with the piecemeal repair efforts. A new home base was needed for our young people to know that THEY MATTER, especially in the context of BLACK LIVES mattering! Our programming spaces must reflect that. Now, each age group has their own specialized unit; allowing for social distancing. You can check out pictures of the new space in this report. We are grateful for the many donors and supporters who helped to make this space possible. Special thanks to Castlepoint Numa and Councillor Nunziata for their support in obtaining the space. When some Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, we welcomed back more youth for summer camp in the space with social distancing measures, sanitation stations, and safe return to play protocols. By November 2020, Frontlines fully transitioned into the bigger and better space, allowing us to serve the youth in ways that we could not truly imagine before. In December 2020, the Teen Zone was featured on CityLine. Hearing the youth speak about what the space means to them brought a smile to my face. At that time, this was my proudest moment at Frontlines. I had delivered on what the youth asked me to do.

The financial growth of Frontlines also brings a smile to my face because I know that the increased revenue will continue to support the lives of our children and youth. In 2020, we had a surplus of \$75,000. These funds are being reinvested into programs that lack full funding. This financial growth has been made possible through diverse new funding. Many donations came in to support individuals during the pandemic and surrounding George's Floyd death in support of black charities. I would like to thank funders such as Royal Bank, Home Depot, Air Miles, TD bank, Jumpstart, Second Harvest, Dr. Zeeshan Waseem Medicine Professional Corp, the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto for being continuous supporters of the organization for several years. I would like to thank new partners such as the Aubrey Marla Dan Foundation, Echo Foundation, La Cie Canada Tire, C3 Toronto Church, Salaam Foundation (formerly known as the Muslim Women of York Region, and the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto. The list of donors is long. If I missed anyone who feels that they need to be included, know that I am thankful. I hope that you all can see the impact of donations and you continue to support Frontlines.

It takes a village to raise a child. Frontlines has always had great partnerships, community partners have bounded together even more in supporting our children and youth during the pandemic. We shared resources, including staff. We ran joint events and programs. We have written joint proposals. Special mention to organizations such as the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Urban Arts, Community Place Hub and Second Harvest. I want to also mention the many partners in Falstaff who welcomed us with opening arms when we opened up our first ever satellite location and started up our programs there. To them, I simply want to say a grateful, "Thank you".

To the parents and guardians that entrust their youth to us, we are indeed thankful. I hope that you know that staff have their best interest at heart. I remember one conversation with a staff member who felt that he could be doing more for the community, even when we were still running at 5 days per week, online and in person at the start of the pandemic. The staff are so passionate about the work. This work is deeply personal as many of us are reflective of the community. As the number of staff have grown, we are able to do more for your children.

To our members of parliament, MP Ahmed Hussen, MPP Faisal Hassan and Councillor Nunziata- thank you. To volunteers, particularly those who help with our tutoring program, thank you. To staff, Latisha, Patrice, Shochoy and Jeffery, the standing soldiers on the Frontlines, and for the new ones that have come and gone on to other opportunities but have left their mark at Frontlines, thank you. Your work does not go unnoticed. To the board, thank you for commitment to the mission of Frontlines. Together, we can accomplish achieving our vision that our communities will be a place where our young people experience safety, true value and well being.



Message from Board Chair

For Frontlines, 2020 has been a time of challenge and change.

The challenge came mostly in the form of a pandemic that forced our services online and kept our young people isolated for far too long. In light of the health crisis that beset us all, Frontlines staff demonstrated exemplary resilience in meeting the needs of our community. Hybridized programming was in constant flux with changing regulations and capacity limits. In July, we were faced with physical challenges to the building we were renting from the Weston Park Baptist Church (1844 Weston Road), which required us to relocate rather quickly. With the help of Castlepoint Numa, we were able to move into renovated space just a few doors down, and with little to no interruption in service to our young people. Kudos are owed to Stachen and the team on a seamless transition.

Despite restrictions that limited some of our traditional revenue sources like our April fundraiser, Frontlines fundraising staff under the skilled leadership of our Executive Director have been able to secure funding from multiple sources to fill the gap. As a result, the organization continues to increase its programming and service capacity while maintaining a responsible financial position.

A big thank you goes out to Joyce Nyhof-Young, Alexandra Snelgrove, Olu Falope, and Natasha Gevikoglu, all of whom will not be continuing as Board members. Your service to Frontlines is greatly appreciated, and you all will be missed. At the same time a warm welcome is extended to Roxanne Richardson, Carla Silva, and Azin Dehmoubed, all of whom are joining the Board. An open call to fill a vacancy will begin in due course.

Since 1987, Frontlines has served as a place of refuge for the youth of Weston and beyond. In the face of many challenges over the years, the organization has adapted and changed to best meet the needs of our surrounding communities. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I can assure you that one thing is for certain...

The kids are alright.



PROGRAMS (6-12 AGES)

Homework Club

Every week our staff and volunteers provide an online one-on-one homework support to children in subject areas such as English, French, Math, Science, etc. We are keen on being a resource in order to contribute to the overall academic success of children.

So You Think You Can Cook

Once a week, children are taught basic cooking and nutritious skills. The young chefs learn how to slice and dice, bake and stew delicious dishes from all over the world. In an engaging and fun way the kids acquire important life skills and how to make informed decisions about food so they lead healthy, active lives.

The Journey

We created a program that allows for children to dive deep into self discovery. In turn, they learn more about themselves and the world around them. We provide the opportunity for them to engage in storytelling and share testimonials.



STEM

We partnered with the StemHub Foundation to educate the youth in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Twice a week, external people come in to teach and engage with the kids in STEM related activities.

TGIF Drop-Ins

On Fridays, we open up our space for children to come in and wind down their week with us. Kids are able to drop in and hang out with their peers and staff. We play music, games, and more. Friday drop-ins are a huge hit here at Frontlines.

Camps

Throughout the year we run a variety of camps which include: New Year, March Break and Summer camps. During camp, children participate in fun and educational activities which also involve special guests who come on site to facilitate workshops.



PROGRAMS (13-17 AGES)





L.I.T. Prpgram

Leaders in Training, also known as "L.I.T." is a program that engages youth in various workshops and opportunities to become leaders in the community. The program is ideally named to reflect the urban use of the word "lit" which means "cool", promoting that it is cool to volunteer and to be a leader. Our Leaders-in-Training receive volunteer hours, free certification like CPR and Food handling and further explore different career avenues at Frontlines or our partners.



F.I.T. Program

Similar to our Leaders-in-Training, F.I.T also known as Future Inspired Teens is a youth initiative that provides access to programs, resources and services for the Falstaff community on a weekly basis.



What's on my Plate

WOMP is a mental health awareness program that features a cooking section. Every week, the youth have an opportunity to learn about different mental illnesses and learn how to make a recipe. The workshop always starts with an interactive activity, then has a live cooking section, and ends with a question-answer period. Youth who register for WOMP get a free meal kit to take home and follow along with the recipe online.

Roots & STEM

Our Roots and STEM program is designed for youth to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the lens of Black History. With the generous support of the Canadian Heritage, our youth are able to conduct experiments, take trips, gain homework help and much more. In February 2020, we had a STEM day with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) at Weston Collegiate, in which students got to engage in STEM

games, connect with staff at the GTAA, and hear from Ian Clarke, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the GTAA.





Pic: Frontlines at 1844 Weston Road

"Happiness doesn't have just one address!"

Located at 1844 Weston Road, Frontlines started as a drop-in centre to keep kids away from the streets, and was established with the help of the first Director and Founder, Tim Huff partnering with Weston Park Baptist Church and Youth for Christ. Until 2019, the building was shared with the Weston Area Emergency Support (WAES) food bank, which gives food assistance to many of our program participants' families. For the past 30+ years, Frontlines has shown a tremendous growth by providing a variety of programs to hundreds of children and youth from Weston and surrounding neighborhoods. The demand for our programming was growing. After WAES moved, renovations began at Frontlines trying to meet the increasing demand for programs and occupy the whole space, but it was short-lived; The pandemic hit.

Pic: Frontlines at 1800 Weston Road

In the fall of 2020, Frontlines relocated a couple blocks down the street to 1800 Weston Road. The reason for the sudden move was a flood that caused the roof of the building to collapse. With much gratitude and appreciation for the support of Councilor Nunziata, MPP Faisal Hassan, Design: Cityline, and The Israeli Consulate who made the transition smooth. Finally, the dream of having a wide, safe and beautiful space for youth became possible.



An environment was created that fosters the creative genius within the children and youths of Weston and close-by communities. The new space consists of 3 units divided by programming for each age category: Children zone (6-12 ages)[middle bottom pic], Teen zone (13-17)[middle left pic], and Culinary Frontburners (18-29)[middle right pic]. This building has been made possible through reduced cost from Castlepoint Numa.

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On the Frontlines

DURING A PANDEMIC

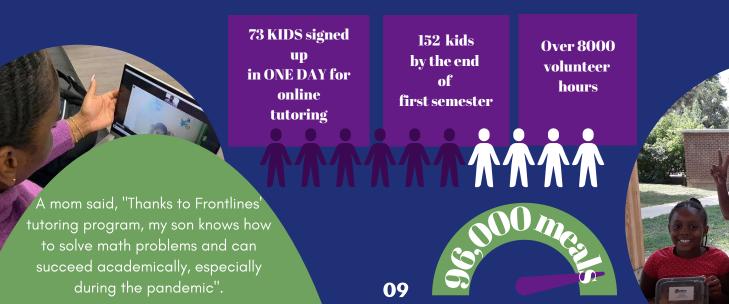
The phrase "on the Frontlines" has been used repeatedly throughout the pandemic, but here at Frontlines, we like to say, "We are the Frontlines!". Despite the unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic, Frontlines has managed to make the necessary adjustments and has shown much resiliency in dealing with the pandemic . Through the continuous support of our donors, staff and volunteers we are able to help the local community. The tenacious staff and volunteers have found different ways to keep the organization running.

Immediately, after the first lockdown, many of our programs became virtual in 2020 including: Homework Club, Youth Employment Prep and What's on my Plate. Meanwhile our other programs were running either in person or in a hybrid model such as the Culinary Program, Groceries and Meals Giveaways and Summer camp. Staff started using new platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom and Streamyard and engaged more on our exisiting platforms such as Instagram with Instagram Live.

The demand for our programs increased, and we have received numerous requests from community organizations particularly grassroot organizations to support in their meal distributions. Groceries and meals were given out to community agencies such as but not limited to Falfstaff Community Center, Sisters Keeper Basketball, Rexdale Youth Mentors and Youth Winning Youth. Also, the pandemic lockdown has affected the Culinary program by switching from physical grocery shopping to virtual and sending ingredients to participants' homes before their cooking lessons.

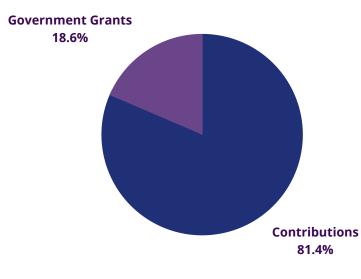
Frontlines has been running homework assistance program for 30 years. When the pandemic hit, we pivoted our program to providing online tutoring 2 days per week. During the lockdown, kids were forced to turn to virtual learning. In one day, we had 73 kids sign up for our program. We had to quickly find tutors and had to do a weekend of full orientation training for tutors. Over the past 18 months, those numbers have grown with a better system of registration, matching tutors and running the program. We, also partnered with an agency called Integra Youth to find more tutors. By running Homework Club online, we noticed that many of the youth were struggling with French and we were able to hire a French tutor/ coordinator. Additionally, we saw that some of our youth were still accessing the internet from mobile phones. Therefore, to reduce barriers in accessing this program, some youths were provided with computer and/or internet support.

There were so many things that we were able to do in this time. We were able to run a summer camp for youth. We were able to provide meal kits at home for kids to cook with us online. We were able to provide laptops for youth. We were able to launch a new online platform called Frontlines Pinup where young people and the community can find and resources. We partnered with different businesses to have various Pop up events and support families with gift cards, back packs, holiday toys, hampers and so much more. Like we say, WE ARE THE FRONTLINES.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Weston Frontlines Centre



2020 Overview

| REVENUE | 2020 |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Contributions | \$554,543 |
| Government Grants | \$126,391 |
| Other | - |
| Total | \$680,934 |
| EXPENSES | 2020 |
| Wages and benefits | \$363,426 |
| Programs | \$105,652 |
| Office and general | \$60,392 |
| Building costs | \$38,363 |
| Professional fees | \$31,297 |
| Utilities | \$6,296 |
| Total | \$605,426 |
| Excess of Revenue over | \$75,508 |
| Expenses | |
| Balance - Beginning | \$112,798 |
| Balance - Ending | \$188,306 |
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2019 Overview

| REVENUE |
|-------------------|
| Contributions |
| Government Grants |
| Other |
| Total |

EXPENSES

| Expenses |
|------------------------|
| Excess of Revenue over |
| Total |
| Utilities |
| Professional fees |
| Building costs |
| Office and general |
| Programs |
| Wages and benefits |
| |

| \$104 |
|-------|
| \$112 |
| |



2020

2019

\$400,573 \$140,226

\$540,799

| \$325,929 |
|-----------|
| \$92,665 |
| \$51,550 |
| \$22,249 |
| \$33,098 |
| \$7,398 |
| \$532,889 |
| \$7,910 |
| \$104,888 |
| \$112,798 |

Comparable increase in revenue (1.40) and expenses (0.73) from 2019 to 2020 despite the rent rise.

Revenue

Expenses

10

0



The financial performance of the organization is a result of the generous contributions of our supporters. For 2020, we've had the privilege of receiving funds from various individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations and government. These financial contributions have aided in the growth of the organization. We are sincerely thankful to all. Special thanks to our major and monthly donors that allow us to channel unrestricted funds to areas that are most needed. We are thankful for the continuous support of businesses such as United Way, Second Harvest, Dr. Zeeshan Waseem Medicine Professional Corp., Toronto Foundation, Breakfast Club, CST Consultants, The Bank of Nova Scotia, Culture Link, The Home Depot Foundation, Elliott Ferraro Family Foundation, Rochon Building Corporation, Enbridge, Afro-Caribbean Business Network Foundation, just to name a few. THANK YOU!

SPECIAL MENTION



RBC Foundation



AUBREY & MARLA DAN FOUNDATION



TORONTO



D Toronto



Cityline



Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada Canada







Fondation ECHO Foundation



Jumpstart



Loyalty One









Partnerships

Partnerships are a key contributing factor to Frontlines success. Through our joint efforts with local businesses, community agencies, government representatives, religious organizations, volunteers, and local organizations have allowed us to engage and help youth within the York-South Weston community. By teaming up we are able to create events, programs, and workshops to better the lives of the youth.

Our **key partners** who help make things possible include but are not limited to: **Businesses**: Castlepoint Numa, Greater Toronto Airports Authority **Community Agencies:** Second Harvest, Urban Arts, Weston Area Emergency Support, Youth Winning Youth, Community Place Hub, STEM HUB Foundation, Syme-Woolner Neighborhood and Family Centre, Shakespeare In Action **Government representatives:** Councillor Frances Nunziata, MPP Faisal Hassan and MP Ahmed Hussein **Religious organizations:** Muslim Women of York Region , C3 Church, Weston Park Baptist Church

Volunteers: Placement students from George Brown College, Seneca College, and Humber College

Local organizations: Toronto Police 12 Division, Weston Business Improvement Area (BIA), Weston Tennis Club, York Lions Club, Sisters Keeper Basketball



THEB











Board Members

Asquith Allen Brigitte Sache Joyce Nyhof Young Olu Falope Alexandra Snelgrove Adriana Avramova Natasha Gevikoglu Daisy Bygrave Carol Latimer Bill Taylor

Thank You to Board, Staff and Volunteers

Staff

Stachen Lett-Frederick Patrice Chadee Latisha Taylor Shochoy Fray Jeff Osbourne Alagie Bah Shanice Donkor Marlon Morgridge Shanel Kong Abigail Wonuigwe Tobias Rampage Chantel Guthrie Jordyn Gibson Lea Muamba



OUR IMPACT IS WELL DOCUMENTED IN THE NEWS

https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9805550--there-are-other-options-youth-madecookbook-aims-to-curb-youth-violence/

https://www.tvo.org/article/our young people are struggling supporting youth in need during covid 19 https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/community shaken after multiple shootings in weston neighbourhood 1.5345472

https://www.toronto.com/news story/9938636 toronto frontlines staff continue to serve community at a safe distance/

https://www.cityline.tv/video/cityline creates a teen lounge for the frontlines organization/

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/08/09/cooking up confidence in a craft courtesy of frontlines culinary practice.html

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CATER FROM US

In Person and Virtual Events

(All Covid protocols are followed)

www.frontlines.to/catering

DONATE TODAY

Visit us at www.frontlines.to/donate

Charity# 856995824RR0001

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