



2018 MID YEAR UPDATE



Kerr Street Mission
Oakville's Mission of Hope

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Kerr Street Mission provides essential services and creates a sense of belonging in Oakville. It is a place where people know they will find help and a strong community of support.

Wendy Rinella,
CEO of the Oakville Community Foundation

““

We are always amazed at the number of families supported by KSM, and the range of activities and programs provided. It truly is an inspirational “hub of care” for our community.

Bonnie and Terry Jackson,
Donors and Supporters

““

The KSM building is now fulfilling the hopes, council and I had when we initially supported it.

Honorable Mayor
Rob Burton





To our Kerr Street Mission Friends

Our Mid Year Report is Here! Take a look, as exciting things are happening.

It is a blessing and a privilege to be part of Kerr Street Mission. We are so grateful for all the volunteers, partner organizations, donors and corporate sponsors that have joined the mission and have helped us take big steps forward both financially and in the care that we provide. Your generosity and desire to make a difference inspires us every day.

This report describes our accomplishments and future commitments. You will also read about the people that we serve and their stories. They inspire us every day, but they still need our help. We are here to not only provide a hand out when they need it, but to also help them with a hand up.

When we launched our 'debt elimination' campaign we said that it would help us to 'Do Good Better and Do More Good'. In this first half of 2018 we have celebrated the support of the community and we have begun to take action towards both goals. We are excited about our future, and are excited to invite you to continue to be part of our mission.

We are thankful every day for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbours. Thank you again for your support of KSM and for your love of your neighbours in need.

Yours Truly and on behalf of our board, staff and volunteers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary O'Neill".

Gary O'Neill
Executive Director

OUR IMPACT

Life in Oakville...

12.4 %

of Oakville
Children
Live in
Poverty

\$70,073*

is the living wage in Halton Region

**OVER
18,860**

in Oakville live below the "low income cut off"
and are in need of daily, practical assistance.

Life at KSM...

**MORE
THAN 6,500**

visits to KSM each month.
OVER 75,000 visits per year.



75-100

local residents enjoy meals
five times a week.

MORE THAN

25,000 & 10,000
meals nutritious snacks

were provided to children and youth
through the KSM kitchen this year.

Approximately

450

individuals or families shop
at the Kerr Street Market
each month.

The market distributes

OVER \$600K
of food annually.



We have **50 OR MORE**
volunteer groups and

120 active program volunteers that make
a difference in our programs every day,

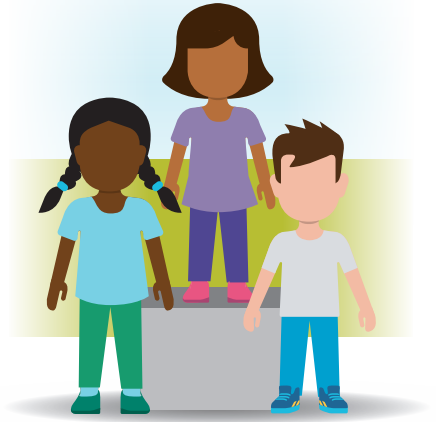
giving us a combined **20,000+**
hours of service each year!

CORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Programming

Our goal for Children's Programming at KSM is to engage with children from low-income families so that they know they are loved. We provide them with a positive environment and a range of activities that helps them learn and grow. Being part of a welcoming community helps them acquire the foundational skills they need to become confident adults in the future.

This year we have had the privilege of connecting with many children. Here are some highlights from our core programming:



30 children (K to 5) took part in our KSAP (Kerr Street After School Program)

Our staff and volunteer team have done a tremendous job creating fun and engaging learning activities to help the children improve academic scores and connect into their community. Research has shown how important this is, as children from low-income families often feel isolated and fall behind academically vs their peers.

170 children were registered for KSDC (Kerr Street Day Camp)

A total of 170 different children from 116 families benefited from the Day Camp program and the subsidized costs (weekly fee for day camp was only \$25 for a low income family). Our staff and volunteers focused on nurturing relationships, community and creating amazing experiences for the children.

24 university, college and high school students worked as part of our summer KSDC, CYAN (Community Youth Action Network) & Youth Drop-In programming this summer

We have put extra effort into the development and support of our staff this summer. We believe that these programs provide an excellent opportunity to develop critical skills and knowledge through leadership and responsibility.



CORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Development

Our goal for Youth Development programming at KSM is to develop at-risk youth. We are committed to developing programs and opportunities that will equip them for success: in school, in relationships, in work and in life. By providing a safe and stimulating environment, engaging activities, leadership experiences, positive adult and peer mentors, as well as healthy community connections, youth have a better chance of growing into healthy and capable adults.

This year we have had the privilege of working with many students. Here are some highlights from our core programming:

30+ teens regularly attended the KSM youth development programs from January to July 31

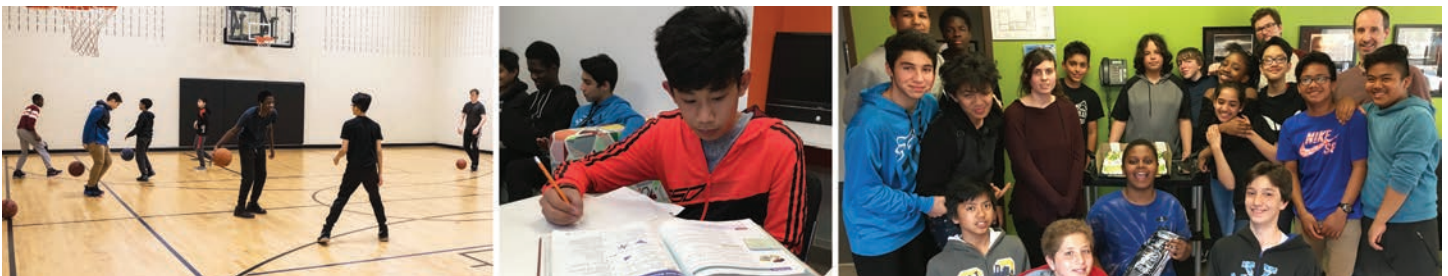
We encourage healthy habits, from homework completion, to physical activity, to social interactions. All are important for our youth and help them develop the strength and wisdom required to deal with the temptations and risks they face during their teen years.

48 Students were registered in Gary Allan High School's STEP and SCORE program from January to June

We are excited to be the home of the Gary Allan (HDSB) alternative education programs. Together with the teachers we were able to connect these high-risk students into both group and individual volunteer activities, allowing them to experience personal value and the joy of giving back.

25 teens registered for each week of the CYAN summer leadership and volunteer program

We were thrilled to run the CYAN program and invest in youth across Oakville. They participated in a variety of leadership workshops and volunteered in a number of causes each week.



CORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Family Care Programming

Our goal for Family Care programming at KSM is to respond to the needs of individuals and families in our community that are struggling to make ends meet. We are committed to coming alongside them so that they can share a sense of belonging and community and provide for themselves and their families. By responding with love and compassion, and by providing practical support for their immediate needs, we can help reduce their financial burden, and help them move to a more stable and sustainable situation.

We have had the privilege of working with 450 - 500 families this year. Here are some highlights from our core programming:

6,000 visits to the KSM Food Market

Over 1000 people have benefited from the food and hygiene products available. With the help of an inspirational 11 year old volunteer we have been able to increase the amount of produce available in our food market. However, we still have a long way to go to consistently provide adequate amounts to our clients.

12,500 meals have been served through our Community Meal program

We are so grateful for the many volunteer groups that plan, prepare, serve and clean up as part of our meal programs. Their commitment not only enables us to serve over 500 meals each week, but they also help us provide a welcoming community. The value of community and the sense of belonging that Kerr Street Mission provides is life changing for many of our neighbours in need.

4,500 Fresh Food Boxes packed and distributed to families from KSM and agencies across Oakville

Eating fresh and healthy food is important for both physical and mental health. We are thankful for our partnership with Halton Fresh Food Box and the funding from the Halton Community Investment Fund that has allowed us to expand the Fresh Food Box program.



SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

At the end of 2013 we worked hard to develop a Sustainability Plan with the hope that we could re-establish KSM as an important and valuable resource for the community. When we look back we feel tremendous gratitude and some amazement. The progress we have made to date is more than we ever expected. We have established a much stronger financial foundation and we have increased the value of the organization and facility to the community. Now we can focus more of our efforts and attention on our mission.

\$2 million debt was completely paid off as of January 16th

We are incredibly thankful to the 50 donors that helped us eliminate our mortgage. This was an important step in our sustainability efforts. The \$120,000 per year in interest payments that have been eliminated with the debt are now being used to help us achieve our mission.

\$150,000 donation to our Reserve fund made by the Peter Gilgan Foundation

We are thankful for the vote of confidence and generosity of the Peter Gilgan foundation's staff and board. This is an important step towards our goal of long-term sustainability.

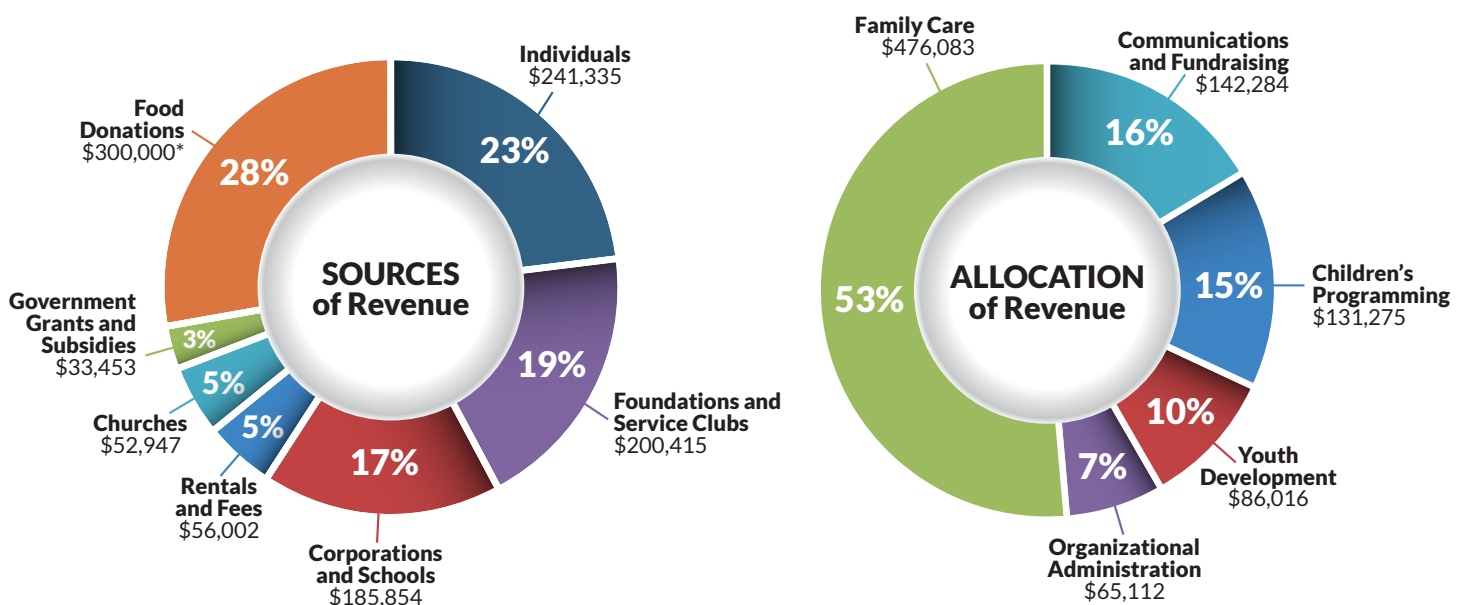
Note: Not-for-profit experts suggest that 1/2 a year operational costs need to be in Reserve for long term sustainability.

\$112,000 in funding over 2 years has been granted by the Halton Community Investment fund

As part of the Community Safety and Well Being initiative we have been granted funds to develop a new process for engaging help for individuals and families in difficulty or distress. We will be able to support them through the efforts of the Neighbour Care Network Support Volunteers that have committed to coming alongside.

4 new Board members that bring a high level of commitment and experience to the organization

To find out more about our board and leadership go to www.kerrstreet.com and click on Leadership.



*This figure is an estimated amount.

NOTE: The \$150,000 donation from the Peter Gilgan Foundation has been placed in our reserve fund, which is not accounted for in the Allocation of Revenue total.

KSM STORIES OF HOPE!

Every day people walk through the doors of KSM in need of help. Recently we connected with a mom who has been living in her car since May. Several years earlier she had a good job, earning over \$75,000 per year at the time of her divorce. However, shortly after the divorce she became sick and was unable to work. She had applied for disability but was denied.

Over the next few years she had to use all of her savings to survive. However, when her oldest turned 18, and the child tax benefit ended, she fell behind in rent. Today she is homeless and living in whatever parking lot or place she can find where she will be safe. Because she is homeless, she does not qualify for the portion of support allocated for housing, and she can't find an apartment that she can afford.

Thankfully we were able to connect her with a Care Support volunteer who is going to come alongside her and help her to identify the resources available in the community, and put a plan together.

A Care Support volunteer's job is to encourage, guide, advocate for, and problem solve with, the neighbour in need. Over the last 2.5 years we have connected Support Volunteers to over 200 neighbours in need. Through their friendship and support, and through the incredible generosity of local churches many of the families are now in stable and sustainable situations.



The youth of today will be our future leaders and will truly have the power to make a difference in their lives and the world at large. KSM is deeply committed to developing our youth with programs and services we provide. We believe these programs can create new possibilities for their future through positive influences, role models and support.



During week 4 of our youth summer program here at KSM, when relationships were already well formed between our youth, we had a new addition to our group. This can be tricky when the youth have already spent three weeks building relationships. However, our youth rose to the occasion and welcomed Sarah with open arms. We learned before her arrival that Sarah spoke French. We also have two other girls who are fluent in French so we made sure to introduce them. The girls brought Sarah into her group and in seconds they became fast friends. Within five minutes of her arrival, Sarah looked like she'd been there all summer - a truly magical and inspiring moment.

CAMP UPDATE

Home is where the heart is... and our heart is at Kerr Street Mission!

This year the Kerr Street Day Camp was exclusively run out of the KSM facility. Running camp from our home allowed us to provide extended care for our families by making use of the wonderful facilities and resources that we've been blessed with in our own backyard.

New this year was our Green Space Project and weekly Nutrition Workshops which allowed us to offer kids an interactive learning experience that also contributed to our food security initiative. We also offered a youth leadership training program for the very first time.

Whether it was swimming at the pool, playing camp-wide games at South Forster Park, relaxing at the movie theatre, cooking, or getting creative and learning during Bible Study, at KSDC there was never a dull moment.

- **170 campers**
- **25 volunteers**
- **18 staff members**
- **6 field trips**
- **2 months**
- **1 summer of unforgettable memories!**



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS



Kerr Street Mission is very thankful for the broad network of support services and community partners who rally around our mission on a daily basis. Their support and compassion enables us to offer a hand up, not just a hand out to our neighbours who are struggling and need daily assistance. If you would like to learn more about Kerr Street Mission, our vision for the future or how you can get involved - please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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Oakville's Mission of Hope

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