



Annual Report **2015**

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Who We Are

We are a community based agency that began 15 years ago with 6 women meeting together and last year served 585 individual families and 660 individual children 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.

Our centre has various programs including, multicultural programs (German, Spanish, Japanese, South Asian); food bank, community gardens, utility bill payments, financial literacy, speech assessment and support, and support for families with challenges through our Child Development Resource Centre. We run infant, toddler, preschool and school-age programs. We also have an affordable school readiness program.



Mission

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

Vision

People Belong
Families are Strong
Neighbours Care
Everyone Shares



Values

Support, Connect, Contribute



Milestones

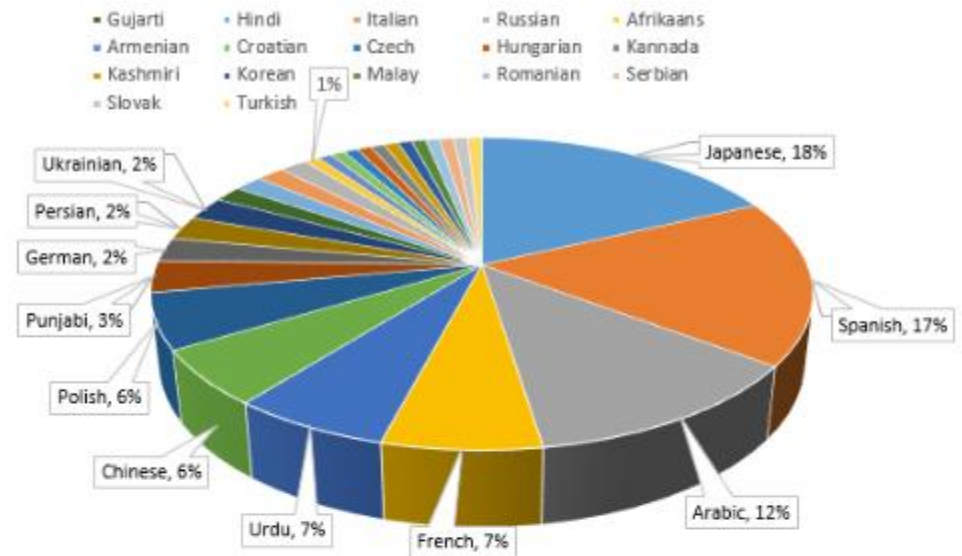
Thanks to a Trillium Grant, we added a second floor loft space to increase programming.

We celebrated our 15th year anniversary. We have served 2764 households in that time.



Our Members

10% of our members are new immigrants (under 5yrs in Canada) compared to 4% in Oakville.
 40% of our members were not born in Canada compared with 32% in Oakville
 38% of our members do not speak English or French most often at home compared with 12% in Oakville
 28% of our members live below the poverty line compared with 12% in Oakville
 (2011 Census Statistics Canada & Tax Filer Data)



We have had a significant increase over last year in the number of languages that our members speak at home this year-29! We have become a very multicultural centre. Our research reflects that we are welcoming all of our neighbours into our centre, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We have seen an increase in our members who live in the Oak Park Community again this year, representing 13% of our total membership.

We have served 2764 households since we began 15 years ago. This year we served 585 families and 660 children

99% of our members say we are welcoming to diverse groups of people.

99% 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?

Parents have responded..

SUPPORT 18%

"There is lots of support and unconditional acceptance"
"It's a place to make friends and support each other"
"OPNC is filled with awesome and caring people who help others without judging"

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & RESOURCES 38%

Provide educational program or resources
"This is a warm, stimulating environment"
"OPNC is a centre for toddlers to learn and play"
"Wonderful resources"
"Programs are very good with many toys, different activities to work on, and stations to explore"

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

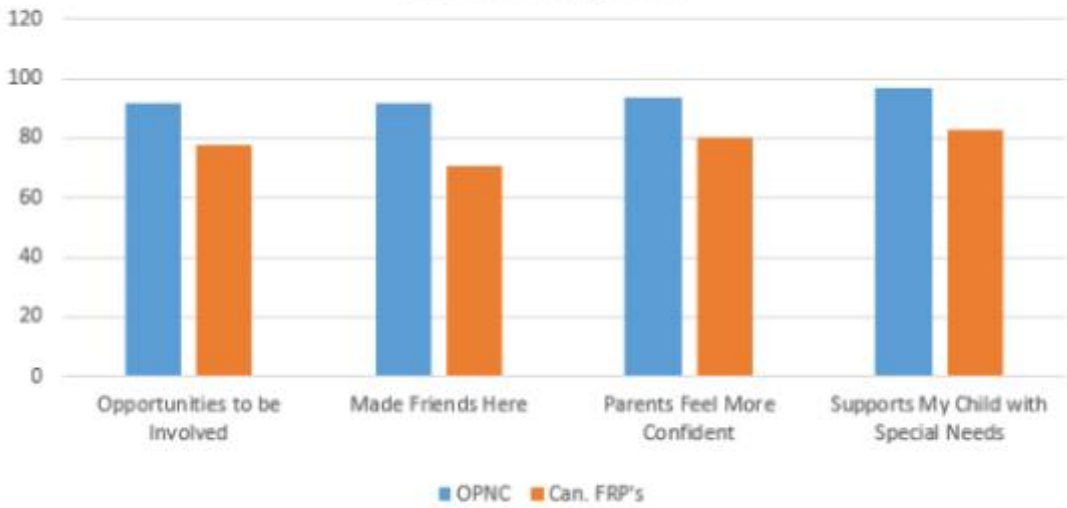
"I like how it brings mother's together to share in the experience of raising a new baby"

"It is a wonderful diverse, supportive, accommodating and educational environment that has become an important part of the fabric of my community"

How Did We Do?

Last year, 14% of our community asked for an increase in youth programming. We are happy to report that we now have youth programming five days a week. Thanks to Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, POSSE Project, CYAN, Just Be You, and St. Lukes

Our Survey Responses compared with Canadian Family Resource Programs



When compared to other Canadian Family Resource Programs, OPNC meets or exceeds respondents satisfaction in all areas.



Support

In our food bank this year we served 44 households with 72 adults and 63 children. We provided over 790 meals, handed out 358 pieces of clothing, 42 pairs of skates and 307 baby items.

We are thankful for the support of the Oakville Optimists, Food For Life and the groups who donate food and holiday hampers to us like River Oaks Public School St Simons Anglican, Munns Church, John Knox Christian School and Kings Community Church.

Through our utility support program we helped 128 low income households pay their overdue Hydro and Gas bills.

In our family drop in programs with the support of RBC Learn to Play Program we had a 35% improvement in children's fundamental movement skills and physical literacy competence.

In our after school youth program, funded by the Ontario Government we cared for 79 children through the school year and provided fitness activities, learning opportunities and a healthy snack.

Our weekly reading club helped 20 children improve their reading skills, increase their grades at school and build confidence.

We supported 40 people in our Tax Clinic.

In our Hope Support program, made possible by funding from Greenshield we helped 8 women move forward with goals they set to improve parenting skills, increase community friendships and find volunteer and career positions.

Our Members Said..

99% said my child has opportunities to learn new things.

97% said OPNC programs are focused on the needs of the community.

97% said OPNC has provided support for my child with special needs by accommodating them in programs

94% said I feel more confident as a parent and or caregiver

87% said I have applied skills and knowledge I learned at OPNC to every day life.

85% said I am more aware of what to expect my child to do at their age

84% said I have been given strategies to help manage my child's behaviour



Afterschool program supporting each other- literally!



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.

99% of our members agreed through our survey that OPNC is welcoming to diverse groups of people.

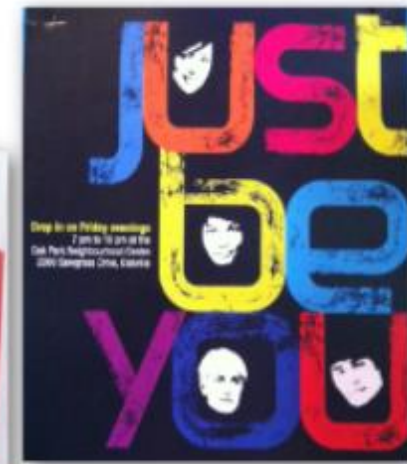
100% of our members agree that OPNC's environment is welcoming

91% of our members agree that OPNC helps them learn about services and resources available in the community

Our Renters!

Our renters are part of our team. They support our community through giving them more opportunities here at OPNC. Our renters help us with our budget, which gives us more funding for a variety of different programs for families.

Some of our renters are: CYAN, Classical Martial Arts, Oakmed Family Team, Oakville Kids Creative Studio, Halton Down Syndrome, Scouts Canada, The Meeting House Church Family, Massage Evolution, Limitless, Posse Project, Girl Guides Canada, Autism Ontario, Canadian Mental Health Association, La Leche League Canada, Hippy, Halton Families, Ashley Pickett, Pheonix, and Ventures.



Some more of our connection pieces

We had some summer camps for our kids!
We also have St.Lukes and their Youth Programs
Our annual fall fair, connecting and celebrating our 15th year.
We spoke at John Knoxx, Sanctuary Church, & St Mildreds



Connecting moms to moms!

Contribute

Our Members Said..

92% We give them opportunities to become involved in the centre and the community.

92% The Centre encourages the sharing of skills and knowledge with each other.

89% There are opportunities to share our cultural values, traditions, and heritage.

Food Drive

15 faith communities along with the 1st Trafalgar Scouts, Sheridan College Student Union and Food for Life helped collect food. 528 volunteers dropped off 20,000 bags to homes and collected 2,878 bag, and filled 1,344 boxes with foo for local food banks. Over the last seven years, this food drive has collected 111,000 lbs of food.



Food Drive



Community Garden

We connected families in need with the Trafalgar Presbyterian community gardens, and increased our own community garden size so people can grow their own food.

We had a awesome community skate funded and hosted by the Frith family, who also built a skating rink out front of OPNC with help from Oakville's firefighters!



We had The Meeting House, The Painter's Place, Clearview Church, The Bank of Montreal help us with maintenance and repairs on our buildings. Thank you to Twin Peaks Roofing for taking care of our leaks and re-shingling our roof.

Volunteers

We have had 170 volunteers this year. Our total amount of hours accumulated from our volunteer staff is 6,940! That's a record!



Our children made 250 Valentines and distributed them to the seniors at Post Inn Village.

Our Team

Jamie Bay- Chairperson
Michael Reid- Vice Chairperson
Joe Mauro- Secretary
Lara Rowles- Treasurer
Syzan Talo- Member at Large
Anjay Nirula- Member at Large
Natalia Lishchyna- Member at Large
Siobhan Juniku- Communications
Holly Mackenzie- Volunteer

Michelle Knoll- Executive Director
Grainne Galati- Program Support
Penny Ward- Program Manager Drop In
Charlene Abrahams- Family Resource Facilitator
Kim Thorman- Speech Pathologist
Tracy Scott- Preschool Teacher
Emma Jacek- Youth Worker
Keith Barnett- Youth Worker
Kelly Luscombe- Admin Support

**A huge thank you to our 170 volunteers who contributed 6,940 hours this year.
We couldn't provide the extensive and quality programs
that we do without your involvement.**

What's Next

1. Resource both staff and volunteers to better meet the ever-changing needs of our community.
2. Achieve increased volunteer and member engagement.
3. Complete a comprehensive annual communications work plan that both speaks to our annual efforts and leaves room for new initiatives.
4. Review our current staff structure in light of new growth.
5. Increase regular tracking of the outcomes of our initiatives to ensure we are meeting community needs.
6. Ensure we have opportunities for families to learn about appropriate child expectations and how to support positive behavior.