



2019 MID YEAR UPDATE



Kerr Street Mission
Oakville's Mission of Hope



To our Kerr Street Mission Friends

Are you OK? Three little words that together form a simple question that can be deep, meaningful and incredibly impactful.

I have to admit that sometimes I am hesitant to ask clients if they are OK, because I know that in so many ways they are not. The stress they feel because of their struggles each month to pay for food and shelter. The fear that results when an unplanned expense or emergency takes away dollars that are needed for basic necessities. The hopelessness that sets in when they feel there is **NO** chance that their situation or life can change.

Thankfully, I have the amazing privilege to be a part of an organization and community that is focused on and committed to **Loving our Neighbours** in so many practical and tangible ways. I see firsthand the compassion and generosity of our donors. I see the incredible dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers and our board. I see the relief and gratitude of parents when they know their child has a safe place to go and is having fun. Or when a mom knows her teen is connected to good role models and has an opportunity to participate in some amazing experiences. I saw the joy of a group of moms that realized that the new **Choose Fresh** program meant they would get a consistent supply of milk, eggs, protein and fresh produce - they stood up and applauded.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support. Your generosity has helped us to be a consistent support for so many. However, there is still much work to do, as there are still so many in need. With your help we truly can make a difference.

With gratitude and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary O'Neill
Executive Director

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Thank you for helping Kerr Street Mission meet our financial obligations!

As of July 31st, we are on track with our 2019 budget. Your continual and faithful giving is such a blessing for us and our community. Having a consistent and dependable revenue has enabled us to both maintain and improve our services. We had promised that we would invest more in programming once we had eliminated our debt and established a reserve fund required for long-term sustainability of KSM. Several months ago we launched **Choose Fresh**, and we made plans that will help us improve our volunteer coordination. We have also begun to explore partnerships and opportunities that can help us provide more effectively for the families in our community that are struggling through difficult circumstances. It is the generosity and compassion of our donor community that makes it all possible. So thank you!

SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE

We have had the pleasure of hosting several successful events this past year for KSM. All funds raised support our key programs and services, and are vital to the operation and health of the mission.

One of our most treasured events of the year was **Live on Kerr on May 2nd** at KSM. We were so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with supporters, friends and donors that have helped us on our journey. It was a privilege to hear stories from our dear clients and youth first hand about the impact that KSM is making in their lives.

Following this donor appreciation event was our annual **KSM Classic Golf Tournament on June 5th**. We were thankful to be able to spend time to celebrate with a fun round of golf, and to enjoy an inspiring evening with sports legends Chuck Ealey and Paul Henderson. Through the support of our sponsors, golfers and donors we raised **\$90,000** for KSM. These important funds will continue to support our After School Program which provides care for over 30 children and their families. The participation of golfers and sponsors is what makes the golf tournament successful. So mark your calendar for next year's tournament on **June 3rd, 2020**, and please reach out to us to discuss how your company might be able to provide sponsorship or support to make the event even more successful.

On July 11th KSM hosted the annual **Mayor's Invitational Tournament** at Trafalgar Park. It was a great day of softball and team building for all the organizations that took part. We are very grateful for our title sponsors Mattamy Homes and Trinison Management Corp, whose very generous support again this year made the tournament a great success. Additional sponsors would enable us to do more for at-risk children and youth in our community, so if your company is interested in participating in a fun day and making a difference for the community please let us know.

Don't miss a very exciting event that will be taking place soon. The first annual **Neighbour Care Network Gala** is scheduled on **September 26th at the Oakville Conference Centre**. Kerr Street Mission is organizing the event on behalf of the Network. The Neighbour Care Network is a **VERY IMPORTANT INITIATIVE** that Kerr Street Mission is committed to supporting. The gala will be a **great opportunity to learn more about the work and impact** of the Network. It promises to be a special evening with a catered dinner and program filled with inspiring stories of hope and resilience. This will become an annual event and funds raised will be used for both **operational costs and a shared benevolence fund** for our neighbours in need. Please plan to come to learn and support this very important initiative. Tickets are available online at www.kerrstreet.com/ncngala or by calling 905-845-7485.



choose **FRESH**

One of our goals at KSM is to provide families with consistent, healthy food to help increase their well-being. Part of our mission statement is to help those in need reach a healthier and more sustainable situation. So, in keeping with our mission we have developed a plan to provide clients with more consistent and healthy food choices.

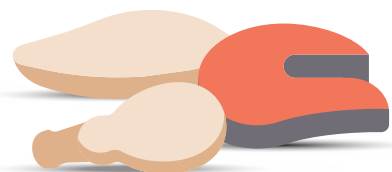
We have recently initiated a new program called **Choose Fresh** to help fill in the gaps that our Food Market can't fill. To participate, clients will contribute \$20 a month for food and will receive \$80 of fresh food items consisting of:



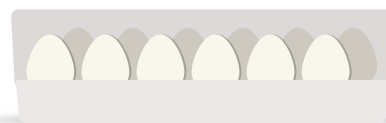
Fresh Food Box
a \$15 Value
Bi-weekly



4L of Milk
Bi-weekly



Up to 5 lbs of
Halal Chicken & Fish
Bi-weekly



One Dozen Eggs
Bi-weekly

Clients will still be able to access our food market at no cost each week with fresh bread, reclaimed produce and proteins, non-perishable food items and hygiene products as available.

So far we have **120 households** signed up for the program with a goal to have **200 families** signed up by the end of 2019. In addition to providing healthy food options, we are also able to offer cooking classes to educate clients on how to use the fresh food produce so they can make delicious and nutritious meals for their families.

“

I am loving the new “Choose Fresh” program. I am impressed not just with the quality of the food but also the amount. I feel like my family is eating better and I’m being more creative with our meals to make sure I’m using all of the food properly. I was skeptical about the program at first, but it is great and I am happy to be able to take care of my family’s health. It’s a concern when fresh food prices keep going up, but this program has helped to decrease the stress around providing for my family. Thank you so much for “Choose Fresh”.

| Choose Fresh Participant

Who do we Serve?



OUR CLIENTS ARE FROM **62** different countries

RANGING FROM
0-85
YEARS OF AGE
.....
WITH THE MOST BEING:
0-18 at 40%
36-50 at 25%

Hello!

SPEAKING OVER
50
LANGUAGES

你好
مرحبا
Привет!
Ciao!
Oi!
Salut!
¡Hola

WITH
ENGLISH (34%)
& **ARABIC (23%)**
BEING THE MOST
COMMON



FAMILY SIZE
RANGES FROM

1-9



WITH THEIR MAIN SOURCE
OF INCOME COMING FROM



*Based on 2019 statistics.



Did you know that over **12.4% of children** in Oakville live below the poverty line?

Making summer camp memories is usually just a dream that is impossible for so many due to their circumstances. Through the KSM Summer Camp programs, kids and youth have the opportunity to enjoy exciting, high quality camp experiences.

We are so appreciative of the generous support of our community and our donors who have helped us fund the summer camp program. **This year we were able to enroll over 130 kids each week.** That is a whole lot of summer memories being created!

We have 3 programs operating under our umbrella of Kerr Street Summer Programs. Kids from the ages of 5-10 are in Day Camp, 11-13 in the Youth Program and 14+ participate in our Leaders in Training Program.

This new format supports our goal and commitment to providing exciting, engaging and continuous programming. This also allows us an opportunity to be part of the development of young leaders and our very talented staff team. No kid will feel left behind as they flow from one program to the next. We aim to one day have our past campers become the counsellors who mentor and teach new summer camp kids.



“

Summer is my favourite time of the year because it means that I get to be at camp every day!

| 8 Year Old Camper

My family just moved to Canada a few months ago and I don't know a lot of people here. I was only registered for a few weeks, but I loved it so much that I have come back every week of the summer! I have met some of my best friends here.

| 12 Year Old Camper

Thank you for this beautiful program, you definitely make a difference in our lives, my kids had a blast this summer and have many great memories to share with their friends back to school, thanks to you guys.

| Parent

VOLUNTEERS: THE LIFEBLOOD OF KSM

At Kerr Street Mission we rely on volunteers to help deliver our programming. We are continually amazed at their dedication, commitment and compassion. It would be impossible for us to continue our programming without the help of our amazing volunteers. Many work behind the scenes to support staff, while others have more prominent roles in program delivery. Together they are a caring community that is making a difference.

We currently have..

- **50+ volunteer groups**
- **120 active program volunteers**
- **A combined 20,000+ volunteer hours**

Building Community Around the Dinner Table

Did you know that volunteer groups come 5- 6 times each week to plan, prepare, serve and clean up as part of our meal programs? Groups are from local churches, businesses, service clubs, sports teams and groups of friends. Their commitment not only enables us to serve over **500 meals each week**, but they also help us provide a welcoming community. This community provides hope and a sense of belonging for many.

There are often opportunities for groups to come and cook a meal and serve the community. If you are interested in participating, gather friends, family or a group from your neighbourhood, work or church and help provide for your neighbours in need.



If I can make one person happy I did what the Lord has intended me to do. The happiness I get is incredible and it has changed my life for the better. I love the saying "Give Till it Hurts". I just want to live knowing I am giving back in a world where we tend to forget those less fortunate because we are too busy to look out the window.

| KSM Volunteer

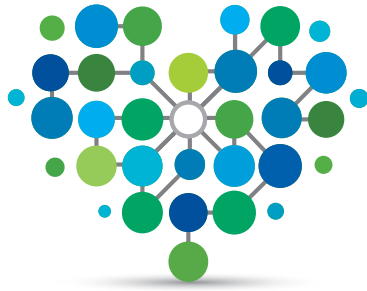


Kerr Street Mission

Oakville's Mission of Hope

485 Kerr Street, Oakville, ON, L6K 3C6
905-845-7485
www.kerrstreet.com

Charitable Reg. No. 897106845RR0001



NEIGHBOUR CARE NETWORK

A shared initiative of local church compassion ministries, organized, facilitated and supported by Kerr Street Mission.

Why is the Neighbour Care Network so important, and why is Kerr Street Mission so committed to this initiative?

Over and over we have learned the same lesson. When people are in crisis and distress they struggle to think clearly, to make good decisions and to follow through with necessary actions. We have also seen how people tend to pull back from friends during times of struggle, only making them feel more alone and hopeless.

The reality is that people in crisis and distress need individual and ongoing support to have a better chance of making changes. They need someone to walk alongside them and to help them keep moving forward. They need someone who is persistent and won't give up on them even when they give up on themselves.

Neighbour Care Network is an AMAZING opportunity to bring people in need together with people that can help. To make it work **we need your help**. We need volunteers that are willing to come alongside a neighbour in distress. We need people who are committed to working together to make a difference. We need access to benevolence funds for emergencies or to cover short-term financial gaps.

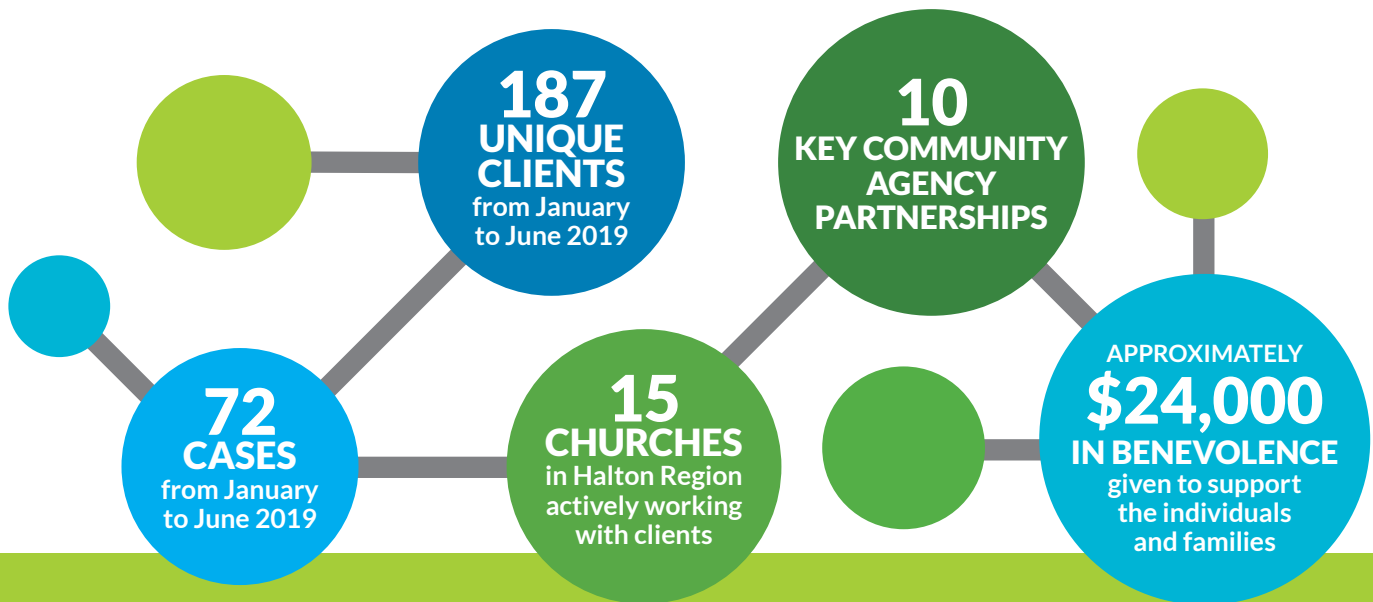
Kerr Street Mission is committed to building and growing the Neighbour Care Network. Our primary focus has been encouraging churches to become part of the Network. We have focused on churches because churches already have a formal or informal compassion ministry. They already have committed people with a desire and willingness to care for those in need. They already have a community that can support the volunteers and the people they are caring for.

Kerr Street Mission has become a hub of care in the community and we often get referrals from other community organizations, churches and the region. We have worked through many cases and have built good working relationships with service providers across the region. We have established an effective 'care process' for clients in distress. We have also built training so that we can equip volunteers so they can more effectively care for people in distress. **Now we need the commitment of more churches across Halton.** The strength and effectiveness of the Network is dependent on the involvement, participation and support of churches, volunteers, service providers and the community at large.



**PLEASE
JOIN US**
September 26th
at the Neighbour
Care Network Gala
to learn more, and to
support this very
important initiative.

Neighbour Care Network impact at a glance...



BONITA'S STORY OF HOPE

Bonita Hill came to Kerr Street Mission when she had nowhere else to turn. She was on a fixed income of \$1,167 a month from ODSP and also taking care of her 7 year old granddaughter.

She registered for the Neighbour Care Network because her teeth had been rotting for nearly a year and she required dentures, however ODSP does not cover the expense of your first pair.

Living on her fixed ODSP income, she could not come up with the \$3,500 for the dentures and the cost of removing her teeth. After our assessment, we put out a call for help in our network of support. Within 48 hours the churches had raised enough funds to cover the expenses and we were able to tell Bonita that she was getting a whole new smile. Bonita was in tears when she heard that her problems were solved and her mouth and jaw would finally be out of pain.

Recently Bonita came in for a visit to show off her new teeth. Staff could barely recognize her until she said "Do you like my new teeth?" We were blown away by the difference it made in her appearance and the fact that Bonita could feel confident in smiling for the first time in a year.



Pictured Left to Right: Michelle Lockhart - Client Care Lead, Bonita and Matt Foxall - Neighbour Care Network Lead.