



Oak Park
Neighbourhood Centre

Annual Report

2017

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Who We Are



We are a community based agency that began 18 years ago with 6 women meeting together and last year served 843 individual households and a total of 2009 people in our programs. Our centre has been set up to be a non-institutional, barrier free space, so that it is welcoming to everyone. It is a reflection of the needs, talents and gifts of our neighbours and friends so that it is relevant to the whole community. We believe in supporting the whole community together, regardless of income level, age or background.

Our centre has various programs including, multicultural programs (Spanish, Russian, South Asian, German, Japanese, Mandarin); LGBT, parent mental health supports, counselling, food bank, community garden, utility bill payments, financial literacy, and poverty support group. We run infant, toddler, preschool, school-age, parent and senior's programs. We also provide free or affordable space to many local agencies and programs

MISSION-

A welcoming gathering space supporting our community through diverse programs and resources to build friendships, strengthen each other, and create healthy neighbourhoods.



VISION

**People Belong,
Families are Strong,
Neighbours Care,
Everyone Shares**

**SUPPORT
CONNECT
CONTRIBUTE**



Our Members

42% of our members do not speak English or French most often in their homes compared with 12% in Oakville.

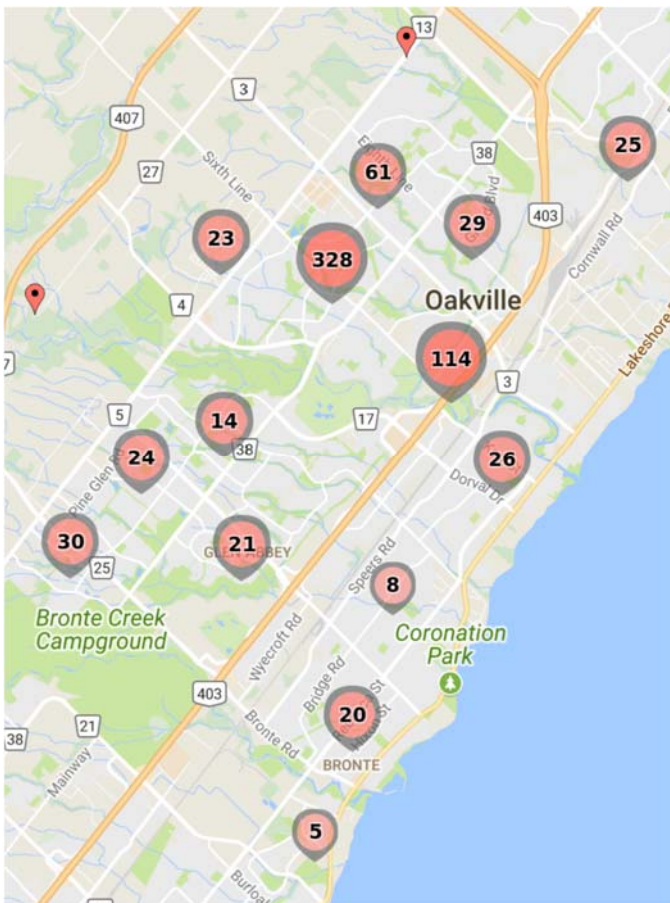
13% of our members are new immigrants (under 5yrs in Canada) compared to 4% in Oakville.

50% of our members were not born in Canada compared with 32% in Oakville.

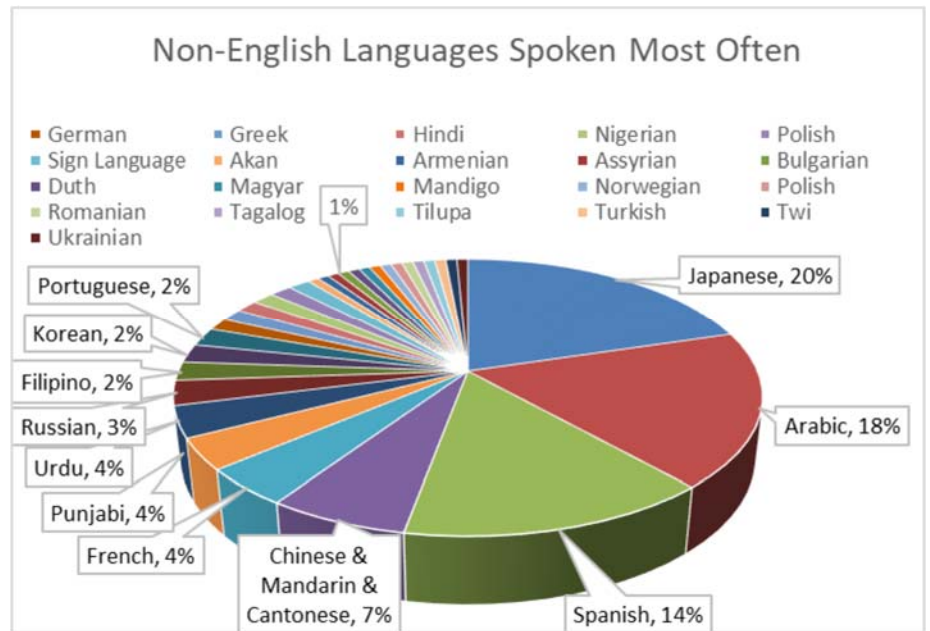
47% of our members live below the poverty line compared with 12% in Oakville.

23% of our adult members do not have a post secondary education.

(2011 Census Statistics Canada & Tax Filer Data)



Our Members By Household Location



We have become a very multicultural centre. Our members speak 34 different languages

Our membership numbers have shown an increase again this year. We supported 843 households and 2009 people this year.

Our centre reflects the community outside our doors. We welcome our neighbours into our centre, especially those who are most vulnerable.

96% of our members say we are welcoming to diverse groups of people.

93% say we are focused on meeting the needs of the community.

97% of our members say that our environment is welcoming, safe, and supportive.

Making a Difference

How have we made a difference for you and your family?

SUPPORT 29%

“I like that I am treated with respect and, and the staff always takes time to communicate with me”

“I really benefited from staff kindness and their support, both emotional and financial.”

“Happiness is at the Centre”

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES 30%

“As a family we love that there are programs for school age, seniors (grandma) and youth”

“Who knew so much could happen in such a small space.”

“Look forward to every week with lovely meals and exercise program.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 41%

“Awesome opportunities to get involved”

“I enjoy the overall friendliness and community feeling. As a work from home parent, I value connecting with other adults regularly”

“It gives you the idea that you are living in a community



Support

In our food banks this year we served 130 households with 109 adults and 127 children. We provided over 2400 meals, handed out over 300 pieces of clothing, 8 handmade quilts, 20 scarves, 32 purses filled with toiletries and 20 pairs of skates.

We expanded our food bank this year to include a satellite location on North Service Rd in College Park. This location supports a vulnerable population in that area who we are coming alongside with wrap around supports.

We are thankful for the support of the Oakville Optimists, Grandmother's for Africa, Oakville Quilter Guild, Food For Life and groups who donate food and holiday hampers to us like River Oaks Public School, Oakville Little League, Chartwell Seniors, St. Simons Anglican, Munns Church, Knox 16 and The Meeting House. This year we provided Turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas – 50 in total.

Our after school youth program, funded by the Ontario Government cared for 64 children and provided fitness activities, learning opportunities and a healthy snack.

In our Hope Support program, made possible by funding from The Meeting House we helped 20 women move forward with goals they set to improve parenting skills, increase community friendships and find volunteer and career positions.

Supported Golden Briar Trail community to survey their members on community needs and set up a tenants association.

Our multicultural drop ins supported 65 families to build friendships and celebrate culture.

36 children attended our free summer camp.

Our seniors program supported 57 seniors with fitness, a guest speaker and light lunch.

Completed taxes for 68 people.

Provided Christmas gifts for 25 families.

Provided free childcare for 12 children on Giving Tuesday

Provided 40 free coats in our coat drive.

Through our utility support program funded by Oakville Hydro and Union Gas we have helped 259 low income households pay their overdue bills and sign up for the Energy Support Program and the Canada Learning Bond.



Our Members Said...

91% We have opportunities to learn new things.

89% said OPNC programs are focused on the needs of the community.

86% said OPNC has provided support for my child with special needs.

81% said I feel more confident as a parent and/ or caregiver.

90% said I have applied skills and knowledge I learned at OPNC to everyday life.

100% of seniors with memory loss reported an improvement or it stayed the same.

100% of seniors said their socialization and physical activity had increased

Connect

Connecting is what OPNC is all about. We connect families to other families, creating new friendships and a welcoming atmosphere. We are inclusive to all.

Our members say....

96% OPNC is welcoming to diverse groups of people.

97% OPNC's environment is welcoming.

81% They have made friends they can connect with outside of the centre

91% We encourage the sharing of skills and knowledge with one another.

100% of those with children say there are opportunities to play with others

95% Have opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds.

Community Events

We hosted Swing into Spring in May & our Fall Fair in September attracting 2,300 community members, local business and agencies. The events also provide volunteer opportunities for over 100 people. These two events have become highlights for the whole community and reflect the overwhelming response we had from our community survey in 2014 to hold more community events. In addition this year the Optimists hosted a Community Easter Bunny party, Rock hosted a Transpride event, Golden Key hosted a Dumpling making workshop and we provided Halloween popcorn and hot chocolate to 200 neighbourhood children. OPNC provided four workshops to the community this year with help from the LHIN and Oakville Lions.

Our Program Partners

Our renters are part of our team.

They provide diverse programs that reflect our community cultures, recreation, arts, needs and values. They connect us to each other and help OPNC meet our financial obligations.

Our regular program providers are...

CYAN, HIPPY, Halton Down Syndrome Assoc., Russian Creative Studio, Baby Wearing, La Leche League, Rock Positive Spaces, Oak Med Family Health Team, Halton Community Legal, Massage Evolution, The Meeting House, Posse Project, Support & Housing Halton, Halton Families for Families, Ham Karate, SOS First Aid, Community Oak Park Ability Supports, Calvary Chapel, TWC, Golden Key Go JOI Optimists, Russian Seniors, Cameron Helps, Oakville Lions, Math Tutor and Trafalgar Venturers.



Contribute

Our Members said...

85% said we give them opportunities to become involved in the centre and the community.

91% said the centre encourages the sharing of skills and knowledge with each other.

83% said there are opportunities to share our cultural values, traditions, and heritage.

Food Drive

15 faith communities collected food with support from Food for Life. 613 volunteers dropped off 20,300 bags to homes and filled 1,368 boxes with food for local food banks.

We connected families in need with local services and faith communities.

We continued having monthly empathy projects to engage our members in the community. These included collecting towels for the Humane Society, making 300 valentines to share with local seniors, doing a coat drive, skate exchange and collecting band aids for The Meeting House Peace Kits.

Volunteers

We have had 103 volunteers this year who contributed 5,130 hours! Many of our volunteers provide weekly support and make it possible to run our programs.

We nominated two of our volunteers for Halton Newcomer Awards. Yury Wu & Maye Shafy who have both contributed many hours to supporting our multicultural community in Oakville.

Many agencies and individuals contribute to our seniors program each week as guest speakers. We are grateful for their support and the knowledge that they share.

Community groups are often pitching in to assist us around the center with repairs and clean up. They include The Meeting House, Twin Peaks Roofing, the Painter's Place, Clearview Church, and The Bank of Montreal. This year the Oakville Optimists provided funds to make many fitness equipment purchases and came out to replace our sink, do repairs and build more shelves in our storage closet. Don Arsenault is the guy who holds everything together.

Thank you again this year to the Frith family who built a skating rink in the park in front of OPNC for the community to enjoy. Special mention goes out to our local Firefighters who fill the rink for us each year and also help us out at the Fall fair by filling up our paddle boat and waterball pools.



Our Sponsors

Charis Foundation

Government of Canada

Food For Life

Sunrise Cleaning Services

Halton Region

Krisztina Neglia ReMax Realty

Ballantry Homes

Biddington Homes

Mattamy Homes

Robert Burns & Shelley

Weichell ReMax Realty Enterprises

Access Storage

Canadian Tire Trafalgar & Dundas

Twin Peaks Roofing

Will Davidson LLP

Chartwell Retirement Residences

Film.ca

Counselor Jeff Knoll

The Meeting House

Team Gonin ReMax

Aboutowne

RBC Royal Bank

Oakville Lions

LJW Tank Lines & Transport

Coco Mortgage

Great Gulf Homes

Wilma Fournier Real Estate

Supperworks

UPS Store 8th & Upper Midd

Will Davidson LLP

Grace Academy of Dance & Performing Arts

Halton Childcare Providers

Dorisa Nachla Law Office

Ontario Ministry of
Tourism, Culture & Sport

Oakville Community Foundation—Amarna Fund, Demaio Fund, Carmichael-Willis Fund, McDonald Fund

Town of Oakville

Oakville Optimists

TransCanada Pipeline

Styrpe Barristers

Melaluca

Manulife

Remington Homes

Marsh & McLennan Companies

CM2 Media

Steam Whistle

Starbucks

Mary-Claire Seitz Unwind



Our Team

Anjay Nirula– Chairperson

Jamie Bay– Vice Chairperson

Joe Mauro– Secretary

Kathrine Birt– Treasurer

Mary Claire Seitz– Members

Siobhan Juniku– Communications

Bryn Perras– Volunteers

Alvaro Queijo– Member at Large

Natalia Lishchyna– Member at Large

Michelle Knoll– Executive Director

Renee Leblanc—Children’s Program Manager

Kelly Luscombe– Facilities Manager

Heather Tompkins– Community Facilitator

Greg Coffin– Youth Program manager

Spencer Bassett—Youth Support

Mackenzie Frith—Youth Support

Krystin Hawkins– Lead Preschool Teacher

Staci Hall– Preschool Teacher Assistant

A huge thank you to our 103 volunteers who contributed 5,130 hrs this year. We couldn’t provide the extensive and quality programs that we do without your involvement.

Especially to our volunteers who provide weekly support by running our programs...

Baby Wearing– Ashley Pickett

Bookeeping– Charon Varty

Food Bank– Jay Shirodker

Front Desk– Anna Araklyn

German Drop In—Anne Adam

Handy Man– Don Arsenault

Homework Help– Alisha Ahmed

Japanese Drop in– Madoka McGee

MOMI– Adrienne Everitt

Spanish Drop In– Sara Chaves

Tawasol– Maye Abdul Shafy

The Community Oak Park– Vicki McCallum & Diane Anderson

Thrive– Phillipe Guay

