



*Transformation from the bottom line*

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**2023**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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At Frontlines, our core values shape everything we do. We believe in amplifying youth voices, ensuring that every young person is heard and valued. We are responsive to the needs of our community, always striving to address issues and provide support where it's needed most. Building community is at the heart of our mission, fostering connections and solidarity among all members. We prioritize a person-centered approach, recognizing the unique needs and experiences of each individual we serve. Embracing diversity is fundamental to our work, promoting inclusivity and celebrating differences. And finally, we lead with excellence, committing to the highest standards of professionalism and effectiveness in all that we do.



## Our Model

Frontlines addresses the pressing needs of children and youth in Weston and surrounding communities. Through inclusive initiatives, we amplify their voices and empower them to achieve their fullest potential.

## Our Mission

Frontlines addresses the pressing needs of children and youth in Weston and surrounding communities. Through inclusive initiatives, we amplify their voices and empower them to achieve their fullest potential.

## Contact Us

 [info@frontlines.to](mailto:info@frontlines.to)

 416-244-7017

 [www.frontlines.to](http://www.frontlines.to)

## Our Vision

Our vision is that our communities will transform so that all children and youth can have safe and inclusive space(s) to grow, develop, and achieve health, purpose, and a sense of belonging.

# Message From Executive Director

This year was a challenging and transitional year for Frontlines. In my absence for part of 2022 and early 2023, several key relationships with staff, partners, funders, and other stakeholders were impacted. Simultaneously, there were significant investments in the operations of Frontlines to support the growth of the organization. Despite the team's fundraising efforts and operational adjustments, for the first time in 8 years, Frontlines is reporting a deficit. It is a small deficit but one that serves as an indicator for serious decisions to be made for the vitality of Frontlines' future. While the economic climate has resulted in this reality for many non-profits across Canada, it is one that Frontlines has been able to bypass for several years. Now, Frontlines has embarked on a plan to diversify our fundraising efforts to support the growth of this organization. We are thankful to our stakeholders who have stayed with us during this transition.

In juxtaposing the impact of the deficit with the impact that Frontlines has had on the lives of young people, there is truly no comparison. Frontlines had double the number of registrations for our programs. We have expanded our programs not only across Toronto but also across Canada. At the latter end of 2023, Frontlines was notified of an approval from the government of a \$7 million grant, distributed over the next 5 years. This program seeks to address the rise in violence in Toronto and the involvement of racialized and marginalized youth as either victims or perpetrators of crime. This funding allowed for the expansion of Frontlines' efforts to communities across the Greater Toronto Area, including Dorset Park, Regent Park, and the Peel region, through funneling funds to our grassroots partners to do similar work like Frontlines. We were also a recipient of a grant that allowed us to distribute funds to youth all across Canada to run community projects that helped to create a diverse and inclusive Canada.

I am indeed proud of the work of Frontlines. While the work is not easy, it is worth it. The smiles of the young people are worth it. I remember one day in 2023 upon returning, I was dealing with a time-consuming matter with a funder, only to be pulled away to engage in a conversation with a staff member regarding a requirement from a different funder. While heading over to speak to the staff, I saw a young man looking quite distressed on the couch. I walked by the young man and went to speak with the staff. After speaking with the staff, I proceeded to go back to find the young man to inquire about his well-being. Through the conversation with the young man, I learned that he was hungry and was having headaches but was too embarrassed to tell someone. I quickly ran over to the kitchen and asked the staff to prepare a meal for the young man. No youth should go hungry at Frontlines! While waiting on the food, the young man disclosed he had just come out of prison, how he became aware of Frontlines from his friend, and how Frontlines is truly supporting him. After receiving his meal, he turned to me, smiled, and then said, "Thank you, man. Blessings to you." I am proud to say that this young man has a job through one of our amazing employment partners. The smiles are truly worth it.

The work is not possible without the contributions of the dedicated staff members. I cannot express my gratitude enough to them. Similarly, I thank the board members for their contributions to the organization. Together with the staff and the committed board members of Frontlines, I look forward to the future of Frontlines.

Regards,

**Stachen Frederick**  
**Executive Director**



# Message From Board Chair

Dear Members and Partners,

As the Board Chair of the Weston Frontlines Centre, I am thrilled to share that 2023 has been a year of significant growth for our organization. Our programming has expanded in unprecedented ways, reflecting the confidence and support we have received from our government and grant partners. This growth is not just a testament to our commitment to serving our community, but also a reflection of the trust and belief that our partners have in our mission and capabilities.

Our growth in 2023 has been more than just numerical; it has been transformative. We have seen our programs evolve, innovate, and impact more lives than ever before. This growth has been fueled by the unwavering support of our government and grant partners, who have shown immense faith in our vision and our ability to execute it. Their confidence has been a driving force behind our expansion, enabling us to reach more individuals and make a more significant impact.

In response to this growth, we have made a historical change in our organizational structure. Recognizing the need for a robust management system to effectively handle our expanding operations, we have established a dedicated management team. This team is not just a structural addition; it is a strategic move designed to ensure that our growth is sustainable, efficient, and aligned with our mission.

The establishment of the management team marks a new chapter in our journey. It signifies our readiness to adapt and our commitment to managing our growth effectively. As we move forward, we are confident that this team will play a crucial role in steering our organization towards greater heights.

In conclusion, 2023 has been a remarkable year for the Weston Frontlines Centre. As we reflect on our growth and look forward to what lies ahead, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our government and grant partners for their unwavering support. We are excited about the journey ahead and are committed to continuing our work with the same passion and dedication.

Sincerely,

**Board Chair, Weston Frontlines Centre**



# CHILDRENS PROGRAM



Frontlines is proud to offer enriching after-school programs and camps tailored to children ages 6 to 12. Our programs provide a safe and supportive environment where children can learn, grow, and have fun. From engaging educational activities to exciting recreational opportunities, we strive to create a well-rounded experience for every child.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- HOMEWORK CLUB (ONLINE AND IN PERSON)
- SO YOU THINK YOU CAN COOK
- THE JOURNEY
- DROP IN FRIDAY
- SUMMMER CAMP
- MARCH BREAK CAMP



## STAND OUT PROGRAM

In 2023, we welcomed approximately 35 enthusiastic kids per week to our summer camp program, providing them with a vibrant and engaging experience. Throughout the summer, we ensured they were well-nourished by serving approximately 105 nutritious meals to support their growth and energy during their time with us.



# TEEN'S PROGRAM



Frontlines offers dynamic after-school programs tailored to teens, running from 4pm to 6pm. These programs provide a supportive environment where teens can engage in a variety of enriching activities, from academic support to recreational pursuits. Additionally, Frontlines offers exciting opportunities for teens to get involved in our summer camp employment or volunteer programs, providing valuable experiences and the chance to make a positive impact in the community.

**WHAT'S ON MY PLATE**

For Youth: 13-17 years old

W.O.M.P is a program where youth get the chance to learn new cooking recipes and discuss interesting mental health topics. This program takes place every Tuesdays from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- LEADERS IN TRAINING
- WHAT'S ON MY PLATE
- ROOTED
- DROP IN FRIDAY'S
- SUMMER LIT'S



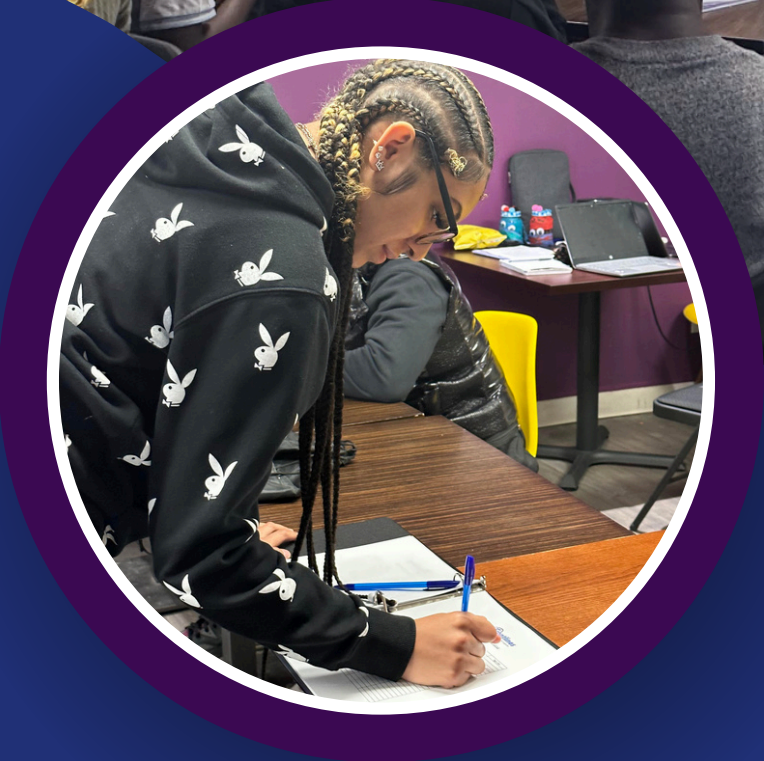
## STAND OUT PROGRAM

In 2023, we welcomed in over 30 teens into our What's On My Plate culinary program, cooking over 50 meals for the year. Throughout the W.O.M.P program we ensure that teens are learning new cooking recipes to develop their culinary skills and engaging in mental health topics that will encourage teens to advocate and seek appropriate support within Frontlines when needed.



# YOUNG ADULTS PROGRAM

Frontlines offers dynamic after-school programs tailored to teens, running from 4pm to 6pm. These programs provide a supportive environment where teens can engage in a variety of enriching activities, from academic support to recreational pursuits. Additionally, Frontlines offers exciting opportunities for teens to get involved in our summer camp employment or volunteer programs, providing valuable experiences and the chance to make a positive impact in the community.



*Find your*

## F.E.E.T

**FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRACK**

For Youth 15-30 years old

- 4 weeks paid training
- Learn about various careers, resume writing and skills needed to meet the new job market.
- Paid Jobs, internship and entrepreneurship matching
- Get support to be connected to many opportunities.
- Completion bonus
- Gift cards and much more
- To help you succeed.

TAKE THE STEP

### STAND OUT PROGRAM

### WHAT WE OFFER

- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- ON THE FRONTLINES OF CRISIS
- CULINARY ARTS
- FUTURE EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRACK



In 2023, a total of 148 individuals successfully completed the F.E.E.T program. Additionally, 94 people completed their placements, with 19 of those completing the placement as part of the YIB program. Furthermore, 26 participants graduated from the YIB program.



## YOUTH IN THE BLACK: FINANCIAL LITERARY

In 2023, Frontlines successfully ran two cohorts of our Financial Literacy Program tailored for young adults aged 16-29, primarily Black youth from the Little Jamaica community. Over the course of 8 weeks, participants attended in-class training sessions where they received compensation for their attendance. Through these sessions, they delved into essential topics such as saving, budgeting, accounting, life insurance, generational wealth creation, investing, and debt and credit management, among others. This program was made possible through a partnership with the City of Toronto, underscoring our commitment to empowering youth with vital financial knowledge and skills.

After completing the intensive 8-week in-class training at Frontlines for our Financial Literacy Program, participants transitioned into a placement phase where they applied their newfound knowledge in real-life scenarios. This placement opportunity provided invaluable hands-on experience, allowing participants to put their financial literacy skills into practice and gain practical insights into various financial contexts. Through engaging with real-world challenges and responsibilities, participants further reinforced their understanding of financial concepts and developed crucial problem-solving abilities. The placement phase not only complemented the theoretical learning from the classroom but also empowered participants to navigate and thrive in diverse financial environments confidently.



## 20 Youth got place



### PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL BY RAHMON YUSUF

As a newcomer to Canada, my participation in the financial literacy program provided me with crucial insights. I learned how to build a solid financial foundation to achieve my goals and understood the significance of credit. Through the program, I gained strategies to establish a good credit score and learned how to manage various types of loans and the concept of interest rates. I acquired knowledge about banking services, budgeting, saving, and avoiding debt. The program also covered important topics such as credit scores, taxes, and available financial support resources. The instructor was exceptional, breaking down lessons and delivering explanations effectively. Overall, it was an immensely beneficial learning experience for me as a newcomer in Canada.

# DONOR APPRECIATION 2023

Our objective is to tackle the urgent requirements of children and adolescents in Weston and nearby areas. This goal is achievable thanks to your consistent backing. Your faith in our mission establishes a nurturing environment for the development and flourishing of young minds.

We are immensely grateful! Our deep appreciation goes out to our kind-hearted donors and supporters for endorsing our mission and fostering the potential of youth. Your assistance forms the bedrock of our endeavors, and your involvement is indispensable. Together, we are effecting enduring change. Thank you for positively influencing the lives of our youth.



We have sought to include everyone's logo on this page. However, if we have accidentally omitted anyone, please note that we are truly sorry. Please let us know and we will update the electronic version.



# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## WESTON FRONTLINES CENTRE

### GENERAL FUND

#### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

For the year ended December 31,

2023

2022

#### REVENUE

Government grants (Note 4)	\$ 1,920,358	\$ 782,007
Contributions, grants, programs and miscellaneous	<u>994,217</u>	<u>1,119,266</u>
	<u>2,914,575</u>	<u>1,901,273</u>

#### EXPENSES

Programs	1,339,902	1,063,107
Wages and benefits	1,154,138	557,567
Professional fees	201,767	61,952
Administration and general	140,787	24,720
Building costs	95,909	148,942
Utilities	<u>18,536</u>	<u>20,545</u>
	<u>2,951,039</u>	<u>1,876,833</u>

#### EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

(36,464)      24,440

#### BALANCE - BEGINNING

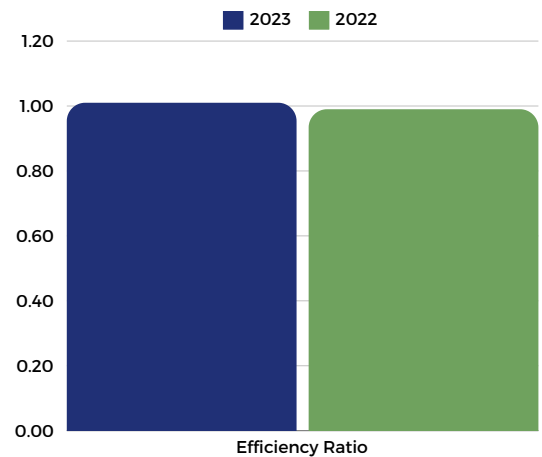
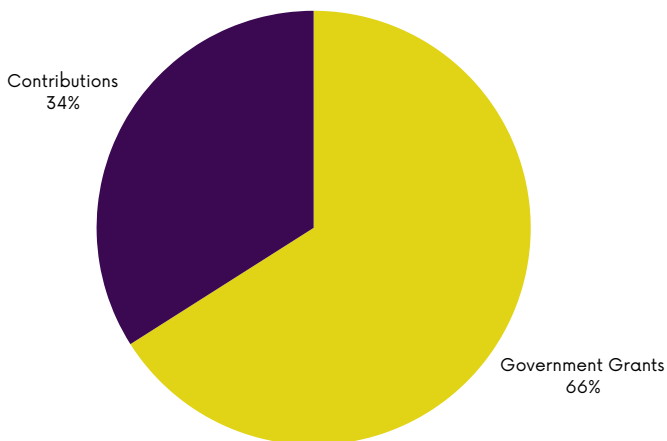
96,716      72,276

#### Transfer to Reserve Fund

-      -

#### BALANCE - ENDING

\$ 60,252      \$ 96,716



# Catering Services

Creating Culinary Memories for Every Occasion!



## Our Services:



- ▶ Wedding Catering
- ▶ Corporate Event Catering
- ▶ Social Event Catering
- ▶ Health-conscious Catering
- ▶ Buffet Catering
- ▶ Bakery and Pastry Catering

## About Us

In 2023, Frontlines made a significant impact by assisting 10,128 people through our Thursday Pick Up Meals and Grocery Bags program.

Our summer camp served 328 youth, while 3,120 youth participated in our afterschool programs.

Additionally, our Culinary Program, held from January to March and September to December, successfully trained and served 40 students



# BECOME A DONOR

Join us in making a meaningful impact in the lives of youth by becoming a donor of Frontlines. Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated. With your contribution, we can provide more programs and resources that directly benefit the youth in our community. Every donation helps us create opportunities for growth, learning, and empowerment. Together, we can ensure that young people have the support they need to thrive and succeed. Thank you for considering to support Frontlines and for being a part of our mission to make a difference in the lives of youth.

**DONATE NOW**

[info@frontlines.to](mailto:info@frontlines.to)  
[www.frontlines.to](http://www.frontlines.to)



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Weston Frontlines Centre





**THANK  
YOU**

Your willingness to help can make a world of difference.