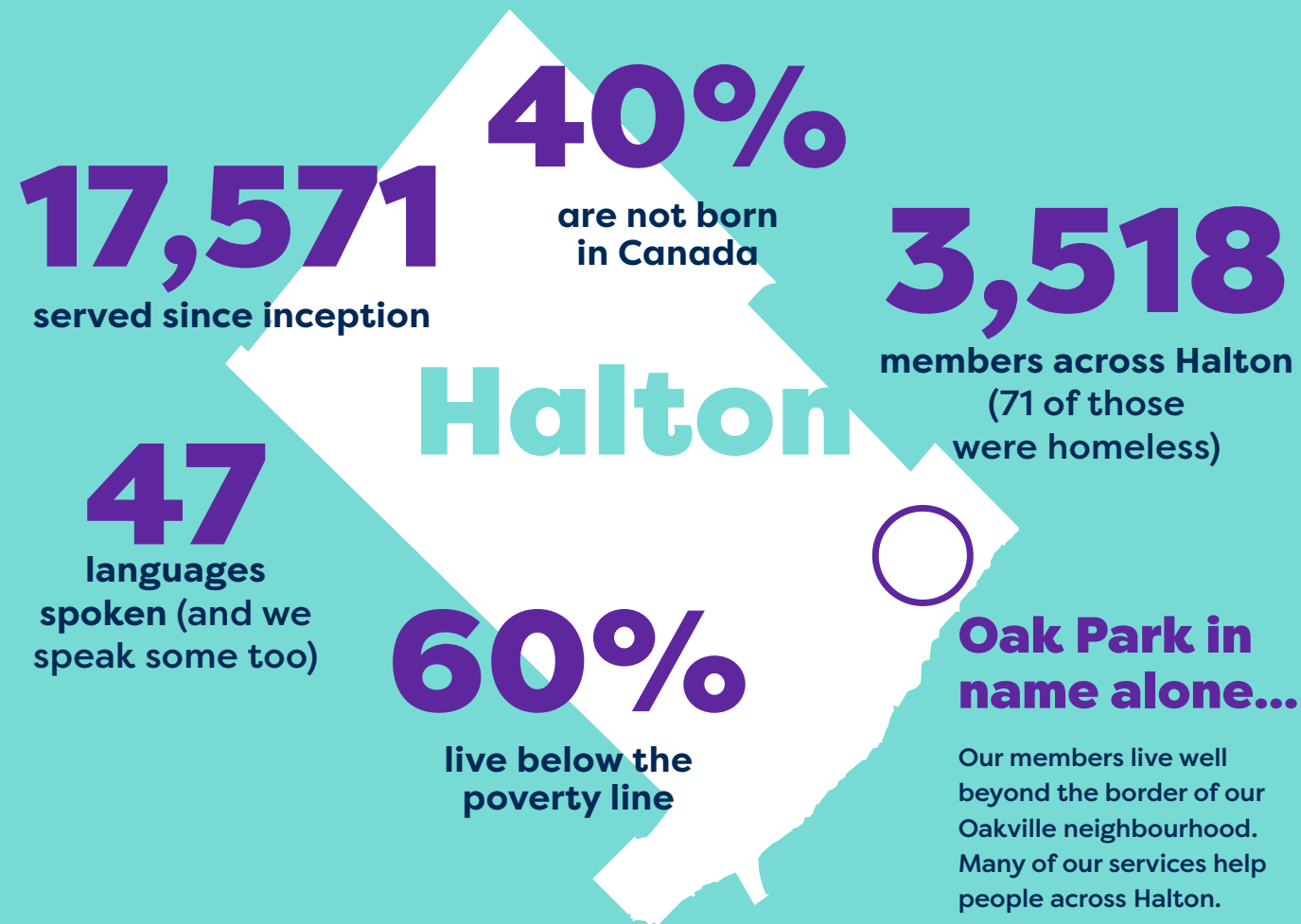


We remain
OPEN.





We began in 1999, when six women met to help and support one another. Oak Park Neighbourhood Center has helped over 17,571 people since then.

Our centre is a non-institutional, barrier-free space that's welcoming to everyone. It's a reflection of the needs, talents, and strengths of all our neighbours and friends.

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

We are just shy of two years supporting our community through this pandemic. For some of the children we support, this is normal. They've not known life any other way.

For the rest of us, it's been difficult. And as it goes on, many are losing hope that we will ever return to normal. Throughout the pandemic, Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre, except for a few weeks over the past year, has remained open.

What's more, this year we opened Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, a satellite location to better meet that community's health and wellness needs. Your continued acts of kindness towards our staff, and the vulnerable people we support there, keep us going everyday.

We're continually amazed, and so very grateful, at the outpouring of compassion in our giving community for both Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre and Churchill Neighbourhood Centre.

We will continue to serve, and be a place where others can come alongside and also serve, for as long as our neighbours and friends need us. We will continue to provide tangible support, a listening ear, uncompromised compassion, and hopefully, a glimmer of hope, to motivate people towards a better quality of life.

And, through a pandemic or otherwise, we will continue to help our community flourish.

We remain open and responsive.

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 alleviate poverty, provide education, support, and recreational and social opportunities for people of all abilities.

SUPPORT

“Thank you for all you have done to help me get back on my feet after being homeless for so many years.”

38
PEOPLE NO
LONGER
HOMELESS

having received
permanent housing as
a result of completed
tax returns



Churchill

Our new satellite office focuses on
**reducing mental and physical
harm** in order to navigate to a better
quality of life.

121

Naloxone kits
distributed

83

people achieved 2 or more
life changing goals

\$4,410,318

in tax refunds, rebates, credits and utility support, from 1,162 completed tax returns and 331 utility bill payments for 1,051 people living in poverty

Over
1,000

clothing items provided
to families in need

521

people received access to daily food
programs and **5 volunteers** made
540 small portion weekly meals
for isolated seniors

CONNECT

“My children have thrived attending your programs. You gave us routine and normalcy in an exceptionally unique year.”

\$31,000

raised in our **24th annual Fall Fair**. Four nights of physically distanced activities, BBQ, entertainers, movie night, and silent auction



We work closely with local agencies to reduce duplicating efforts and provide strong wrap around support: **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, Support House, Links 2 Care, The Bridge, Home Suite Hope, The Women's Centre of Halton, Food For Life, Kerr Street Mission, Second Harvest, Oakville & Milton Humane Society, Islamic Group of Oakville, and Salvation Army.**

70

families supported through **Collaborative Problem Solving Parenting Workshops** sponsored by Bell

288

parents & children participating in our **drop-in family program**

52

enrolled in our virtual and outdoor **seniors exercise program**, sponsored by Oakville Community Foundation

ENGAGE

“Volunteering at the after-school program at OPNC as a teen was a big part of my life back in high school, I just wanted to thank you and share that I am now applying for medical school.”

\$104,000

donated by the community, teams, churches and businesses to **brighten the holidays for 263 children, 131 parents, and 100 singles and seniors**



**OAKVILLE
FOOD DRIVE**

2,866

BAGS COLLECTED

299

volunteers

9

congregations



Seniors outreach

Our preschoolers and local families visited our grand friends at Post Inn Village and Chartwell Seniors regularly for activities: **Special Valentine video messages, Christmas caroling, mini Olympics and share handmade gifts - Easter egg painted rocks, tea lights, pinwheels and suncatchers.**

15

people provided **mobility equipment** through a community initiative



My children have thrived attending your programs. You gave us routine and normalcy in an exceptionally unique year. 🌱 Thank you for all you have done to help me get back on my feet after being homeless for so many years. 🌱 I can't thank you enough, this year has been difficult and you have graciously supported me as I went from being a volunteer at food banks in the community to now, after losing my job to being a recipient myself, it's a very humbling experience. 🌱 Staff have been so accommodating and supportive of my child with special needs. I am so grateful. Your team is just the best. 🌱 Volunteering at the after-school program at OPNC as a teen was a big part of my life back in high school, I just wanted to thank you and share that I am now applying for medical school. 🌱 I was so blessed as I dropped off Christmas gifts to a local family from the centre, the recipient cried tears of happiness and said "no one had ever helped her like this. 🌱 Thank you, for your commitment to the OPNC Senior Group moving to outside and virtual programs. You put so much thought and energy to ensure that we have a good social time and much needed exercise, and then you lift up our spirits with today's virtual tea Party event! 🌱 I have just paid my final installment to your Microloan Program. I feel like I have made a huge leap forward, ever since OPNC paid off my Payday debt 12 months ago and provided the interest free loan. I don't think I ever would have been able to pay it off. I can finally see light at the end of the tunnel and am on my way. 🌱 Thank you for connecting my client to a volunteer for support, she was able to cross through cultural boundaries that I can't and has benefited this family immensely. It is inspiring to know that people like this are on the front lines and are a part of our field. 🌱 Thank you for helping me arrange everything to sell my home to get out of debt. I am happy to say that I am back on my feet and have a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. 🌱 Just wanted to thank you for organizing all the children to share about their challenges during the pandemic with The Finding Hope Group Zoom chat. My son was so pleased with himself that he was invited and I was so proud to have him present. 🌱 Thank you very much for helping my family, I am a proud man and didn't want to ask for help. I needed my hydro paid and you went beyond that 🌱 Wow, thank you for the beautiful Valentines video messages from all the children to bring love and warmth. It has been hard to be shut in and this just brightened my day, I actually cried. The Valentines video was so beautiful. I still have a smile on my face. Children have such magic about them xoxoxo 🌱 My children have grown up at OPNC, starting with the baby group and then drop in and Preschool. OPNC has given them a wonderful start to their school life. 🌱 I just want to tell you I really appreciate your support, the conversation with you was like therapy for me. I will take all your advices I promise myself to change the rules with my children and others I'm not going to put myself in trouble anymore for anybody thank you again God bless you. 🌱 Before coming to the Centre our child was not speaking and did not have any social interaction with other children. Now they are a social butterfly and always talking and singing at home. 🌱 I found you when I needed help to pay my hydro bill. You've called and checked in and provided me with supplies knowing I had a baby and was alone. I am so grateful; I don't know what I deserved to get all your kindness 🌱 We are very appreciative of the stability the programs have had on our family. Knowing our child is happy, safe and learning is a wonderful feeling. 🌱 The sense of community and camaraderie I've felt by participating at the centre has been a huge emotional social & mental health support. As a stay at home parent, new to Oakville It can be an isolating existence. OPNC feels like home. 🌱 We appreciate your kind and support you gave us. We went through hardship, thank you for being there. I hope we will be happy and healthy in the years to come. We stick together and we can get through together. 🌱 The parcels I received this week were thankfully received and lifted a great burden. What a beautiful surprise and a special treat! 🌱 I am so grateful for your food delivery, and that you arrived when you did. I was completely lost at how to manage my dressings after being discharged from the hospital. Thank you for connecting me to people to come manage my care. 🌱 I can't thank you enough for helping me with my high hydro bill. I never would have realized I had a leak and wouldn't have known how to get help. You really went above and beyond to get it all taken care of for me. I feel like I have made a new friend. 🌱 I want you to know that you made a difference in my life big time by doing my taxes. These times are tough, people get defiant, aggressive, and with the masks and social distancing it is so hard to connect. I connected easily with you. You are someone with integrity, conscience, and you still have that humanity in you that so many people lack. 🌱 Thanks so much for all the help, I would like to somehow return the favor when I get back on my feet hopefully soon. Taxes give me awful anxiety, I can't say how much I appreciate you cleaning up my tax blunders due to struggling with health and homeless issues. 🌱 One thing that I was worried about during the pandemic was how would I socialize with my baby, luckily, we were able to find story time! My child loved EVERY moment of it, and it gave me relief! We looked forward to our visits, to sing and dance, and listen to stories. Thank you for your dedication to the community you serve. 🌱 We have loved seeing our child's vocabulary increase as the days go along, she constantly surprises us with new words. She loves preschool and had tears this morning when she found out she didn't have school today. 🌱 Thank you for everything, feeling blessed to know such fine people who have your back in life. You don't have to be rich to make an impact but kindness to me is the most sophisticated quality about a person... thank you again words can't express how I feel right now... I poured my heart out to God and he replied to me with miracle. 🌱 Thank you for supporting our family, and creating a giving community that nurtures our neighborhood each and every day! You have been an angel to me at a time when I do not need this stress. This has been such a burden off my back and for you to explain things to me makes me able to go to bed and not worry. 🌱 Thank you for taking the time to speak with us and provide assistance. We were at a low point and we regained hope and the encouragement we lacked. 🌱

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...

Patty O'Connor
Community Garden & Meal Program

Julie Verhoeven, Jean Mohamed, Robyn Michell, Wendy Long, Scottie Johnston, Tammy Whyte
Food Bank

Madoka McGee
Japanese Program

Likely Kim
Korean drop In

Ash Lafford, Ethan Chiang
Youth Programs

Carmelo Galati
Communication Design & Brand Manager

Christine Sun
Mandarin drop In

Sara Chaves
Spanish drop In

Maye Abdul Shafy
Tawasol

Don Arsenault, Blair Ulmer, Jamie Bay
Maintenance committee

Eugene Halfon, Keri Tabet, Sara Chin, Arham Chohan
Tax Preparers

Phillipe Guay
Thrive

Nic Ulmer
Games Night

Geraldine Mcrae
Silent Auction

Sharon DeVellis
Volunteer Hours

Wendy Alderdice
Human Resources

Hani Enan
Bookkeeping

Jeff Knoll
IT support

368

volunteers

3,976

volunteer hours in 2020

Board list

Joe Mauro, Chairperson
Lambrina Nikolaou, Vice Chairperson
Qiang (Frances) Fu, Secretary
Christine Sun, Treasurer
Mayra Lugo, Director
Devinder Lamsar, Director
Preeti Alwani, Director
Insha Haider Rizvi, Director
Kimberlee Shelley, Director
Elizabeth Peck, 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
Peta-Gay Lewis, Before & After School Lead Teacher
Heather Tompkins, Finding Hope Support Leader
Tammy Hand, Seniors Exercise
Sue Vernon-Smith, Financial Literacy
Mouayad Mourad, Financial Literacy
Crystal Martin, Harm Reduction Connector, Indigenous Advisor
Chris Alexiou, CPS Parenting Workshops
Amaya Mocha, Program Support Administrator

Key financial sponsors

United Way Halton & Hamilton

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Halton Region
June & Ian

The Charis Foundation
Oakville Hydro
Province of Ontario
Canada Summer Jobs
Kenny Family

Film.ca Cinemas
Branthaven Homes
Food For Life
Optimists Oakville
Altruists

Co-operators
Desjardins
Renewal By Anderson
Oakville Community Foundation

We remain
OPNC.



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