



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

By Weston Frontlines Centre

"Youth Voice, Community Support."



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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

*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 (6-12 ages). 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 the Interim Executive Director

It is my honour to step into this role of Interim Executive Director in support of Stachen Lett-Frederick's maternity leave. This Annual Report covers the year past under Stachen's steady leadership, and whilst I was not at Frontlines, I had the pleasure of meeting with many of our stakeholders and learning about the impact we have had on the community. I am excited to be able to share and give a recap of the year in this report.

And what an incredible year for Frontlines it has been. We are proud to say Frontlines is still standing strong. The pandemic unequivocally demonstrated the central role that non-profits play in stabilizing communities in times of intense crisis while also striving for greater inclusivity and synergy across our programs. Hotspot regions in the Greater Toronto Area faced the greatest increase in demand for programs and services and this was reflected in the increased number of participants seeking vital services every day. More than ever before, a total 521 children and youth came through Frontlines' doors in the past year seeking support across a wide array of programs. Some programs included summer camp, after school programs that provide tutoring and leadership support as well as job readiness and employment placement programs that offer support to youth to access meaning employment opportunities in various sectors including construction, social work and culinary. As lockdown measures eased, we were able to resume in-person support for many of our programs. Crafting a better approach rested on shaping a hybrid model that allowed for robust operations while maintaining continuity in service throughout. This would not have been possible without the Frontline volunteers who provided over 10,000 hours of support.

One area where it was critical that we maintained continuity was in the delivery of meals. The pandemic exacerbated levels of food insecurity in already vulnerable communities across Ontario in particular York South-Weston. We know that food insecurity is a public health issue that is highest amongst the most vulnerable communities that was exacerbated during the pandemic. The ability for Frontlines to provide access to healthier meal options targeted this core need and the related community risks such as mental health. Frontlines continues to bridge the gap on food insecurity serving 23,808 meals to the most vulnerable members of the community throughout the year.

Frontlines continues to play an active role in strengthening the social infrastructure within the communities' cultivating spaces for children and youth to thrive. We have done that by centering cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being development of children and young people.

Providing services that support community well-being such as after-school activities, arts and culture, sports and recreation and interactive play-based learning have been the cornerstones of the work we do at Frontlines and more importantly and have contributed to the resilience and sustained growth of the organization through challenging times. Frontlines continues to expand its services. The addition of the Future Employment and Entrepreneurship Track (F.E.E.T) program has been essential to raising the profile of services we offer to young adults in the community. As a flagship program on youth employment, F.E.E.T has helped Frontlines to create pathways to resilient livelihoods and balancing market driven livelihoods with the soft-skills development of youth. As we continue to build this resiliency we ask for your continued support and ask you to join us in sharing our mission and common goals.

Falastin Omar



Message from Interim Board Chair

It has been over two years since the advent of the COVID pandemic which has had major social and economic impact on the lives of Canadians. For many, these past years have offered a chance of introspection and reflection to examine how we have navigated through these complex times while continuing to deliver impactful programming for the Weston community. For us that has meant continuing to strengthen our commitment by addressing the pressing needs of the children and youth while centering our core values to steady the ship through the challenges raised by the pandemic. It is pivotal that we continue to deliver, now more than ever, responsive, and impactful programming that targets the core of the challenges faced by communities; to lean into the challenges of the past year.

Building synergies among our partners and expanding the bridges of hope are foundational in anchoring and steadying Frontlines' work through these turbulent waters. We have strengthened our coordination efforts within the community across a spectrum of community partners and on core community issues. Collaboration and relationship building in a diverse environment has cultivated creativity and in each of these cases Frontlines is poised to deliver holistic programming that focuses on our children and youth.

As the social and economic landscapes have changed within the York South-Weston communities, Frontlines like many organizations, has faced uncertainty on how to best serve the youth in these unprecedented times. We have adapted and evolved to continue to be at the forefront of service delivery. Oscillating between online delivery of our programs and in-person services ensures that Frontlines is sailing towards a successful year and deepening the social impact of the community work we do. Heightened digital literacy is coupled with flexibility, empathy, and collaboration in a spirit of mutual aid to continue to deliver. A critical component that streamlined throughout all of this is our ability to advocate on behalf of the social services' sector and the community.

What we have seen and what we know for sure is that the power of our organization comes from passionate people and staff who live and breathe our shared mission and vision. The ability for us to not only stand on our feet, but to go from strength to strength, and experience a sustained growth over the past year would not have been possible without the participants, partners, donors, and supporters who have helped shape and drive that vision to fruition. Frontlines is grateful for your continued support as we support and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Joachim Kabianu

Programs for children: 6-12 Ages



Homework Club

Every week our staff and volunteers provide 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 continue to partner with experts and volunteers to educate the youth in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Twice a week, volunteers 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 for Teens: 13-17 Ages



Faces of Frontlines

Tap into your artistic side and learn how to be a strong leader. This 6-week art and leadership program allows students to gain knowledge on techniques to flourish within their environments.

The program also equips students with new artistic skills. During the final class, each group unveils a mural created by them throughout the program.



Rooted

A mental health/ self-care program that provides workshops to address culturally relevant issues and a safe environment for the youth we serve. Through the wellness initiative our youth explore different ways to practice self-care as well as gain knowledge about culturally relevant mental health topics.

L.I.T. Program

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

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.



Programs for Young Adults: 18-29 Ages

Culinary Program (Frontburners)



8- week culinary training program where young adults learning the foundations of food preparation, cooking and food presentation. The training offers hands-on experience in the kitchen cooking, baking, menu planning, and budgeting. They also receive Safe Food Handlers and Smart Serve Certificate.

On the Frontlines of Crises



12-week training on social community work and the culinary industry followed by a 4-week placement.

Helping Youth Stand on Their F.E.E.T



Through the support of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Frontlines provides young adults with the Future Employment and Entrepreneurship Track (F.E.E.T). F.E.E.T is a 4-week paid training program where youth, ages 18-29, learn about various careers, resume writing, interview, and employability skills needed to meet the demands of the job market. Participants in the program are supported with 8 weeks paid placement with an employer.

Project Milestones

125

participants to start Employment Skills Training, Entrepreneurship Skills Training, and Employment Services

110

participants will complete Employment Skills Training, Entrepreneurship Skills Training, and Employment Services

110

participants will have access to Quality Employment Opportunities

75

participants will have complete Quality Employment Opportunity

Participant Testimonial



"I learned different life skills at the FEET program, cooking was essential because I wasn't making a lot of meals at home, but once I got into it I started to have a love for it. FEET found me a placement down the street from Frontlines Called WKNC Weston King Neighborhood Centre. My background is in social service work and I really wanted experience in the field. So, when I talked to the workers here, they were able to find something that fit me best and it ended up turning into full time employment!"

DONATIONS

The financial performance of the organization is a result of the generous contributions of our supporters. For 2021 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. 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 support of all our donors. If we missed you on this report, it is not because we are not grateful for your support but a simply oversight. Given that it is an electronic version, we will update if there is an omission. Thank you for your continued support to Frontlines.

Special Mention



AUBREY & MARLA DAN
FOUNDATION

vancouver
foundation



Jumpstart
Bon départ



HUDSON'S BAY CO.



Employment and Social Development
Emploi et Développement social

Canada

LoyaltyOne



Housing and hope
for homeless youth



Fondation **ECHO** Foundation
ECHO



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



Johansen Larsen Foundation



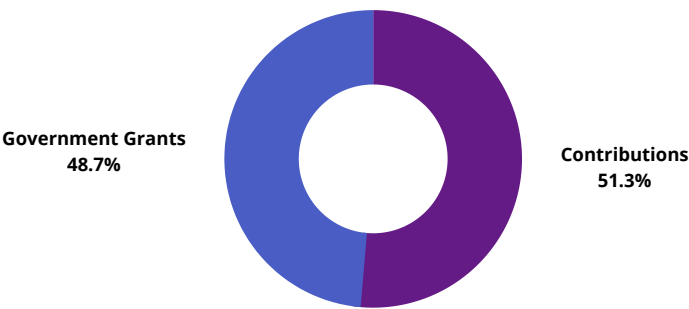
Future Skills
Centre
Centre des
Compétences futures



To donate, visit us at www.frontlines.to/donate

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Weston Frontlines Centre



2020 Overview

REVENUE	2020
Contributions	\$554,543
Government Grants	\$126,391
Other	-
Total	\$680,934

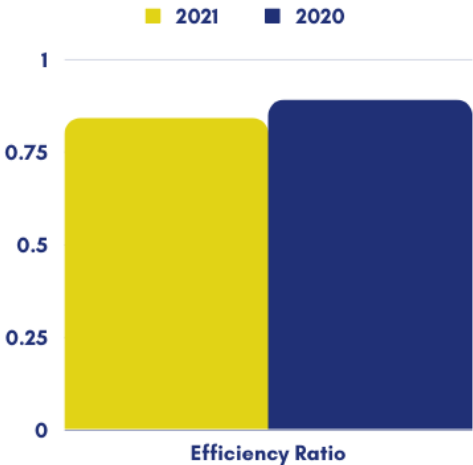
EXPENSES	2020
Wages and benefits	\$363,426
Programs	\$105,652
Office and general	\$60,392
Building costs	\$38,363
Professional fees	\$31,297
Utilities	\$6,296
Total	\$605,426

Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$75,508
Balance - Beginning	\$112,798
Balance - Ending	\$188,306

2021 Overview

REVENUE	2021
Contributions	\$670,212
Government Grants	\$635,082
Other	-
Total	\$1,305,294

EXPENSES	2021
Wages and benefits	\$614,333
Programs	\$288,944
Office and general	\$33,640
Building costs	\$47,898
Professional fees	\$89,941
Utilities	\$16,568
Total	\$1,091,324
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$213,970
Balance - Beginning	\$188,306
Balance - Ending	\$72,276





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

Agencies: Second Harvest, Elephant Thoughts Education Center, Urban Arts, Community Place Hub, Syme-Woolner Neighborhood and Family Centre, Shakespeare In Action.

Government representatives: Councillor Frances Nunziata, MPP Faisal Hassan and MP Ahmed Hussein.

Religious organizations: 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), York Lions Club.

Trustee Organizations: Helping Hands, Elevate Youth and Slye (Student Youth Leadership and Empowerment).



Thank You to our Board, Staff and Volunteers



Board Members

Asquith Allen (Chair), Brigitte Sachse (Vice Chair), Adriana Avramova, Joyce Nyhof-Young, Alex Snelgrove, Terrence Flynn, Natasha Gevikoglu, Olu Falope, Jacqueline Reid,, Rhonda Britton, Niambi Martin-John, Joachim Kabiawu

Staff

Stachen Lett-Frederick (Executive Director), Chantel Guthrie Patrice Chadee, Fantasia Meredith, Latisha Taylor, Shochoy Fray, Jeff Osbourne, Tamika Jarrett, Lana Ortseva, Kezia Williams, Marlon Morgridge, Shanel Kong, Abigail Wonuigwe, Lurie Carrera, Afriyie Donyina, Deandra Ramsay, Pierre Williams, Elizabeth Merchant, I'Manuel Brown.

Check out our community impact in the news media



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

[https://www.tvo.org/article/our young people are struggling supporting youth in need during covid 19](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.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.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.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](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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In Person and Virtual Events

(All Covid protocols are followed)

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