



Annual Report

2017 - 2018

Sowing Seeds of Greatness

Weston Frontlines Centre

1844 Weston Road
Toronto, ON, M9N 1V8
www.frontlines.to
info@frontlines.to
416-244-7017





OUR MISSION

Frontlines addresses the pressing needs of Weston's children and youth. We foster and restore wellness and respect among our diverse neighbours by building relationships and providing programs that address the whole child.

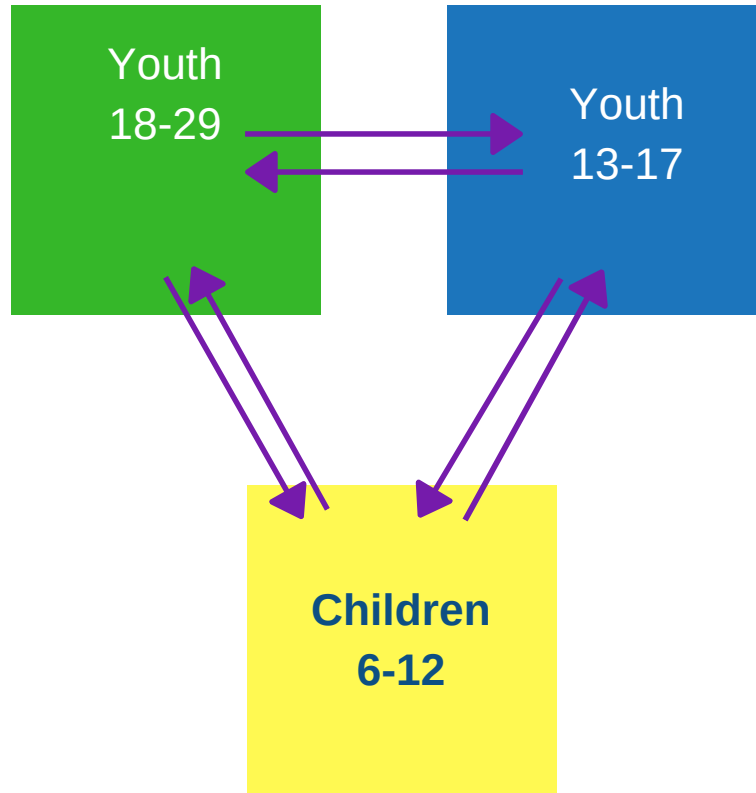
OUR VISION

The Weston community is a place of peace and wholeness, where children and youth experience safety and true value.

OUR FOCAL THEMES

- RELATIONSHIPS
- BUILDING
- SERVING THE WHOLE CHILD
- JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION
- STEWARDSHIP
- RESPONSIVENESS

Our Model Youth Supporting Youth



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 Board Chair

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching Frontlines raise the bar as an organization in the community. While obstacles have been many and quite challenging, there has been a steadfast commitment to provide a safe space and quality programs for children and youth in Weston and surrounding communities. Under the leadership of Stachen Frederick, the Executive Director, Frontlines have grown tremendously in the past year and we look forward to sharing with you in this Annual Report.

In 2017, we began our strategic planning process and held several round table discussions with key stakeholders in 2018. Our research has showed us how increasingly important Frontlines' programs and services are in Weston. As one parent mentioned in a discussion, "There is just something about Frontlines. My son used to run away from other afterschool programs and I would be getting calls all the time but at Frontlines, no calls. Matter of fact, he does not want to leave Frontlines." I have heard many stories of youth who found Frontlines as a place of comfort. Whether it was a youth in the culinary program who was homeless who came to Frontlines early every morning because he had nowhere else to go or the mothers' feedback from above, these are testaments of Frontlines' presence in the lives of our young people. Much of this impact has to do with the staff and volunteers at Frontlines. Thank you for the work that you do for our youth.

Staff has also worked hard in raising the profile of Frontlines with the various government officials, community partners, students, volunteers and beyond. Frontlines continues to be a trusted resource for both new and established community organizations seeking to gain a better understanding of the best practices of working with children, youth and families. Over the past year, there has been growth in common vision and collective action with many of our partners. Frontlines has moved from simply having a seat at the table to helping set the agenda for sensitive issues.

A big shout out to all our Frontlines' champions and a special thank you to our donors, friends and supporters. Our success is the community's success. My thanks to everyone who has generously given of their time to serve on the Board, your contributions have helped to make Frontlines strong and vibrant.

I am proud of what Frontlines has accomplished and excited about the future. As we move forward in the strategic planning process, we look forward to sharing our plans with you. I encourage you to get involved with Frontlines and help us sow seeds of greatness in our young people.



Message from Executive Director

2017 was my first full year at Frontlines and it was great to see the many changes that occurred over the past year. Financial stability and diversity are at the forefront of my agenda to ensure that Frontlines continues to operate in this unpredictable not for profit sector. While there were many successes in this area of our operations, it should be noted that a longtime donor organization could no longer meet their commitments to Frontlines. Individual donation amounts have decreased over the years but this is reflective of general trends in the sector. Despite this, our annual budget has increased by 100K. We had our first ever sold out annual dinner in 2017 with the theme of Sowing Seeds of Greatness and raised over \$20,000 for our programs. We have also diversified our funding through the development of a social enterprise: a catering business called Frontburners Youth Kitchen. I am proud of the growth of this business. Special mention must be given to the Canadian Training Institute that provided us with a major contract; catering for 3 alternative programs in neighbouring schools. Thank you as well to all who have ordered from our kitchen and to those who gave one time donations as well as constantly to Frontlines.

I am thankful for corporate sponsors that have continued to support Frontlines such as Royal Bank, Jumpstart, Home Depot, York Lions and LoyaltyOne. We had some new funders such as Epicure and Kiwanis. The government at all levels have provided funding to Frontlines in the last year and I will like to thank our government representatives for being great supporters of Frontlines. I would like to thank our past Member of Provincial Parliament, Laura Albanese for hosting a media launch of the Multicultural Capacity Building Grant at Frontlines in the summer of 2017. Frontlines was a recipient of this grant that resulted in the installation of a Mural called Sowing Seeds of Diversity. We look forward to building new and strengthening old relationships with businesses, government, funders and all stakeholders.

Relationship building is one of the six focal themes at Frontlines and as such our relationships with our young people matter. I remember listening to a young person at one of our culinary graduation ceremonies and the young man stated "No other place worked for me but Frontlines. They understand me and I feel like home here". I would like to think that the home atmosphere is the secret recipe to all our programs. We have graduated over 56 youth last year in the culinary program and produced over 50,000 meals either for caterings or for feeding our after-school programs. We serve over 300 youth in our after-school and camp programs (6-12). I am thankful for the growth in our 13-17 age group as we know that this age group can be easily influenced into going down the wrong path. This work would not be possible without the tireless effort of our staff. Thank you for all that you do. Thank you as well to our wonderful partners such as York West Active Living, Socacize, SelfLove Youth Empowerment and York Weston Tennis Club, just to name a few. While the sharing of financial and capital resources are important, sometimes the emotional support is just as important. In 2017, there were some violent incidents in Weston and what was evident that we had many supportive partners that called to check in on us.

As gun violence and other social issues impact this community, Frontlines will continue addressing the pressing needs of children and youth in 2018 and beyond. I am proud to share about our programs in this report. I look forward to continued support from you and the community.

Get to Know Us

Management



In 2017, Stachen Frederick was recognized as one of the 150 Black Women making a difference in Canada. She utilizes her various accolades and platforms to raise awareness of, and funding to Frontlines.



Svetlana (Lana) Ortseva was promoted from Administrative Coordinator to Program Manager in 2017. She is fondly referred to as the glue to Frontlines.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

Darlene Lucas, Chair
Chris VanDooren, Finance Chair
Carol Latimer, Fundraising Chair
Bill Taylor, HR Chair
Matthew Eubank
Susanne Hunter
Roy Wellington
Joyce Nyhof-Young
Abraham Ogbaslase
Brigitte Sache



There are a number of staff that helped make our general program successful but who have now left to pursue different educational, entrepreneurial or job opportunities. We thank Tania Riverol Diaz, Sekou Kaba and Alex Mensah of the afterschool program for helping to Sow Seeds of Greatness in our youth. We thank Noella Charles and Thea Estaquio of the Culinary program for making it such a success.



Every year, we are fortunate to receive funds to hire youth to run our camp through the Canada Summer Jobs. These youth are between the ages of 16-29. We are thankful to our federal representative for their support.

THANK
YOU



In 2017, Frontlines served over 300 children and youth through our after school programs, camps and volunteer programs. All our programs are accompanied by a meal and snack.



Homework club (Children and Youth 6-17): Education is key at Frontlines. While Tuesday is our main day for homework club, homework assistance is available to children on all days of programming. We also had a partnership with CR Marchant in 2017 providing homework support on Mondays at the school. Thank you LoyaltyOne for investing long term in our homework program.



So you think you can cook (Children 6-12): While the majority of meals are provided through our culinary program, we think it is important for youth to learn the important life skill of cooking. This program happens on Wednesday and is our most popular program.



The Journey (Children 6-12): Self Exploration is a life long process and Frontlines believes that this process should start at a very young age. During this program, youth get to explore their likes and dislikes; their values and learn what it means to be resilient young people.



Free Up Fridays: Youth have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities including but not limited to sports, art, computers, cooking, reading, homework and playing games.



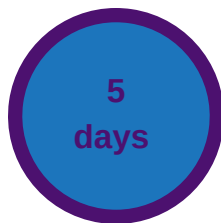
Camps: March Break and Variety Summer Camp (Children and Youth 6-17) : In 2017, Frontlines introduced our first ever March break camp and it was a huge success. In the summer, we had a number of variety camps including cultural camp, basketball camp and general camp. Thank you Canada Summer Jobs, Kiwanis and Jumpstart for funding our camps and thank you to Socacise, one of partners for supporting the cultural camp.



Leaders in Training (Youth 13-17): Frontlines runs a volunteer and capacity building program for youth. Youth are able to gain volunteer hours by supporting the running of programs, preparation of meals, communication, administration and many other tasks. Youth also partake in workshops to build their capacity and provide career guidance.



Frontburners Youth Kitchen (18-29): We offer a free 8 weeks, culinary skills training program for youth ages 18-29. The program involves hands-on experience in the kitchen, baking, cooking, menu planning, and budgeting. Upon completion, students receive a Safe Food Handler's certificate, Smart Serve, etc, we support youth with employment by assisting in building their resume, working on interview skills and finally placing them in jobs in the food service industry. This is done in conjunction with government funding employment support agencies.



New programs through Partnership

- Don't Front Mentorship Program was a male volunteer led program for young men(13+) in the community.
- GEM dolls (13-18) was a youth led program funded by the City of Toronto Youth Equity Strategy in which young girls received aesthetic instruction while discussing impacting young women.
- Youth in Motion (13 +) was a program funded by the Toronto Foundation and was done in a partnership with SelfLove Youth Empowerment group (main lead) that provided young women with the opportunity to learn about fitness and self love.
- York Weston Tennis Club provided free tennis lessons to children and youth of Frontlines.



"No other place worked for me but Frontlines. They understand me and I feel like home here".

Culinary Program 2017-2018



Frontlines' Frontburners Youth Kitchen formerly known as Catering Careers is on FIRE!!! This program is an 8 weeks culinary training program for youth between the ages of 18-29, who face barriers to employment. In each cohort, 10-12 participants gain job ready skills to work in the ever-growing food service sector. Students participate in workshops pertaining to the food service industry, attend culinary trips, and hear from leading experts.

Participants put into practice what they learnt in the classroom through hands on experience in the kitchen, through preparation of meals for our afterschool programs, paid caterings and contracts. Thank you to the Inspiring Minds Program under the Canadian Training Institute for having a contract with Frontlines to provide meals for students in three local schools in 2017 and for all organizations and individuals who have catered from Frontlines. A special thank you for Second Harvest for providing us food/raw materials for our program in 2017 and for developing a new partnership that we will be excited to share more about in 2018 annual report.

In 2017, we had more than 50 youth graduate from the program. The youth have produced over 60,000 meals yearly and volunteered more than 5000 hours. All participants have gone on to some form of employment, education or entrepreneurship in the culinary sector. Participants have gained employment at golf clubs, restaurants, hotels and at Frontlines. We thank our partners such as Pathways to Possibilities for providing food handling training at a reduced price to Frontlines and providing additional support in connecting students with jobs.

We would like to thank Royal Bank and Home Depot for supporting Frontlines culinary program once again in 2017. At the end of 2017, Frontlines entered a national competition with Epicure and we won \$20,000 in cash and \$20,000 in in-kind culinary products. We look forward to continued financial stability of this program, as it not only provides development of employment skills and opportunities but helps to address food security in this community through the provision of meals to our children and youth.

Our Donors

LoyaltyOne



2017 - Celebrating 100 Years!

Kiwanis

TORONTO



E P I C U R E



The funding to keep our doors open and to run programs comes as a result of extensive grant writing, networking and promoting to raise awareness of the need for our programs in this community. York-South Weston is one of the poorest ridings in not only Toronto but across Ontario. The issues of the community are many including low post secondary and secondary graduation rates, unemployment, food insecurity, poor health, gun violence and much more. There is a need for safe spaces for children and youth so that they are not on the streets and there is an opportunity to sow seeds of greatness in their lives.

The funders below have responded to the needs in the community

General funds- Dillon Consulting Limited, Ciot, Ward Funeral Homes, Humber River Dentistry, Weston, All Canadian Self Storage, York Lions

Homework - LoyaltyOne, Meridian and Walmart

Summer Program- Kiwanis and Jumpstart

Culinary program- Cooperators, Epicure, Royalbank

Fitness programs- Toronto Foundation

Mentorship program- City of Toronto

Art- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Job Opportunities- Service Canada and City of Toronto



Our Partners Volunteers and Supporters

Community agencies, government representatives, religious institutions, volunteers, police, businesses and resident associations are also on the frontlines of change in York- South Weston.

We are fortunate to have relationships with many of them for programs and events . We have provided a summary of partnerships that have occurred in 2017.

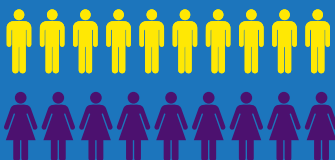
Community Agencies

- Canadian Training Institute- Providing meals to schools
- Kids Up Front Toronto- Tickets
- PTP- Support in Food Handling Training and Employment Subsidies
- Progress Place- Space, Black History Month Events, Fall Festival and referrals
- Second Harvest- Food in 2017. Look out for updates to this partnership in 2018
- SelfLove Youth Empowerment- Girl's Fitness Training Program
- Urban Arts- Black History Month Event
- Weston Area Emergency Services- Shared space and supplies
- York West Active Living- Space for our AGM and for our first ever Holiday Brunch
- Youth Winning Youth- Food

Business, Religious Organizations and Government

- All Canadian Self Storage- Storage, Annual Dinner Sponsorship
- Ciot, Humber Dentistry, Dillon Consulting Limited - Annual Dinner Sponsorship
- Little Caesar's - Weekly pizza
- P&M Restaurant- BBQ Sponsorship
- Socacize - Cultural Camp
- Squibbs- BBQ Sponsorship
- Weston Baptist Church - Space
- Weston Golf Club - Annual Dinner Sponsorship and Culinary Youth Support
- Weston Business Improvement Area- Spot at Weston Market
- Government- Hosted Year end Holiday Party at Frontlines
- I Can I Will- Toys
- Woodbine Racetrack- Summer Camp Trip, Annual Dinner and Holiday Gift Sponsorship

Volunteers



- 11 placement students from colleges such as George Brown, Seneca College, Humber College
- 5574 volunteer placement hours
- Volunteer hours were also counted for youth in our culinary program. Over 6000 volunteer hours were contributed by our youth
- Leaders in Training volunteers contributed over 1500 volunteer hours to our camp and volunteer programs

To support Frontlines, please contact us at info@frontlines.to or call 416-244-7017

Financials



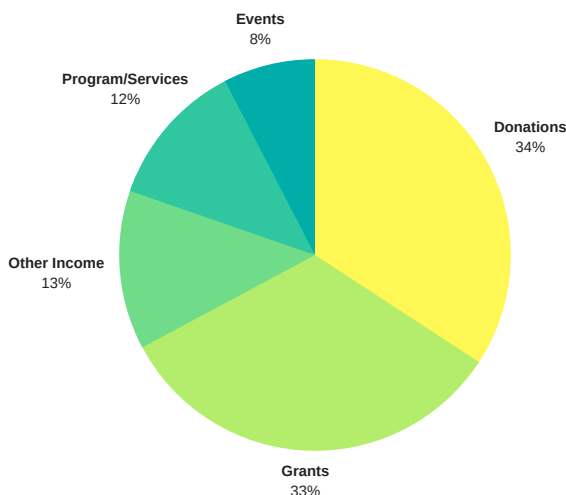
Weston Frontlines Centre

Revenue	2017	2016
Contributions	\$ 218,651	\$ 136,655
Government Grants	\$ 86,144	\$ 96,468
Other	\$ 8,627	\$ 250
	\$ 313,422	\$ 233,373

Expenses

Wages and benefits	\$ 229,316	\$ 183,299
Direct program	\$ 51,511	\$ 41,870
Office and general	\$ 54,384	\$ 43,485
Professional fees	\$ 18,335	\$ 11,554
	\$ 353,546	\$ 280,208

Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(\$40,124)	(\$46,835)
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- Frontlines is a registered charity- Charity# 856995824RR0001
- Full audited financial statements are available upon request
- Office and general expenses include building, utilities, communications, and insurance.
- Professional fees include audit, financial administration, and reporting
- Frontlines was able to diversify its revenue sources in 2017 which grew by 33%.
- 2017 saw a significant investment in program operations, diversifying revenue sources and investments in business development directed at long-term financial sustainability.

INVESTING IN YOUTH.SHARING THE STORIES



Jayden is one of the most helpful youth at Frontlines. Whether it is washing dishes or sweeping up after the younger kids, Jayden is always willing to support.

You would never know from his level of volunteerism at our center that Jayden suffers from Juvenile Arthritis and it affects his right wrist and left ankle.

In 2017, a number of tickets were sponsored by our donors for youth and Jayden was selected to attend our Annual Dinner. Through the generous support of Dr.Zeeshan Waseem Medical Corporation, Raptors tickets were raffled off and the winner of the tickets drew a youth's name from a box and Jayden won amazing seats to the Raptors. Jayden was so happy to attend. Above is a picture of Jayden at the game.

If you would like to provide auction items, sponsor youth to our Annual Dinner or simply donate to Frontlines, please feel free to contact us at

info@frontlines.to or call 416-244-7017



WAYS TO DONATE

Visit us at www.frontlines.to/donate

Charity# 856995824RR0001

CONTACT US

1844 Weston Road,

Toronto, Ontario

info@frontlines.to

(416) 244-7017



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