

# Davenport Perth Community Ministry



**2016 Annual Report**

**Charity # 889555181RR0001**



*Beat the Winter Blues returned and featured North of Queen among other performers.*



*Our "potters" take a trip to an art show on Spadina.*



*Fermentation workshops include learning how to make kimchi.*



*DPCM joins Bread and Bricks continues to meet 1-3pm Thursdays*

## DPCM Mission is Social Justice

The United Church of Canada states that caring for one another is central to Jesus' teachings: feed the hungry, satisfy the thirsty, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. One of the ways it accomplishes this is through the work of South West Presbytery's Davenport Perth Community Ministry (DPCM).

DPCM provides community development, community organizing support, pastoral care and works with coalitions and networks in partnership with others to advocate on behalf of issues.

This work is reflected in a variety of ways – through bible studies, worship, prayer, preaching, individual support, visits, meetings – witnessing to the loving and reconciling God.

It means being present at events such as the Community Unity Iftar to stand together against hatred after the Orlando shooting, being present at the launch of the Anti-Racism Directorate to prevent systemic racism in government policy, programs and services, or gathering of service providers at Pelham collaborating with ongoing work. It is reflected in engaging community residents in the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy to create an alternative future.

DPCM builds relationships in intentional loitering -- simply hanging out through a meal, listening or rejoicing. Lives are changed sharing poetry over tea, touching clay, fermenting vegetables or recognition of Territory. Whether it is work with Black History Matters or organizing Family Camp at Sparrow Lake, DPCM makes a difference in the lives of those it touches.

Poverty reduction support is reflected in walking with community, identifying needs, supporting the City's poverty reduction strategy, and Faith in the City initiatives. DPCM has joined with faith groups such as the Interfaith Social Assistance Forum (ISARC) to address poverty, participated in the Basic Income consultations asking the Ontario government to invest in the health and dignity of Ontarians, among many other initiatives.

DPCM works with others from migrant communities and is struck by similar themes that recur among displaced people whether by foreign owned extractive industries or by unfair trade. Indigenous justice and right relations brought together a community dialogue on the Indigenous Peoples (Lumad) struggles from the Philippines.

In Cree, "being in poverty" is an expression that goes beyond just a definition of economics. Being poor means to lack kinship. When you have no kin who will care to ask whether you have eaten, or have a place to sleep, it means that you are "being in poverty," or "*waneyihtam*". DPCM works with partners and agencies in creating and re-creating "kinships," reconciling people to themselves, whether it is on an individual spiritual journey, to Creation and its Creator and to each other in community.

This report provides a snap shot into several of our activities during the past year.

Tina Conlon  
Davenport Perth Community Minister

## The Return of Beat the Winter Blues



In 2016, Beat the Winter Blues was Back! Originally launched in 2008 by the Davenport Perth Community Ministry as a way of celebrating the end of winter, this annual coffee-house event came back after a two year hiatus.

On Thursday, April 28, 5-8pm, we enjoyed good food and great performances plus baked goods from Pelham Boys and Girls Club.

**Bill Heffernan**, who runs a weekly 5-8pm eclectic Roots-Pop "Saturday Sessions" at Gate 403 on Roncesvalles, was this year's Master of Ceremonies. The line up of performers brought a diverse and eclectic sound to make the evening wonderful and memorable:

**North of Queen** has been playing a fusion of bluegrass, gospel and folk since May 2009; a style of music they like to call "folkgrass." Six voices blending in rich harmonies, accompanied by simple acoustic instrumentation, gives North of Queen a sweet retro sound. Their repertoire consists of a refreshing mix of the traditional & contemporary, the spiritual & secular and the poignant & upbeat.

**the SPECIAL INTEREST group** is a new activist band, dedicated to performing and interpreting a wide range of progressive political, labour and topical music.

**Adam Solomon**, born in Mombasa, Kenya, a 2005 Juno Award Winner and a double winner at TAMA (Toronto African Music Awards) for Best Release and Best New Performers in 1997

**Thane** enjoys support and accolades from top international artists and tastemakers including Andi Durrant, Paul van Dyk, Dr. Kuchol, Flash Brothers (Armada Records), Markus Schulz and Bobina, EDM recording artist/songwriter/performer. Thane is a rising star in the making, ever growing, ever evolving.

At the 1984 Convention of the Canadian Labour Congress a resolution was adopted declaring April 28th as a "National Day of Mourning" to honour those workers in Canada who have been killed, injured or disabled on the job, or who suffer from occupational diseases. Given the significance of the day, we framed this event to honour all workers. DPCM worked with and supported other groups and agencies at Commitment to Community (C2C) that prepared a series of papers proposing priority actions for the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy, including the paper, "Good Stable Jobs in the City of Toronto." Join the fight for \$15 & Fairness! Support the Urban Workers Project. Follow @UrbanWorkerCA.



## Bread and Bricks joins DPCM

Bread and Bricks Davenport Social Justice Group is a group of community members who experience poverty in our own lives and/or witness poverty in our community.

Bread and Bricks was started at The Stop Community Food Centre.

We work to end poverty and build more just alternatives in our community. We do this by taking action and increasing the capacity of our community to fight for social justice.

Bread and Bricks continues to meet 1-3pm Thursdays at the Garden Room of 1900 Davenport with Pauline Bryant as its facilitator.

## Pinch Pots, Fermentation and Tea and Literature

As a way of enjoying each other's company, community members of different ages got together to pinch pots, ferment vegetables and read literature while enjoying a cup of tea. Fermentation guru, Michaela Kennedy guided us to making sauerkraut in one session and kimchi the next. DPNCHC's Lindsay Bess Carlson read from her book of poetry and at other sessions, readers also read the poetry of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and Max Ehrmann. Our pinch potters celebrated their success with clay by attending our clay mentor, Renata Podlog's show at 401 Richmond. One of our potters looked at the monuments that recognized that this area was once a bustling, garment industry area until NAFTA. "20 years ago, I used to work here. When I lost my job, I lost everything. Now I am glad to have this new connections, my new family."



## DPCM's 2nd Family Camp at Sparrow Lake Camp

Davenport Perth Community Ministry has made the Sparrow Lake Camp an annual weekend family camping trip. Sparrow Lake Camp has provided an



opportunity for many families from the Weston-Pelham catchment to get out of the city and do something different.

Fishing, kayaking, canoeing, bonfires and so on. Many of the campers were returning campers, but there were many new faces as well. Everyone shared their experiences, and talked about things they did as children and loved how Sparrow Lake Camp was able to bring back those good memories –camp songs, crafts. We enjoyed meeting new people outside DPCM who were also enjoying family camp. This was our second year, with 29 campers and we are looking forward to our third year to come.



- Dominique Brown

# In Appreciation

To all of our donors and partners who together on behalf of Toronto Conference's South West Presbytery of the United Church of Canada we are grateful. Their generosity allows us to provide community development and community organizing support, offer pastoral care, and be engaged in advocacy through coalitions and networks in the Davenport-Perth community.

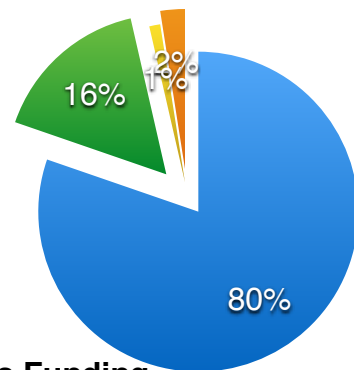
We also appreciate the contributions of past members of our Steering Committee who have given so much of their time to the work of DPCM: Eric Plato, Rev. Amy Lee, Gabrielle Langlois, Marcelo Castro and Florance Arpa Sarker. We are also grateful for having worked with Don Panos, a generous donor to soup kitchens that served Jamaican fare who died on July 12.

Thank you also to Anakbayan, Arts4All, Charmaine's Place, Community Ministries Commission of South West Presbytery, Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre, Davenport Perth United Church, ED Lott Fund, George Brown College, Jane Finch Community Ministry, Mission Support of South West Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC), Repair Café Toronto, Social Planning Toronto, Sparrow Lake Camp, St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club, The Stop Community Food Centre, TIFF Special Delivery, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Police Services 11 Division, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Public Library, Toronto Urban Native Ministry, Urban Arts, C2C-Commitment to Community, Communities of Faith, Pastoral Charges and Congregations, and Staff of South West Presbytery, ISARC - Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, Migrante, Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy and others whose names we missed.

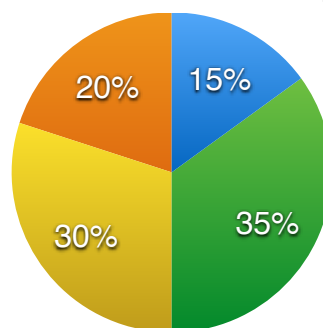


## How DPCM is Funded \$137,040

- PTCC
- Mission Support
- Congregations, Donations and Other Revenues
- Ernest D. Lott



## How DPCM Uses Funding



- Advocacy
- Pastoral Care
- Community Development
- Networking

## DPCM 2016 Staff



DPCM thanks its exceptional staff, students, office and volunteer team:  
Dominique Brown, Fatima Filipe, Sarah Joy Salise, Stephanie Bailey

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Photo credits: Dominique Brown and Tina Conlon

## Steering Committee

**Larry King** — Chair

**John Wong** — Treasurer

**Stephanie Bailey**

**Pauline Bryant**

**Florrie Dalglish**

**Sharon Goodier**

**Ferris Grant**

**Bernadette John**

**Courtney McFarlane**

**Barbara Sheffield**

**Paul Rose** - Community Ministries Commission Representative to the DPCM Steering Committee

## To Donate

On-line donations can be made in support of DPCM at Canada Helps, <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/davenport-perth-community-ministry/>  
<https://swpcommunityministry.com/>

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