



Oak Park
*Neighbourhood
Centre*



persevere. together.

Oak Park Neighbourhood Center is a welcoming community, supporting each other through diverse programs and resources to build friendships, strengthen our children and create healthy neighbourhoods. As a registered charity, we strive to relieve poverty, provide education, support, and recreational and social opportunities for people of all abilities.

We began 21 years ago with 6 women meeting together, supporting one another. Since then we have helped over 16,000 people. Our centre is a non-institutional, barrier free space, welcoming to everyone. It is a reflection of the needs, talents and gifts of our neighbours and friends to be relevant to the whole community.

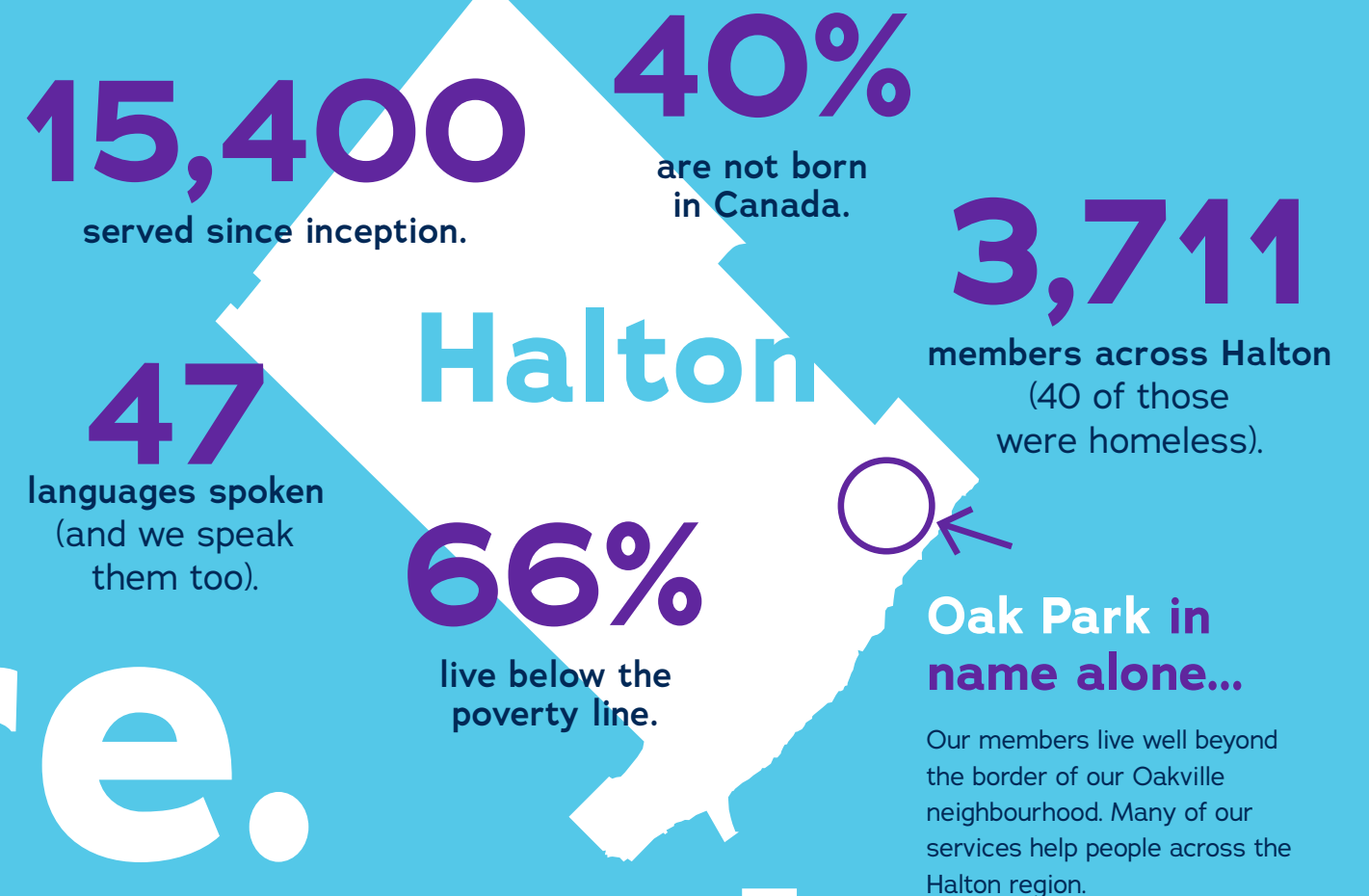
We believe in supporting the whole community together, regardless of income level, age or background.

COVID. Same challenges. Flexible solutions.

The COVID pandemic forced us to pivot quickly to provide support differently, and we persevered.

We moved to provide daily online programs and later to move many of our programs outdoors for our seniors, camp, family drop in programs and preschool. Our preschool teachers arranged a drive by graduation ceremony for each child.

We continued to run our weekly food bank, with food from Food for Life, outdoors in bins on our front porch available 24 hours a day.



We saw an increase in the number of people who required food. People who had never used a food bank before found themselves struggling to make ends meet with job loss due to COVID.

The local Islamic Centre started providing us with Halal meat at the beginning of the outbreak and have continued to support us weekly. We also started delivering food to people who were shut in. Five local volunteers and Viva Seniors Residence started cooking individual meals for delivery. Community members and local businesses stepped up overwhelmingly with daily food drop offs.

The community suggested we set up an amazon account. We did so, and there was not a single day that a box of food was not delivered.

One family even started a book lending program on our porch.

Additional COVID funds allowed us to install an outdoor hand washing sink, add UV lights to the furnace, and install hands free taps and soap dispensers.

Throughout this difficult time, our staff, volunteers, community, and members worked together to support one another. This is not new for us. This is who we are. Each and every day.



Over
1,000
clothing items provided
to families in need.

37

people who are
homeless have received
**permanent housing
options** as a result
completed tax returns.



We added an **infant
food bank** that
supported 25 families
throughout the year with
diapers, formula, baby
food, and wipes.

30%

increase in the people who
required food due to COVID.
We delivered **1200 meals**
and provided a **weekly food
bank** for 545 people.



\$1,502,153

in tax refunds, rebates, credits and utility support, from **422 completed tax returns**
and **311 utility bill payments** for people living in poverty.

Support

“We are a family of 4, two children and two adults, we are
refugee applicants and thanks to your great support and great
heart we were able to file a tax return. Thank you very much
and God bless you always.”



346

families participating in our **Parent & child programs.**

Our virtual programs during lockdown received **16,337 views.**



82

members enrolled in **affordable after school programs and summer camps for people of all abilities** to engage in physical activities, nutrition programs and wellness curriculum

\$22,000

raised at our **23rd annual Fall Fair.** It was a physically-distanced social event, with 5 outdoor entertainers on 5 different nights, a BBQ & movie night, and a virtual silent auction.



54

enrolled in our **seniors exercise program.**

We work closely with local agencies to reduce duplicating efforts and provide strong wrap around supports: **United Way Halton Hamilton, Oakville Public Library, Halton Legal Services, Halton Region Navigator, Halton Public Health, SAVIS, Town of Oakville, HIPPY, ROCK, Nelson Youth Centre, Kerry's Place, Support House, Links 2 Care, The Bridge, Home Suite Hope, The Women's Centre of Halton, Food For Life, Kerr Street Mission, and Salvation Army.**

connect

“Huge kudos to the OPNC team for the amazing work this past year. Me and my family are so grateful to live in a neighbourhood where everyone has somewhere to go whether they're in need or want to lend a helping hand :)”



Chartwell seniors
hosted OPNC for crafts
and a sing-along for
Thanksgiving, Christmas
& **Valentine's Day.**

75

children received sports
equipment from a member
of the **Junior Optimist
Club.**

We celebrated **Canadian
citizenship for one of
our 21 Finding Hope
Group members.**
Two other members found
employment and one
graduated from College.



2,118

bags of food collected
for the **Oakville Food
Drive** — with help from
357 volunteers from
8 congregations.

engage

“Thank you for your continued and never ending
hard work that supports and encourages so many
people in our community.”

Preschool programs

Half-day Preschool \$
2.5 - 5 years, Mon. - Fri.

Family Drop-in & Circle
Mon. to Fri. 9:30 - 11:30am

Baby Rhyme Time
0 - 2yrs, Tues. 1:00 - 3:00pm
Library & Nurse visits

Korean Play Group
Mon. (Oct – June)
11:45am - 1:30pm
lilyby@hotmail.com

ROCK Drop-In “Let’s Chat”
2nd Tues. 9:30 - 11:30am

Baby Wearing & Drop-in
3rd Weds. 1:00 - 3:00pm
pickett@abatonim.com

German Play Group
annelisa_adam@yahoo.ca

Japanese Play Group
Thurs. 11:45 - 1:30 pm
hiyokochiclub@gmail.com

Number & Literacy Programs \$
community@opnc.ca

Infant Food Bank
Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm
Donations accepted

La Hora Del Cuentro
Monday 10:00 - 12:00am
sarachaves123@hotmail.com

HIPPY– Home Instruction
ed@hippyhalton.org

Mandarin Drop-in
4th Saturday 9:30am - 11:30am

Stroller Walk & Story Time
Fridays at 10:00 - 11:30am
Children must be in a stroller

Child & youth programs

After School Program \$
Grades 4 - 8
Mon. - Fri., 3:00 - 6:00pm
youth@opnc.ca

Before/After School Program \$
Grades JK - 3
Mon- Fri. 7 - 8:30am & 3 - 6:00pm
bacare@opnc.ca

Nelson Youth Centres
Social Skills Program
office@nelsonyouthcentres.com

My French Club \$
www.myfrenchclub.ca

Russian Kids Drama Studio \$
4-14 years
mmpbel@gmail.com

Wu's Taekwondo \$
Tuesday's
bwugbrown@gmail.com

Kerry's Place Autism Services
Thursday's 4:00 - 8:00 pm
www.kerrysplace.org

Guides \$
www.girlguides.ca

Just Be You
– Peer to peer support
15–22 years
Fri. 7:00 - 10:00pm
289-291-5434

Summer Camp & PD Day Program \$
7-12 years
Mon. – Fri. 1:00 - 5:00pm

SOS Kids \$
Babysitting & home safe
www.sosfistaid.ca

Wei yan Art Studio
yuran527@yahoo.ca

Adult & family programs

First Aid Clinics \$
www.sosfirstaid.ca

MOMI Peer to Peer
Mum Mental Health Support
Thursday 1:30 - 3:00pm

Happy Fridays Drop-in
3:00 - 7:00 pm

Community Potluck (family)
Last Saturday of each month

Adult Recreation Summer Camp \$
16yrs. and up
Mon-Fri 1:00 - 5:00pm

Seniors Program 55+
Exercise, Guest Speaker & snack

The Bridge
From prison to community
905-634-2867

Tawasol Newcomer Support
mayeabdelshafy@yahoo.com

Finding Hope Support Group
Wed. 10:00 - 11:30am
hope@opnc.ca

OakHaven Harm Reduction
Supports for people struggling with addiction.
Operating in the College Park area
connector@opnc.ca

Food, Clothing, Household & Housing Supports
Registration req'd
hello@opnc.ca

Utility, OESP & Budget Support
Weds. & Thurs. 11:30 - 2:00pm
community@opnc.ca

Tax Completion
support@opnc.ca

Micro Loan Program
Low interest loans

Legal Aid
Wednesday aft. once a month

Mobility Support Program
Donations accepted

A huge thank you to our volunteers this year. We could not provide the extensive quality programs we do without your involvement.

A special thank you to those who provide weekly support by running our programs...

Pat Whyte
Community Garden & Meal Program
Julie Verhoeven,
Jean Mohamed,
Elizabeth Peck, Seon Lawrie, Elizabeth Osborn,
Keaton Butler, Nabeel Hasan, Robyn Michell
Food Bank

Lisa MacPherson, Bev Hickey & Alison Stewart
Intake

Madoka McGee
Japanese Drop-in

Likely Kim
Korean Drop-in

Adrienne Everitt
Momi

Christine Sun
Mandarin Drop-in

Sara Chaves
Spanish Drop-in
Maye Abdul Shafy
Tawasol

Anne Adam
German Drop-in

Don Arsenault, Blair Ulmer, Keith Garten, Jamie Bay
Maintenance Committee

Eugene Halfon & Keri Tabet
Tax Clinics

Phillipe Guay
Thrive

Nic Ulmer
Games Night & Pot Luck Coordinator

Geraldine Mcrae
Silent Auction

Sharon deVellis
Volunteer Hours

Wendy Alderdice
Human Resources

Claire Bazley
Website Management

Hani Enan
Bookkeeping

Councilor Jeff Knoll
Technology support

526
volunteers

7,594
volunteer hours in 2020

Board list

Joe Mauro, Chairperson

Lambrina Nikolaou, Vice chairperson

Qiang (Frances) Fu, Secretary

Christine Sun, Treasurer

Mayra Lugo, Director

Chris Alexiou, Director

Preeti Alwani, Director

Insha Haider Rizvi, Director

Kimberlee Shelley-Ajibolade,
Director

Staff list

Michelle Knoll, Executive Director

Paige Lauer, Preschool & Community
Outreach Manager

Shannon Puma, Lead Preschool
Teacher

Andree Hauschild, Assistant
Preschool Teacher & Youth Program
coordinator

Emma Slaunwhite, Before & After
School Lead teacher

Heather Tompkins, Finding Hope
Support Leader

Tammy Hand, Seniors Exercise

Stephen Paquette,
Indigenous Advisor

Sue Vernon-Smith, Financial Literacy

Mouayad Mourad, Financial Literacy

Crystal Martin, Harm Reduction
Connector

In memorium: This year we said goodbye to **Franklin Madison (1959-2020).**

Key financial sponsors

United Way
Ontario Trillium
Foundation
The Charis Foundation
Province of Ontario

Halton Region
Canada Summer Jobs
Bell Canada
Cockwell Family
Kenny Family

Home Depot
Film.ca Cinemas
Civitan International
Optimists Oakville

Altruists
Desjardins
Renewal By Anderson
Oakville Community
Foundation

Throughout the Pandemic, OPNC has been a strong supporter to the Seniors of Knox Heritage Place. Many of us have benefitted through your generosity. I feel honoured to be a part of OPNC Seniors Group and I am more than honoured to be a recipient of your generosity. I have been treated in a most respectful manner in all instances regarding my opinion and helping distribute their generous donations to us. Your assistance means the world, whether it be in a small deed or other. Thank you from all of us who benefit. 🌱 Thank you for being a Guardian Angel to us 🌱 For all you do I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For a few years now you have all had a very positive impact on my life. 🌸 I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you and your great team for your caring support, the wonderful meals, and for the excellent programs! Thank you for making a difference! My warmest best wishes to all of you for your wellbeing! 🌱 I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Centre for the amazing work they are doing, it means a lot. Along with the food, the care package was a surprise and a wonderful gesture, it brightened my day. Thank you everyone for everything 🌸 The assistance provided by OPNC in completing my OESP has allowed me to meet my financial requirements. Thanks again 🌱 Thank you so much for your recent help me with my hydro bill, which was so very high, and I am so grateful that you helped me out. Such a huge relief. 🌱 I was thrilled and grateful for the help provided by the tax people at OPNC. I have been trying to get my back taxes done for a couple of years now and could find no one to help me. Filing my taxes for those years allows me to get the benefits I need as a senior on a fixed income. I am getting a refund that will let me go visit my daughter! I was very impressed with the service offered – I suffer a debilitating illness and they were able to do this for me without leaving my home. This tax help was a gift. 🌱 I received help for my utility bill this year and I just wanted to say thank you for the help, patience and caring. It has been stressful for me. On top of COVID, I had knee surgery and I have not been able to get around so much, with also shortage of work, you are so understanding. I have also enjoyed the senior fit outdoor classes and I intend to utilize these classes again in the New Year. You most certainly did meet the expectations of the community in my books and I do not think any improvement is needed. 🌸 Sometimes I don't feel like getting out of bed. After everything that has happened, looking forward to coming in Wednesday morning to see other women who have been through a lot like myself. Coming in to talk. 🌱 The service provided by the team at OPNC has been incredibly helpful. I'm honestly a bit ashamed to admit that as an adult, I still have no idea how to file my own taxes, which leads to a lot of anxiety for me come tax season. Then, next thing I knew I was 10 years behind and completely overwhelmed by the thought. Through your teammates I now have it all caught up and was actually brought to tears when I saw my bank statement showing that I've received some of my refunds already. I can't even begin to tell you what a relief this all is. 🌱 At times when we were not in lockdown, staff delivered the donations right to my door so that when I was not up to par, I did not have to go down with my own trolley to receive the goodies. 🌸 Over the years OPNC has played a very important role in my life for numerous reasons. I am most grateful to OPNC most especially with the Front Line staff. They are, and have always been, a real joy to me. I appreciate them in every way. 🌱 Your summer program for people with special needs saved our family! Our teen child was struggling with mental health issues from everything in her life being cancelled... this was everything to her, and us. The kind, empathetic leaders made her summer bearable and brought some joy back to her life. 🌱 I was grateful for your Collection Centre expertise for the Oakville Food Drive back in June of 2020. Thanks for opening up on a Sunday afternoon in aid of those who have needed extra food support in 2020! Covid19 has stretched the food banks incredibly! 🌸 As a Senior, I was delighted to be involved with your Fitness Program while the weather was warm enough. 🌱 Thank you for all the hard work you do that is often not seen and not appreciated. Oak Park is a place of so much positive support, encouragement and real life practical help. It is a place that welcomes you, makes you feel comfortable and can help you move forward in life in a truly positive way. You make a huge difference in so many peoples lives, in my life specifically. I thank you for all the opportunities you have given me. To start a pathway to a fulfilling career. I thank you for all your help in listening to our voices and starting towards meeting my goals and guiding me through it. I look forward to future opportunities. 🌱 Thank you very much and God bless you always.

We continue to do our work through your ongoing support. Please visit [OPNC.ca](https://www.opnc.ca) to donate.