



2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2014 has been an incredible inaugural year for Homeless Connect Toronto and we are so proud of what was accomplished together with so many supporters and partners since we began.

Three years ago, we dreamt of bringing a Homeless Connect event to Toronto. Our dreams and vision became a reality in 2014. Not only did we organize one Homeless Connect event but two within the same year, bringing together 90 organizations that provided a wide range of services to almost 600 at-risk and homeless individuals in the city.



The year kickstarted with our first Homeless Connect Toronto event at the Harbourfront Community Centre on April 13, 2014. Despite various challenges and uncertainties, our event was a success and the feedback was incredulous. We ambitiously decided to host a second event within the same year, on November 9, 2014. We sought a larger venue at the Mattamy Athletic Centre (former Maple Leaf Gardens) and more community partnerships, and as a result, the number of guests who attended our event doubled to nearly 400.

The number of guests who came through our doors is merely a small fraction of the 5,000+ individuals on the streets of Toronto on a given night and many others who experience hidden homelessness. We have a lot more work ahead. We will continue to dream of innovative ways to connect with the community and strengthen collaborations between businesses and social agencies to increase access to services and raise awareness about the homelessness and housing needs.

Our priorities in 2015 will be long-term strategic planning and our third event in October 2015. We will work to strengthen the organization's sustainability and expand our capacity. And we look forward to the continuing support of our board of directors, steering committee, sponsors, partner agencies, and volunteers who have helped us to realize our vision. We believe that together we can truly create sustainable partnerships to overcome homelessness in the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML/L', written in a cursive style.

Melody Li
Founder and Executive Director, Homeless Connect Toronto

OUR 2014 EVENTS



HCT #1

April 13, 2014

Harbourfront Community Centre

201 GUESTS

195 Adults

6 Children

50 SERVICE PROVIDERS

12 Health Care

12 Personal Care / Support

9 Housing

5 Education / Employment

6 Financial / Legal

6 Other

180 VOLUNTEERS

HCT #2

November 9, 2014

Mattamy Athletic Centre

380 GUESTS

375 Adults

5 Children

68 SERVICE PROVIDERS

27 Health Care

12 Personal Care / Support

10 Housing

8 Education / Employment

7 Financial / Legal

4 Other

93 VOLUNTEERS

SERVICES PROVIDED

In total, the following were provided during the two HCT events in 2014:



550+ hot meals



226 haircuts



500+ items of clothing



114 eye exams



53 footcare sessions



66 dental exams



146 legal consults



119 ID help sessions



16 tax filling sessions

Other services included housing application assistance, employment services, debt counseling, sexually transmitted infection testing, immunizations, bike repair and many more.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR GUESTS



"We the homeless need more of this under one roof. This was great."

"Days like this give hope and happiness!"

"I hope you repeat this. It's a great service, very useful."

"I think this is a very useful and great idea for helping those who don't know where to turn/go."

"I think Homeless [Connect] Toronto is a[n] excellent Idea. Thank you."

"[I was] able to access services that I won't normally access. I got all I hoped for."

IN THE NEWS



New agency aiming to help Toronto's homeless population

Justin Skinner

City Centre Mirror | Oct 15, 2013

With Toronto's homeless population growing at an alarming rate, a new local agency is looking to help ensure those living on the streets have access to the programs they need.

Homeless Connect Toronto, a branch of the North America-wide Project Homeless Connect initiative, is looking for partners, sponsors and service providers in anticipation of its first semi-annual event.



News / GTA

"One-stop shop" event offers low-income people array of services

Needy receive eye care, dentistry and legal assistance all in one place

By: [Jessica McDiarmid](#) News reporter, Published on Sun Apr 13 2014

Asha Mohamoud was diagnosed with diabetes two months ago.

Her doctor recommended a trip to the optometrist to check for eye damage associated with the disease.

HOME / NEWS / HOMELESS CONNECT A SUCCESS FOR CITY'S NEEDY

HOMELESS CONNECT A SUCCESS FOR CITY'S NEEDY

150 volunteers helped more than 300 people at risk connect with housing, job, and health services

BY [CYNTHIA MCQUEEN](#) APRIL 14, 2014 2:09 PM

Marie Ranger has lived on the streets on and off for 10 years. For four months she's been living in a shelter. On April 13, she filled out an application for housing at **Homeless Connect**, Toronto's first-ever one-stop event for people on the margins and at-risk.



News / GTA

Helping hands and haircuts welcomed at Homeless Connect Toronto

About 150 volunteers from 70 different agencies and companies came together Sunday to deliver housing, health care and other services in a one-stop shop.

By: [Madhavi Acharya-Tom Yew](#) Business Reporter, Published on Sun Nov 09 2014

It was hard to tell who got more joy from the haircut — student hairdresser Shahli Hayat or her client Heather Eagle.

THANK YOU

Board of Directors

Michael Shapcott (Chair)
Priti Saini
Linsey MacPhee

Azar Farahani
Melody Li

Steering Committee

Alvita Chan
Sarah Ha
Terence Ha

Melody Li
Jonathan Liu
Timothy Yiu

Subcommittee Members

Georgette Gregory
Charis Ip
Scott McCauley
Monica Gomez Orozco

Sidney Sau
Andrew Tom
Alex Zsager

Service Providers

Abundant Life Health Centre
Access Alliance
Addiction Assessment Psychotherapy Referral
in Community of Toronto (AAPRICOT)
AIDS Committee of Toronto - Positive Youth
Outreach Program
Albion Neighbourhood Services
Anishnawbe Health Toronto
Bike Pirates
Canada Revenue Agency: Community Tax
Clinic
Canadian Diabetes Association
Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto
Canadian Red Cross: Community Initiatives
Cathedraltown Health Clinic
CDR Footcare
Central Neighbourhood House
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: Metro
Addiction Assessment Referral Service (MAARS)
City of Toronto: Streets to Homes

College of Health Studies
COSTI Immigrant Services Housing Help
Center
Credit Canada: Debt Solutions
Daily Bread Food Bank
Dixon Hall
Mainstay
Donato Academy of Hairstyling
Downtown Legal Services
Dr. Brian Hughsam
Fred Victor - Housing Access and Support
Services
Fred Victor: Drop In Program
Fred Victor: H.A.S.S.
Free Geek Toronto
Horizons for Youth
Houselink Community Homes
Housing Connections
Inner City Health Associates
Inner City Family Health Team
Interval House

John Howard Society of Toronto
Justice for Children and Youth
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal
Services
Learning Enrichment Foundation
Maple Family Dentistry
Margaret's Toronto East Drop-In: Housing and
Community Support Services
Na-Me-Res
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Native Women's Resource Centre Toronto
Neighbourhood Link Support Services: PAID
Project
Oasis Addiction Recovery Society
Oasis Clothing
Planned Parenthood
Romero House
Salvation Army Homestead Addiction Services
Salvation Army: Gateway
Salvation Army: Harbour Light
Sandra Chabot Holistic Nutrition
Second Harvest
Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto
Sherbourne Health Bus
St. John's Ambulance
St. Michael's Hospital: Supporting Transitions
and Recovery (STAR) Learning Centre
Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family
Centre
The 519 Community Centre
The Scott Mission
Thinking Forward

Toronto Central Community Care Access
Centre (CCAC)
Toronto Public Health: Dental Screening
Toronto Public Health: Homeless At Risk
Pregnancy
Toronto Public Health: Oral and Dental Health
Toronto Public Health: Sexual Health
Promotion Program
Toronto Public Health: TB STOP
Toronto Public Health: The Works
Toronto Public Health: Vulnerable Adults and
Seniors
Toronto Public Library
Toronto Transit Commission: Wheel-Trans
Turning Point Youth Services: Project Going
Home
Two Foot Squared
Unison Health & Community Services
University of Toronto: IMAGINE Clinic
Ve'ahavta
VHA Home Healthcare
Vision Institute
Vision Institute of Canada
West Toronto Community Legal Services
West Toronto Housing Help Services
Weston King Neighbourhood Centre
Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centre
Windfall Basics
Woodgreen Community Services
Yorktown Child and Family Centre
Youth Employment Services
Zonia Slyfield

Sponsors

GOLD

Capital One
Green Shield Canada Foundation
Rotary Club of Toronto

Sisters of St. Joseph
Windfall Basics
Mr. Timothy Yeung

SILVER

Century Graphics
First Student School Bus

Harbourfront Community Centre
Mattamy Athletic Centre

McGregor Industries
Dixon Hall/Mid Toronto Community Services
Thinking Forward

University of Toronto Gospel Choir
Xtreme Worldwide
Ms. Benita Chan

BRONZE

Bargains Group
Canadian Tire
City of Toronto - Shelter, Support & Housing
Administration
Cosmetic Brands of North America
Credit Education Week
Diamond Schmitt Architects

Oasis Clothing
Rotaract Club of Toronto
Ryerson University
Scott Mission
Starbucks Canada
Terry Fox Public School
Waterview Dental

And many other individual donors.