



Your guide to donation-ready organizations and projects that are addressing some of the CAUSES YOU CARE MOST ABOUT in Toronto

A GUIDE TO

30-plus high-impact charitable and nonprofit organizations

DONATE NOW.

HYPER LOCAL

- 5 Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
- 6 Black Creek Community Farm
- **6** Christie Ossington
 Neighbourhood Centre (CONC)
- 7 Cliffcrest Community Centre
- **7** CUE
- 8 High Park Nature Centre
- 8 Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
- 10 Jane/Finch Community Tennis
- 10 Lady Ballers Camp
- 11 Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Ontario
- 11 Loft Community Services
- 12 Scadding Court Community Centre
- 13 Sistema Toronto Academy
- 13 Summerlunch+
- 14 The Neighbourhood Group
- 14 Weston Frontlines Centre

CITY WIDE

- 16 ACORN Toronto
- **17** Action Against Hunger Canada
- 17 Afri-Can Food Basket
- 18 Art Starts
- 18 dance Immersion
- **19** Girls E-Mentorship (GEM)
- 19 FoodShare Toronto
- 20 Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- 20 Surrey Place Centre
- 20 Tangled Art + Disability
- 22 The Peer Project
- 22 YWCA Toronto

PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

- 9 Stella's Place
- 15 Circles for Reconciliation
- 21 PEACH Promoting Education And Community Health



hilanthropists across the city come to us at Toronto Foundation to help simplify and enhance their charitable giving. As a community foundation, we are committed to educating our donors about the great under-the-radar work that is being led by charitable and nonprofit organizations in our city's neighbourhoods. Our Good to Give Guide is one tool in our kit that helps us do this. We're happy to share this resource with you, as well as reflections on giving from just a handful of Torontonians who have chosen us as their philanthropic partner.

Every year, staff and volunteers at Toronto Foundation select a group of community organizations to support and be featured in this guide. This is just a short list of some of the organizations we have our eyes on. They're mostly small and mid-sized but they are mighty. Many are tackling the deepest challenges facing Toronto at a time of unprecedented change.

In Canada, 60% of all charitable donations benefit only 1% of charities. It's time to change that. All of the groups featured in this guide are working to transform the lives of Torontonians, and make our city stronger and more resilient. We hope you will consider them in your giving plans this year.

Why give here?

By donating to these small(er) but mighty organizations you can have a big impact. And the need is great. All of these organizations serve vulnerable populations in Toronto working to ensure more equitable access to all our city has to offer.

How can I give?

Visit their websites or look them up on CanadaHelps.ca where you can contribute to any of Canada's 83,000 charities. Consider monthly giving or an annual gift over 3-5 years. Stable, ongoing support is critical for organizations so they can plan ahead.

What if I can give more?

Choosing where to invest your charitable dollars is personal. It's a reflection of your values. Toronto Foundation is committed to helping you make the right choices for you, your family, and your community. You can designate where you want to direct your giving or rely on our community knowledge through tools like the Good to Give Guide. Best of all, you can give for today and the future by creating a permanently endowed fund. Visit www.torontofoundation.ca/start-a-fund to learn how. Or contact Aneil at 416-921-2035 x 212 or agokhale@torontofoundation.ca.

HYPER LOCAL

While many of the organizations listed have locations or programs in multiple parts of the city, their connectedness with one geographic area is unmistakable.

Some of these organizations are neighbourhood agencies. They operate in our city's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas – 31 communities where inequality is holding them back from achieving their full potential.

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable

THE ORGANIZATION

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services (Access Alliance) works city-wide to improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable immigrants and refugees by facilitating access to services and addressing systemic inequities. While a large focus is on primary healthcare services, they also provide wraparound services like child, family, and youth programming, settlement services, language services, and environmental programs, among others.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Scarborough Cycles is an innovative project working to build a culture of cycling in Scarborough, an area underserved by cycling infrastructure and lacking in transit options. It helps remove barriers by giving clients practical tools, tips, and confidence needed to use bicycles for transportation. Disparity in access to transportation is strongly linked to inequality in social, economic, environmental, and health conditions and studies have shown that diabetes rates are significantly higher in Toronto's suburbs. Rates are also higher among newcomers, which make up a large portion of Scarborough residents. Helping people access bicycles for local trips is an evidencebased approach with strong potential to improve both individual and community health. Learn more at www.accessalliance.ca

Black CreekCommunity Farm

(Charitable Trustee: FoodShare Toronto)

Engaging residents in environmental conservation

THE ORGANIZATION

Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF) is a unique urban farm located on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority land in the Black Creek/Jane & Finch neighbourhood. They focus on improving food security, reducing social isolation, engaging community in environmental conservation, and improving employment and education outcomes for residents. BCFF also works hand-in-hand with Black Creek Food Justice Network, a grassroots working group of Jane & Finch residents who believe that fighting for food justice requires addressing the intersections of food with health, income, labour, migration, race, policing, the environment, gender, and more.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Youth involved in the BCCF Youth Internship Program expand their knowledge on food systems, networking and employment opportunities in the food/agribusiness sector. Youth learn how to use farming tools to support farm fields and garden spaces, care for chickens and ducks, run environmental and outdoor education programs, make pizza from scratch and bake it in a wood burning oven, how to set up for the weekly farmers market on site, and sell vegetables. Learn more at www.blackcreekfarm.ca

Christie OssingtonNeighbourhood Centre(CONC)

Focusing on LGBT+ vouth with employment barriers

THE ORGANIZATION

Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre (CONC) is a multi-service agency in the westend of Toronto that provides essential and innovative services for vulnerable community members. Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre has been designing and delivering youth programming in partnership with local youth for almost 20 years, from graffiti arts and sound studios to drop-in sports and recreation activities. In the last 10 years, their focus has centered on youth who face barriers to mainstream employment, youth who are living in poverty, under-housed or homeless, and youth facing mental health challenges or developmental disabilities.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The majority of LGBT+ youth programming in Toronto exists mainly in the downtown core and the east end. The 2SLGBTQ+ Junction Triangle Youth Performing Arts and Social Justice Program initiative increases access for youth by bringing this much needed programming out to the west end. Research has shown that there is a strong link between performance art and growth in self-concept, motivation and increased empathy, especially in youth. Learn more at www.conccommunity.org

CliffcrestCommunity Centre

CUE (Charitable Trustee: SKETCH)

Championing youth-led community initiatives

Supporting racialized new-generation artists

THE ORGANIZATION

Cliffcrest Community Centre provides programs and services to residents of Eglinton East, Kennedy Park and Scarborough Village neighbourhoods, in response to the changing needs and interests of these communities on a non-segregational and non-political basis.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Cliffcrest's Heart Beatz Youth Council (HBYC), is made up of youth who have aged out of their after-school programs and youth who currently volunteer at the centre The HBYC works collectively to initiate, implement, and evaluate youthled community initiatives that will benefit at-risk children, youth and families in the surrounding neighbourhoods. The population of low-income residents in the neighbourhoods that Cliffcrest works in is significantly higher compared to the Toronto average. While many barriers exist to engaging youth in community engagement and advocacy activities, including intimidation, scheduling and timing conflicts, and branding of engagement activities, Cliffcrest has worked at removing or mitigating many of these barriers. Learn more at www.heartbeatz.ca

THE ORGANIZATION

CUE is an arts initiative dedicated to supporting marginalized, low-income, and racialized new-generation artists. Founded in 2008, CUE has provided a range of direct support to more than 290 arts projects in multiple disciplines, led by youth artists (15-29 years old) on the margins. CUE's events enable mentorship and capacity-building for youth, which benefits the larger Toronto community by engaging communities and audiences that are underrepresented in mainstream and conventional institutions, yet represent an increasing percentage of Toronto's population.

THE OPPORTUNITY

CUE's Margin Of Eras Gallery (the MOEG) is a multidisciplinary arts and cultural space in Parkdale, dedicated to showcasing the work of underserved youth artists. After years of producing pop-up exhibitions, CUE realized that there was a rapidly growing need for accessible spaces for underprivileged youth to showcase their art and develop curatorial practices, have a platform to organize their own events like performances, workshops, artist talks, screenings, installations, and bring their communities together for social change. Learn more at www.cueartprojects.ca

Why I give



"I've never been asked the question 'why do you give?'. Nobody in my community asks 'why.' The need is there, and if I have the means to do it, then it's going to be done."

- Ainsworth Morgan, 100 Strong Foundation

High Park Nature Centre

Promoting awareness and respect for nature

THE ORGANIZATION

The High Park Nature Centre promotes awareness and respect for nature through year-round, hands-on outdoor nature education and park stewardship. Their programs inspire knowledge and respect for High Park's natural systems, restore human connections to local plants and animals, and engage visitors in ecological restoration activities to ensure a sustainable future for High Park.

THE OPPORTUNITY

High Park Rangers is a weekly leadership initiative and nature club for youth aged 12-16. The youth are mentored and led through a variety of naturebased ecological stewardship activities including: planting native species, removing invasive species, naturalist skills (plant/animal identification, nature photography, map reading), and designing and leading interpretive 'Family Nature Walks.' Youth are also connected to Indigenous Elders and guest naturalists to expand and diversify their network of connections and enhance their skills through workshops with experts. Learn more at www.highparknaturecentre.com

Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre

Building community health and well-being

THE ORGANIZATION

The Jane/Finch Centre is a multi-service, community-based organization with a strong focus on poverty reduction through resident engagement, capacity building, and anti-oppression. For over 40 years, the organization has been strategically building the health and wellbeing of Jane and Finch in collaboration with residents, community leaders, community groups, organizations and partners from within the local community and beyond.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Young Leaders of the Inner City program (Young Leaders) is a youth leadership and mentorship program held in The Spot, the youth satellite of the Centre situated at Yorkgate Mall. The Spot is a safe and accessible space created over a decade ago to support vulnerable youth to optimize their personal, social, and vocational competency. It operates from a peer mentorship framework, in which three to five senior participants of Young Leaders mentor and train the new generation of participants with the support of Youth Workers at The Spot. Learn more at www.janefinchcentre.org

Stella's Place

Stella's Place is a Toronto-based organization created to help young adults get the mental health supports they need. Located in the heart of the city's Queen West neighbourhood, Stella's offers a place for anyone aged 16-29 to receive support from peers with lived experience of mental health issues.

"We offer low-barrier access to services," says Jenny Carver, executive director of Stella's. "So often young people, when seeking help through the health system, come in for an assessment and then have to wait in line for however long for 'the next thing.' At Stella's, young people can pop online and talk to a peer, or come by our Queen West location and speak with someone who can help them decide what their next steps could look like."

Stella's has worked with George Brown College to create a training program for young people with lived experience with mental health and addiction issues, providing them with an opportunity to learn skills and strategies to become peer support volunteers at the Queen West location.



"So often what young people are looking for is to meet someone who knows their experience," says Carver.

Those looking to get more involved can visit the organization's website, which provides further information about volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

"We see what we're doing as incubating a whole new way of delivering service," says Carver. "The importance of choice in delivering mental health support to young people – this is the ground floor of really shaking up how services are provided."

Stellasplace.ca



"When I think of a philanthropist, I think of a bowler hat and the monopoly man. But being a philanthropist, becoming a fundholder, allows me to have another tool in my toolbox that I can use to influence change."

- Bailey Greenspon, Greenspon Fund for a Just City

Jane/Finch CommunityTennis Association

(Charitable Trustee: Tennis Canada)

Prioritizing healthy living

THE ORGANIZATION

Jane/Finch Community Tennis
Association provides educational and recreational programming to residents in the Jane/Finch community and surrounding neighbourhoods, prioritizing healthy living skill-development, educational programming, and life skills/employment support as tools of engagement to accomplish their objectives.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The After School Program provides an opportunity for youth to develop useful life skills, build confidence, and connect to their community, while accessing high quality tennis programming. Overall participation in physical activity has been declining in the past 20 years and less than 10% of youth are getting the recommended weekly amount of physical activity. Research has shown that longterm sustained program involvement in sport is associated with many positive outcomes for youth, including: making friends, developing positive relationships with coaches, increased confidence, and improved academic performance. Learn more at www.janefinchtennis.ca

Lady Ballers Camp

Developing girls into future leaders

THE ORGANIZATION

Lady Ballers Camp (LBC) is a charitable organization that develops girl-centered programs that encourage non-competitive physical, emotional, and educational development and creates equitable access to recreational and sporting programs, regardless of socioeconomic background. LBC is actively engaged in removing gender, social, and economic barriers so that every girl can rise above stereotypes and reach their full potential.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Sports Leadership and Empowerment for Girls (SLEG) provides youth with the opportunity to participate in both intensive basketball training as well as leadership development and personal growth through workshops. The program allows girls to participate in a welcoming, female-only environment. This program was developed in response to a lack of free sports/recreational programming for girls and female youth in lowincome, predominantly racialized GTA neighbourhoods, as expressed by the schools in which programming will take place. Learn more at www.ladyballerscamp.org

Leave Out Violence(LOVE) Ontario

Addressing the roots causes of violence

THE ORGANIZATION

LOVE's mission is to empower youth living in high-needs communities to become community leaders by providing opportunities to build capacity, cultivate resilience, and foster emotional health. LOVE programs support these youth to address the root causes of violence and reduce stigma associated with violence by providing positive safe spaces, opportunities for healthy self-expression, access to positive mentors, and skills acquisition.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Places and Spaces - Here and There will engage youth from two vulnerable neighbourhoods, where violence is an ongoing reality. Youth will participate in hands-on workshops to produce a collection of photographs and written pieces centered on places and spaces, including local institutions, neighbourhood spots, and places of significance to participants. Photography as a medium has a very low barrier to entry; anyone with a smartphone can participate. Youth surveyed by LOVE have expressed their desire to change the narrative about themselves and their communities. Learn more at www.ontario.leaveoutviolence.org

Loft Community Services

Transforming transgendered lives

THE ORGANIZATION

LOFT ('Leap Of Faith Together') is the largest and most diverse supportive housing provider in Ontario. They offer specialized programs that target vulnerable and marginalized youth, adults, and seniors, with special focus on those with mental and physical health and substance use challenges. They run supportive housing units at more than 70 sites in Toronto and York Region, along with community support teams that serve clients, and a large street outreach program.

THE OPPORTUNITY

BLOOM is a unique, innovative program acting as a space to help transgender individuals, who are in great need, to find stability during their medical transition period. It helps improve the lives of some of Toronto's most vulnerable people, by giving them a safe space and affirming care. The increased stability actively promotes improved health and wellbeing and members readily participate in educational and vocational opportunities, setting attainable goals and actively contributing to the community. The BLOOM program includes supportive housing in a safe and accessible area, where program residents are integrated into the neighbourhood. Learn more at www.loftcs.org

Scadding Court Community Centre

Parenting support in a changing community

THE ORGANIZATION

Scadding Court Community Centre (SCCC) serves communities near its location at Dundas West and Bathurst. It has evolved in response to transformations in the community, such as increased diversity, demographic and cultural shifts, rapid population growth, and increased economic and social polarization. SCCC has built a reputation for quality and innovation around inclusion and equity. Their programs are geared toward under-served, culturally diverse groups such as lowincome women, children and families, newcomers, at-risk youth, people with developmental and/or physical disabilities, older adults, seniors, and the unemployed.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Parenting 1234 is a holistic, participantdriven program in response to experiences and requests from local parents. The program is geared to low-income, teenaged, newcomer and/or racialized parents needing specialized interventions and the result is a program that equips parents and caregivers, facing barriers to supports, with networks to navigate complex systems, access to holistic supports, opportunities to develop new skills, and positive environments to bond with their children and advance their chances of future success. Learn more at www.scaddingcourt.org



"Embody the message you're trying to put out there, live it from your heart space. If you believe in that every day, that's an energy people will take on. Goodness is contagious, giving is contagious. Let's have the ripple effect of that, and see where that goes."

- Alicia Mathlin, Theine Foundation

Sistema Toronto Academy

Using the global language of music

THE ORGANIZATION

Sistema Toronto is an intensive social program transforming the lives of children through ensemble-based music. Sistema Toronto's core objective is to socially transform children in Toronto's vulnerable communities through musical/intellectual opportunities. Through the global language of music, children grow to realize their full potential as engaged and responsible citizens.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Production, Media and Leadership Program targets youth as they age out of regular programming and prepare to transition to high school. The program covers the full range of basic concert promotion and production skills, while teaching leadership skills, in a handson environment. Participants are also supported through a mentorship component, where they are provided with resources and helped through audition processes to continue music education in specialized high schools. Learn more at www.sistema-toronto.ca

Summerlunch+

(Trustee: Tides Canada)

Closing the achievement gap

THE ORGANIZATION

Summerlunch+ works to close the achievement gap through nutritious summer lunches, food education, student employment, and training, while raising children's awareness of youth food insecurity through collective, community engagement.

THE OPPORTUNITY

School nutrition programs in Toronto provide 175,000 meals a day to students from September to June. However, over the summer, often there is no support for these same students. This can be a difficult time for low-income families. Summerlunch+ works to fill the gap by partnering with community centres that host free summer camps and deliver services to low-income communities where healthy food is not always available to youth. Local, at-risk students, who would benefit from food safety training, food skills, and nutrition education are hired to help grow food, prepare meals, and deliver food education to campers. Campers are also engaged in the gardening aspect, so that they can take ownership over the food they will eat. Learn more at www.summerlunchplus.com

The Neighbourhood Group

Putting those with the greatest needs first

THE ORGANIZATION

The Neighbourhood Group (TNG) is a multi-service organization that creates opportunities to enhance people's lives and helps them to live independently with dignity in their community. TNG serves seniors, at-risk children and youth, newcomers, people who are homeless or precariously housed, and people with mental health challenges.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Kick Start Crew is an after-school program that runs three nights a week. Monday nights are interactive healthy cooking sessions, focused on meal planning, budgeting, food safety, and food preparation, Wednesday nights are for Youth Council meetings, and Friday nights are youth-planned and peer-led workshops and outings throughout the year, including fitness and sport related activities. Youth are directly involved in program design, logistics, choosing topics of interest and activities for the group, recruiting and engaging participants and volunteers, helping design marketing materials, and assisting facilitators in implementing the program. Learn more at www.theneighbourhoodgroup.org

Weston Frontlines Centre

Addressing a community gap

THE ORGANIZATION

Weston Frontlines Centre (Frontlines) is a child and youth centre in the community of Weston, a neighbourhood located in northwestern Toronto. Frontlines serves children and youth in one of the poorest ridings in Toronto and is the only local centre engaging youth in a variety of activities beyond the arts in Weston. Frontlines is addressing a critical gap in youth services in this community, by offering a diverse array of programming to support the healthy physical, emotional, and mental development of young participants.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Frontburners Youth Kitchen/Catering Careers program is an 8-week culinary training program for youth (18-29) facing barriers to employment, which also serves as a social enterprise for Frontlines to generate funds that support its work. In each cohort, 8-10 students participate in workshops pertaining to the foodservice industry, attend field trips, and learn from experts. Frontlines youth workers, in partnership with employment agencies, teach students about interview preparation, resume building, and other employment skills. These youth then assist in preparing nutritional snacks and meals for youth attending afterschool programming at Frontlines, as well as preparing catering requests. Learn more at www.frontlines.to

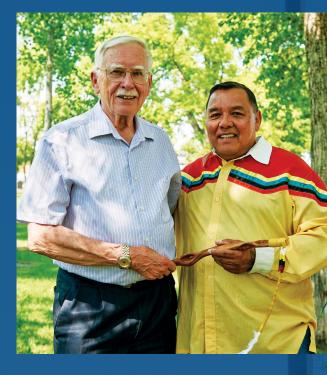
Circles for Reconciliation

(Charitable Trustee: University of Manitoba)

While more and more Canadians are beginning to grapple with the national project of reconciliation, it can be difficult to know where to start. That's where Circles for Reconciliation comes in. The organization, headquartered at the University of Manitoba, seeks to create a meaningful dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through regular meetings led by trained facilitators.

"The goal with [Circles] is to create a full partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, in a space that's safe for sharing," says Susan Dowan, project coordinator of Circles.

There are dozens of circles holding weekly meetings in Toronto, and across the rest of Ontario and Manitoba, which can be found on the organization's website. Topics of discussion include residential schools, the meaning of land for Indigenous people, Métis identity and nationhood, and Indigenous spiritualities.



"Each week, members of the circle have homework and readings which can be found on our website," says Dowan. "What's really important for the success of the discussion is the makeup of the group – always 50 percent Indigenous and 50 percent non-Indigenous, which creates a space where people can learn from one another."

Circlesforreconciliation.ca

CITY WIDE

The reach and focus of these organizations touch every corner of the city. In some cases they have multiple locations to be able to serve residents from north to south and west to east. All of them have expertise in issue areas that enable them to influence broad, systemic change.

ACORN Toronto

Raising the voices of low-and-moderate income families

THE ORGANIZATION

ACORN Institute Canada is a charitable organization that uses research and training to address the challenges in low-income communities. They are a national organization of low-and-moderate income families. With 102,000 members organized into 20 neighbourhood chapters in 10 cities, they have been organizing to win a Canada where low-and-moderate income families have their voices heard and their power felt.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Through leadership development, civics workshops, and research, ACORN engages and empowers low-to-moderate income tenants in Toronto's high-rise communities to self-organize and create Tenant Working Groups (TWG). These TWGs build civic and leadership skills and advocate for localized and systemic change, such as improving living conditions in their buildings, participating in community gardening, engaging in civic processes at the municipal level, and raising awareness about the unhealthy living conditions in Toronto's high-rises and the safety issues facing residents. Learn more at www.acorncanada.org/ toronto

Action AgainstHunger Canada

Fighting for food security

THE ORGANIZATION

Action Against Hunger aims to mitigate the consequences of hunger, address the causes of hunger including environmental sustainability, and change the way hunger is viewed and addressed.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Generation Nutrition is a youth-centered program that has been running since 2017 and aims to improve access to healthy food and build lifelong food skills through outdoor and in-class activities and modules. Schools will be provided with garden boxes and growing supplies for the youth participants. Youth will participate in urban agriculture workshops, such as environmental sustainability, nutrition, food systems, and Indigenous food sovereignty, in order to learn how to plant and grow produce in their own mobile garden boxes. Learn more at www.actionagainsthunger.ca.

Afri-Can Food Basket

Building an urban food system

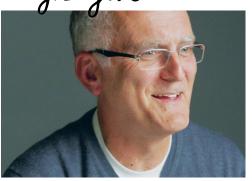
THE ORGANIZATION

Afri-Can Food Basket is at the center of a progressive food movement building an urban food system in Toronto that believes everyone should have access to fresh, healthy, and sustainably culturally appropriate produced food for the long-term health of our environment, economy and communities.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Afri-Can Food Basket works with individuals, organizations, and communities supporting a culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound diet through an economically and environmentally sustainable food system that promotes community self-reliance and social justice. Their programs are a comprehensive blend of urban agriculture training and technical support for community projects helping low-income communities become more self-sufficient accessing food through growing their own. Learn more at www.africanfoodbasket.ca

Why I give



"There's old patterns of thought with philanthropy that people are looking to change. It's not problem - input solution. It's problem - opportunity for relationship. In the relationship, the answers will arrive."

- Will Wallace, One City Scholarship Fund

Art Starts

Catalyzing arts for community development

THE ORGANIZATION

Art Starts was born out of the desire of four socially conscious artists to make art with their communities as a way of quelling tensions and celebrating diversity in their neighbourhood.

Through music, theatre, dance, and visual arts, a culture of mutual understanding and respect developed amongst the residents and a shared sense of purpose was born. Art Starts has since become a catalyst and proven model for arts-based community development in Toronto.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Own It program will allow underserved, stigmatized, and marginalized girls under-resourced neighbourhoods, to participate in self-directed and self-designed arts-based workshops with female mentors, program facilitators, and professional artists leading each group through a design process in order to develop a collaborative artistic program that is relevant and of interest. Learn more at www.artstartsto.com

dance Immersion

Supporting African Diaspora arts and artists

THE ORGANIZATION

dance Immersion is a not-for-profit organization that presents, forms, and supports dancers and dances of the African Diaspora wherever they exist and wherever they have continued to develop. Programs offer audiences and participants a variety of activities that evoke diverse artistic experiences. The organization provides a nurturing and supportive environment using a variety of artistic expressions.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Generation Drum is a drum accompanist training program for youth who have some hand drum experience. This program specifically teaches West African/Caribbean drumming traditions, and aims to create an online resource platform, to act as a job listings board. The program aims to prepare youth for careers as drum accompanists. Learn more at www.danceimmersion.ca

Girls E-Mentorship (GEM)

Equipping girls with the skills to achieve their dreams

THE ORGANIZATION

Girls E-Mentorship (GEM) is a charitable organization that offers a mentorship program for high school girls facing multiple barriers. The organization works to equip girls with the necessary skills to achieve their aspirations and build a diverse network of talented, vibrant women and girls to inspire and support one another.

THE OPPORTUNITY

GEM targets high school-age girls who face multiple socio-economic barriers, such as being racialized, low-income, newcomers or first-generation, and living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. Girls are matched with women mentors based on their career aspirations, personality, and interests. Mentors support girls as they navigate key issues in their lives, such as goal setting, timemanagement, confidence building, and stress management. They also support the girls through sharing their knowledge on topics such as interviews and university applications, and more. Learn more at www.girlsementorship.com

FoodShare Toronto

Increasing access to healthy food and food education

THE ORGANIZATION

For over 30 years FoodShare
Toronto, Canada's largest food security
organization, has been recognized
as an innovative leader in developing
programs that increase access to healthy
food and food education, particularly in
Toronto's most marginalized communities
and schools. They work alongside
Torontonians, throughout the city, to
support them in animating community
driven initiatives focused on helping to
create more sustainable food systems.

THE OPPORTUNITY

With the ever-increasing cost of food in the city, Good Food Markets present an affordable alternative for healthy food for low-income and otherwise marginalized families, while helping to build community and social capital in the host neighbourhoods. FoodShare's Good Food Markets look much like a farmer's market or produce stand, but have two important distinctions: the price is much lower and both local and imported vegetables/fruits are available. The 'food deserts' (areas with a lack of healthy food sources) and 'food swamps' (areas with an abundance of unhealthy food options), surrounding many Toronto neighbourhoods, present geographic and economic barriers to healthy food and are partially responsible for poorer health indicators. Good Food Markets increase access to healthy food options and help to remove these barriers for these communities. Learn more at www.foodshare.net

Tangled Art + Disability

Cultivating disability arts

THE ORGANIZATION

Tangled Art + Disability (Tangled) is a leader in supporting Deaf, Mad and disability-identified artists, to cultivate Deaf, Mad and disability arts in Canada, and to enhance access to the arts for artists and audiences of all abilities.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Through their focus on knowledge sharing, Tangled provides a holistic Access & Inclusion consultancy service aimed at increasing accessibility and changing perspectives in the arts world. With the 2025 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance deadline approaching, the demand for their consultation assistance has been growing exponentially and they want to develop a service-based model to be able to respond to this growing need. Learn more at www.tangledarts.org

Surrey Place Centre

Changing the face of disability

THE ORGANIZATION

For more than 30 years, Surrey Place Centre (SPC) has been working citywide to support people of all ages with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and visual impairments to lead healthy and socially inclusive lives through interdisciplinary clinical services, education, and research.

THE OPPORTUNITY

SPC has been experiencing massive increases in demand for their services,

Native Child and FamilyServices of Toronto

Developing urban Indigenous youth

THE ORGANIZATION

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto is a multi-service Indigenous agency that provides a holistic, culture-based approach to programs and services that provide a life of quality, well-being, caring, and healing for Indigenous families in the Greater Toronto Area.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Rites of Passage Project builds the cultural knowledge and connectedness of urban Indigenous youth by providing them with a unique opportunity to participate in on-the-land programs at Glen Rouge Park, including week-long sessions focused on community building and leadership-skill development. Youth are guided through activities grounded in cultural teachings and ceremonies and geared to their personal journeys, designed to help them explore their place in the historically significant land around the Rouge Valley. Activities include fire keeping, naming, sweat lodge and drum making ceremonies and teachings. Learn more at www.nativechild.org

which has resulted in growing waitlists and clients having to wait one to three years for programs and services. Its Enhanced Clinical Model (ECM) is designed to improve service delivery and reduce wait times for clients and to ensure that SPC provides the right service, at the right time, while exploring innovative and flexible models of service delivery. Learn more at www.surreyplace.ca

PEACH Promoting Education and Community Health

PEACH works with youth who have encountered a crisis in their education in Toronto's Jane and Finch neighbourhood. Issues can stem from a wide range of causes, including poverty, racism, mental health, youth criminal justice involvement, violence in the community and substance use.

"PEACH serves youth and their families through a unique wraparound model of proactive, ongoing intervention, positive youth engagement and community resilience," says Shari Castello, executive director of the organization.

One of many services provided by the organization is Learning Beyond Adversity (LBA), an independent alternative education program which offers students a chance to re-engage with their education through online courses, on-site academic help and supportive staff.

"LBA was inspired by a youth...who was indirectly involved and severely injured by an unintended drive-by shooter at his home," says Castello.





"As a result, he was afraid of attending school. PEACH provided a safe space with trusted staff to assist him to work towards his credits and to ensure that he successfully reintegrated into his community."

Peachyouth.org

The Peer Project

Creating mentorship opportunities

THE ORGANIZATION

The Peer Project supports at-risk youth, by matching them with fully trained peer mentors. Mentors provide guidance, specialized support, and a positive role model. The Peer Project supports youth with mental health issues, learning disabilities, and other complex challenges.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The BE Program is designed for self-identified boys, who will meet once per week for 10 weeks to participate in group discussions, recreational/arts-based activities, hands-on learning experiences, and a fieldtrip. The program aims to empower the youth by increasing confidence, self-esteem, leadership skills, self-awareness, and empathy. Weekly topics and activities will be chosen in consultation with the boys and can include mental health, peer support, bullying and abuse, anger and stress management, and nutrition and cooking. Learn more at www.thepeerproject.com

YWCA Toronto

Programming for and about women

THE ORGANIZATION

YWCA Toronto began as a boarding house providing a safe environment from exploitative conditions for working women on low incomes. Since then, it has evolved into a multi-service organization for and about women and girls, with a focus on low-income, marginalized and/or disadvantaged groups. Their programs promote equality, economic security, lives free from violence, and social change.

THE OPPORTUNITY

YWCA's "Empowering Young Women #theFutureIsUs" supports girls aged 14 to 18. Girls will attend co-created and self-designed weekly sessions of up to three hours, on topics and activities chosen by the cohort. Through a variety of participant-driven activities, including art, music, technology and discussions, girls will work together to develop positive identities and practice communication and problem-solving skills. Learn more at www.ywcatoronto.org



"We really need to trust that the people who are working on the front lines of communities and neighbourhoods with specific populations have the best sense of what their needs are."

- **Zahra Ebrahim**, Zahra and Salima Ebrahim Family Foundation

Support women and girls!

In the spring of 2019, Toronto Foundation will announce a new collective impact project to encourage more women in philanthropy and improve the conditions for vulnerable women and girls in Toronto. We are working with the following 18 leading organizations. Consider them in your giving plans.

Anishnawbe Health Foundation www.aht.ca/support-anishnawbe

Barbra Schlifer Clinic www.schliferclinic.com

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada www.cafdn.org

Centre for Connected Communities www.connectedcommunities.ca

Diaspora Dialogues www.diasporadialogues.com

Dress for Success www.toronto.dressforsuccess.org

Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth www.evas.ca

Macaulay Child Development Centre www.macaulaycentre.org

Native Child and Family Services www.nativechild.org

North York Women's Shelter www.nyws.ca

Outward Bound Canada www.outwardbound.ca

The Redwood

www.theredwood.com

The Stop Community Food Centre www.thestop.org

UNICEF Canada www.unicef.ca/en

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund www.leaf.ca

WoodGreen Community Services www.woodgreen.org

Yonge Street Mission www.ysm.ca

YWCA Toronto www.ywcatoronto.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Aneil Gokhale

Toronto Foundation 416-921-2035 ext. 212 agokhale@torontofoundation.ca



Inspired by philanthropists Zahra, Will, Bailey, Ainsworth, and Alicia?

Contact Aneil to find out how you can start own philanthropic journey like they did today.

Toronto Foundation

33 Bloor Street East, Suite 1603 Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3H1 416-921-2035

www.torontofoundation.ca

info@torontofoundation.ca

Aneil Gokhale,

Director, Philanthropy Tel: 416-921-2035 ext. 212 agokhale@torontofoundation.ca







