

Jane Finch Community Ministry



Community

Annual Report
2023



History & Mission



The Jane Finch Ministry is a community ministry of the United Church of Canada within Shining Waters Region. Since 1982 it was situated in the middle of Toronto Community Housing's Firgrove Community. In the spring of 2017 one third of the 380 units were deemed inhabitable, due to disrepair and slated for demolition. Being that the unit the ministry was housed in, was one of them, the ministry office had to move to the adjacent Firgrove Public School in the fall of 2017. Although Firgrove is the immediate catchment area, the ministry provides support and is also involved in initiatives taking place in the larger area of Jane and Finch.

Although the community suffers from issues related to poverty and social exclusion, it is rich in culture with over 70 different languages and dialects spoken and representation from 110 nations. With the United Church's historic involvement in the Social Gospel movement and its commitment to social justice the United Church, through this ministry has tried to stand in solidarity with the Jane and Finch community in their struggles and issues since 1982.

Most of the programs and initiatives of the ministry are done in partnership with others and we are grateful for this collaborative approach in building upon the strengths and assets of the community to meet the deficit needs.



We are a ministry of pastoral presence within the culturally diverse Jane Finch Community providing support in community development, community organizing and advocacy. We are an integral part of the community, attentive to its needs and challenges but transformed by its grace and the hope of a more just society void of systemic racism and economic oppression.



Minister's Reflections for 2023

by Barry Rieder

As I approach retirement and looking back at my 29 years of working in the community I know that I have been truly blessed to work in such a vibrant community with such dedicated and talented people. Yes, there have been hardships that the community has endured and at times, as a minister standing with the community it has been hard. But its only because of the resilient caring spirit of the people of the community that has kept me going. I am grateful to all who have supported me in this journey and all the positive memories that will live in me as I enter a new chapter of my life.



This May, the Shining Waters Region of the United Church passed a proposal committing long term sustained funding for the base support of the ministry. In December the board appointed Lorraine Anderson to be the new Community Minister. Lorraine, in addition to being the executive director of the Firgrove Learning and Innovation Community Centre, has been an active volunteer with the ministry for over 20 years filling in for me at times when I was on leave. She comes with much skills, passion and compassion and I know that the community is in good hands with her stepping into this new role.

Unfortunately Jane and Finch has the highest amount of gun charges of any neighbourhoods in Toronto. Gun violence is a symptom of a larger problem, which is systemic racialized poverty where young people feel a lack of hope. The Ministry has continued to look at root causes and spend efforts in trying to increase the economic stability of the community. The Passport to Employment (PTE) program, done in conjunction with the Neighborhood Action Youth Employment Committee, provided 538 certificate trainings for youth. We are grateful for the support last year from the TD Bank, Hendrie Trust Fund as well as the Tippet, Gooder and Peter Gilgan foundations for their support.

Andrea Tabnor hosted the 12th annual Jane Finch Unity BBQ this summer. The event promotes Unity and the ending of gun violence, bringing feuding factions of the community together in a successful way. DJ music happens through out the day, interspersed with spoken word and inspirational messages. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Roasted Corn, BBQ'd and Jerk Chicken as well as refreshments are all free. Activities for the kids included jumpy castles, face painting, cotton candy and a dance off. The dance off was incredible and each year people say best Unity event ever.

With dedicated volunteers we continued our monthly food day assisting up to 57 families and were able to provide food gift cards several months, due to grant support. Our Festive Season event was a drop-in style in which we handed out presents for the children and food boxes. In total we provided 240 meals and 88 presents.

As I prepare to say goodbye, I know that I have been truly shaped by my experience working in this wonderful community and to adapt the old saying, "You can take the person out of Jane and Finch but you can't take Jane and Finch out of the person". Thanks for the journey.

Initiatives of the Ministry



The Ministry provides information and referral to people who drop by the office or phone in. A variety of issues are dealt with such as legal matters, immigration, housing concerns, employment, schooling, skills training, parental support, conflict mediation, access to food, translation, etc..

Pastoral care includes supportive listening, crisis counseling, grief counseling, hospital visitation, conducting funerals, vigils or memorials, house blessings and naming ceremonies.

With support from the United Church's Gift with Vision

- ◆ 200 backpacks with supplies were assembled and given out to children and youth in Firgrove, Jane Finch Unity and two parent groups



With financial support from the TD bank, Hendrie Trust fund as well as Tippet, Gooder and Peter Gilgan foundations we provided, through the Passport to Employment program we provided,

- ◆ 538 pre-employment trainings for youth in 5 schools as well as youth out of school and out of work. These Ontario recognized certificate based trainings included customer service, high five (working with children), food handling, smart serve, fork lift and first aid training. We also provided workshops on resume building and interview skills.

43 Volunteers and family members attended a community retreat at Five Oaks

With the support from North York Harvest Foodbank and dedicated volunteers

- ◆ 57 families were provided food support with our monthly food day

In addition to this, over \$3,000 was provided in food gift cards to support people struggling financially.

With support from the Chum CP24 Christmas Wish Foundation, Humber Valley United and 31 Division of Toronto Police Services

- ◆ 92 families were provided Xmas gifts for 203 children

This year for the Festive Season celebration we provided 240 boxed meals that people could take home and 88 gifts bought for children.



Initiatives of the Ministry

Community development initiatives that the ministry provided financial and in some cases organizing support to include: Firgrove Learning & Innovation Community Centre, Mother's day event, Basket Ball program at Westview, Gymnastic mats for dance program in Grandravine, Jane Finch Unity BBQ and a Seniors Wellness program in Firgrove.

Coalitions, Collaboratives and Networks that the Ministry was involved in:

- ◆ Black Creek Community Collaborative
- ◆ Black Creek Financial Empowerment Advisory Committee
- ◆ Jane Finch Crisis Support Network
- ◆ Community Arts Hub Organizing Committee
- ◆ Neighbourhood Action Youth Employment Committee
- ◆ Jane Finch Youth Employment Collective Impact project

Church Involvement:

- ◆ Shining Waters Regional Community Ministries Sustainability Working Group
- ◆ United Church's Guaranteed Livable Income campaign



Thanks to all who have contributed either time or financial support for the work of the Jane Finch Community Ministry.

A special thanks to Lorraine Anderson (Office Coordinator/program support), Halima Abdela (Admin support/Bookkeeper), Marilyn Quashie, Hazel Reis, Margaret Nti, Carlis Dunbar Quyen Ly (Food Day Coordinators), Joseph Henry and Tajiio Smith (Passport to Employment Coordinators), Andrea Tabnor (Jane Finch Unity), Matthew Fox and Mandy Clifton (BCCC/NAYEC Coordinator).



Thanks to the Jane Finch Steering Committee and the Board of the Community Ministries for its support, guidance and governance.



Also special thanks to the former Toronto West and South West Presbytery for creating and supporting ministries like this and for the core financial support from the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation, Shining Waters Regional Council of the United Church as well as the United Church Mission and Service Fund which allows this ministry to happen.



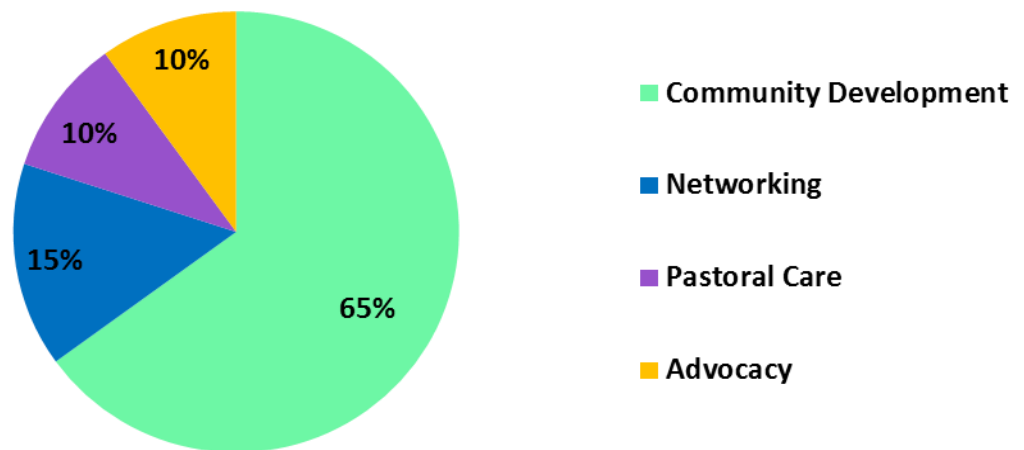
Funding

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Expense

Income	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2022 Audited
Foundations and Grants	156,416	225,150	174,286
Church Revenue	145,309	151,791	144,886
Donations	7,633	6,600	19,723
Fundraising/Income Generation	22,356	16,600	18,164
Government Sources	24,051	16,706	7,482
Total Income	355,765	416,847	364,541
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	223,153	245,922	195,690
Program	86,736	86,642	89,420
Purchased Services	29,796	60,000	49,790
Administration	30,767	31,575	32,655
Total Expense	370,452	424,139	367,555
Surplus / (Deficit)	(14,687)	(13,634)	(3,014)



How Jane Finch Community Ministry uses funding



Full Financial Reports Available Upon Request

Funders & Partners



United Churches

Bloordale
Humber Valley
Humbercrest
Islington



SHINING WATERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



Hendrie Trust



Gooder Foundation

Tippet Foundation



United Way
Greater Toronto

gifts with vision

NAÏEC

Neighbourhood Action Youth Employment Committee



Peter Gilgan
Foundation



Toronto Community Housing



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