



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

1. FROM OUR BOARD
2. FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3. HCT3 AT A GLANCE
4. OUR FINANCES
5. THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
6. THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SERVICE-PROVIDING AGENCIES
7. OUR TEAM



We are humbled by the generosity and continued support of the board of directors, steering committee, sponsors, community agency partners, and volunteers who have made 2015 another successful year. This annual report is a source of pride, as we look back on what has been accomplished in the past year and it serves as inspiration for continuing our work while capitalizing on new opportunities that present themselves, all in an effort to serve and empower those individuals in the city of Toronto who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Homeless Connect Toronto is growing. What started out in 2012 as a collection of ideas and people uniting with the common goal of serving the city's homeless and at-risk populations has become a more structured and focused organization.

After organizing two successful HCT events within the same year in 2014, we decided to hold the HCT event on an annual basis, thereby allowing for the best utilization of resources. While planning the third HCT event for November 8, 2015 remained a priority, another equally important priority for 2015 was to begin thinking about long-term strategic planning. We invited Cliff Higuchi, a founder member of Homeless Connect Edmonton as the Vice-President and General Manager of the Shaw Convention Centre in Edmonton, to visit Toronto to speak about his organization's own journey, from its beginnings to its current state of stability, having created the kinds of sustainable partnerships within the private and public sectors that HCT aims to create. We see HCE's journey as a source of learning and inspiration, and the event ultimately helped us in jumpstarting our own strategic planning.

In 2015, we continued to be encouraged by the participation of community members in our annual fundraising event, the Ride for

Refuge; this year saw an increase in both the number of participants and donations, allowing us to expand our capacity and serve a greater number of guests during the HCT event. The year 2015 also saw an increase in partnerships, from new service providers, which provided much needed services to our now more than 600 guests, to new sponsors, which ultimately allowed us to provide a greater number of guests with the essential services and supports they needed.

Our priorities in 2016 will be continuing with long-term strategic planning and organizing our fourth event in October 2016. In addition, HCT hopes to achieve charitable status. This will bring a measure of status and further validity to the organization. HCT is a community-led initiative, and while we still have a ways to go, we believe, through the community's continued support, HCT will meet its mission of connecting the community at large to raise awareness of homelessness in the city of Toronto and the need for affordable housing. We believe that together we can and will overcome homelessness in our city!

Priti Saini
Vice-Chair, Homeless Connect Toronto



It's been a successful second year of operations for Homeless Connect Toronto. While starting on a steep learning curve, this past year turned out to be a valuable year of growth. We had our largest event on November 8, 2015, serving more guests than previous events, and we focused our efforts on the sustainability of the organization and deepening partnerships.

This year would not have been possible for the many volunteers who give their time to us, either as steering committee members, subcommittee members or volunteers at the event. In 2015, we expanded our steering committee members to make way for additional co-chair positions responsible for services, sponsorship and volunteers, fulfilling essential roles in our event planning. We also formed new subcommittees for communications, services and sponsorship to assist in expanding our outreach to the community, sponsors and service providers. A large thank you to those who took part in these committees!

This year, we made new partnerships, as well as deepened others. We were delighted to be the first Canadian city to receive and distribute High Sierra's CityPak, backpacks designed for individuals living on the streets, at our event. Over 700 backpacks were distributed to guests who came to our event. The backpacks were filled with comfort kits provided by the Shoebox Project for women and other toiletries from Unilever Canada, Altima Dental and efforts of local communities.

Impressed by our event at the Mattamy Athletic Centre in 2014, Ryerson Eats became a new partner and sponsored all our hot lunches at this past year's event. A local church organized the clothing drive at our event, which was a tremendous hit among our guests. On top of all that, we had an additional 24 new service providers attend our event this year, providing more employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, skills training



programs, veteran services and interpretation services, just to name a few.

We were reminded of our humble roots when Cliff Higuchi, a founding member of Homeless Connect Edmonton and Vice-President and General Manager of the Shaw Convention Centre, shared at our "Re:Connect" event about his journey of building partnerships with the Edmonton business community. Together with sponsors, service providers and volunteers, we learned from Edmonton's experience and discussed ways we can continue to improve our Toronto events. This year, we were also involved in knowledge sharing and capacity building with organizations outside of Toronto, including Durham Workforce Authority and Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, as they considered organizing their own Homeless Connect events in their cities. It amazes me that despite having only completed three events, we are able to share our lessons learned and help other cities to do the same.

We look forward to another great year in 2016 as we continue to work towards charitable status and build more sustainable partnerships to end homelessness.

Sincerely,

Melody Li
Executive Director

Who was at the event?

607

GUESTS

attended the event. Over 50% more than at our last event.

136

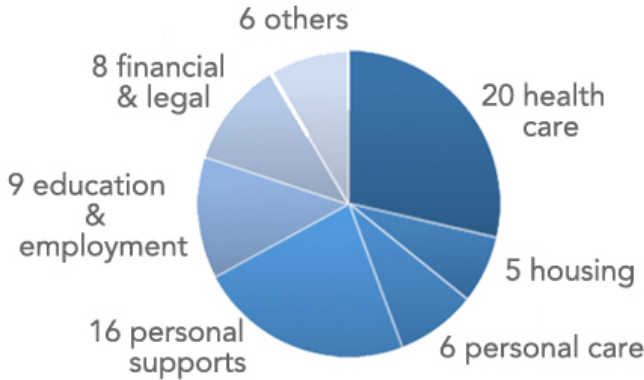
VOLUNTEERS

registered, greeted, guided and got to know the guests.

68

ORGANIZATIONS

provided services with the help of over 200 staff.



In total, the following were provided or given out on the day of the event:

- >600 HOT MEALS
- 69 ADDICTIONS INFO
- 209 HOUSING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED
- 74 ID APPLICATIONS COMPLETED
- 83 LEGAL CONSULTS
- 119 EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION INFO

- 97 HAIRCUTS
- 86 EYE EXAMS
- 54 FLU SHOTS
- 70 FOOTCARE SESSIONS
- 40 CHIROPRACTIC ASSESSMENTS
- 89 ABORIGINAL SUPPORTS

and many more...

“It was an awesome experience to be able to have that one on one interaction with the guests. It was a very eye opening experience.”

Volunteer

“My volunteer guide was fantastic, as well as everyone else that was part of the program. I received so much help in a short period of time, it was fantastic.”

Guest

“Listening to most of their stories made me appreciate and give thanks to my surroundings....

I was most shocked when some of the less fortunate wanted to tip me for cutting their hair. These are people who don't have anything yet they are willing to give me their last spare change to show their gratitude and appreciation...

My views on homeless people has changed significantly. I have made many great new friends that I am looking forward to seeing in the great streets of Toronto.”

Service Provider

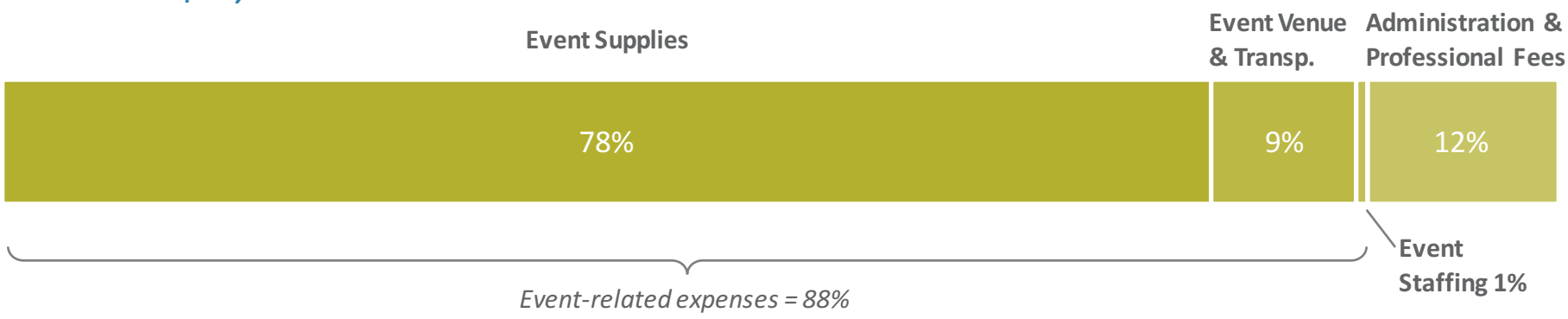
“I met a lot of amazing people, volunteers and guests. I loved interacting with everyone, being able to listen to their experiences, seeing how grateful they were. I cannot wait until the next event!”

Volunteer

REVENUE: \$101,655



EXPENSES: \$80,191



Homeless Connect Toronto is committed to managing its finances with integrity and responsibility. As a volunteer-run organization, we are proud that 88% of all in-kind and monetary donations are used directly to implement HCT events and benefit our guests.

Thank you to our generous supporters and donors who enable us to continue to serve our community.



Ron Kaplan, founder of the CityPak, explaining the features of the CityPak designed by- and for homeless individuals.

GOLD SUPPORTERS

Brands for Canada
Blue Sea Philanthropy
High Sierra Canada
Ryerson University, Ryerson Eats
Shoebox Project for Shelters
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

SILVER SUPPORTERS

Altima Healthcare Canada
& Altima Dental Canada Inc.
The Co-Operators (Andy Chow)
McCarthy Tetrault Foundation
Unilever Canada
University of Toronto Gospel Choir
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Tam
Ms. Benita Chan



Comfort kits ready to be packed into a CityPak backpack

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Berea Lutheran Hats and Mats Project
Chelsea Hotel
Cosmetic Brands of North America
Cover-All Printing
Credit Education Week - Credit Canada Debt Solutions
First Student Canada
Hardwood Lumber (Peter Ross)
Holiday Inn
Just Socks
Peoples Christian Academy
Ryerson University,
Mattamy Athletic Centre
The Great Canadian Sox Co.
Toronto Barber & Beauty Supplies
Woodgreen Community Services

...and many other donors!

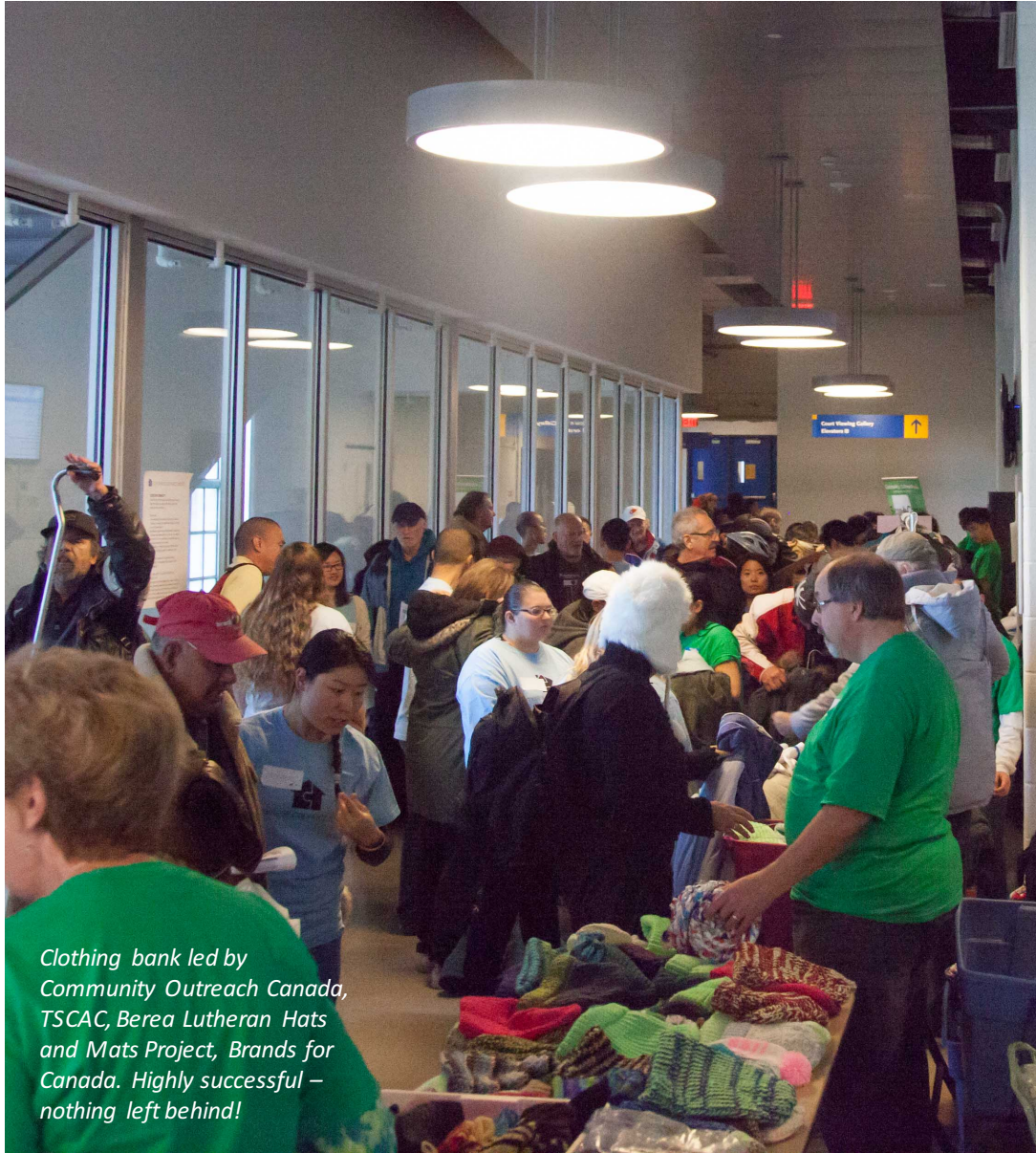
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SERVICE-PROVIDING AGENCIES

- 2FT2 (Two Foot Squared)
- Ability Learning Network
- Abundant Life Health Centre
- Addiction Assessment Psychotherapy Referral in Community of Toronto (AAPRICOT)
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto
- Brands for Canada
- Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
- Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto
- Canadian Red Cross: Community Initiatives
- Cathedraltown Health Clinic
- CDR Footcare Services
- Central Neighbourhood House
- City of Toronto: Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
- College of Health Studies
- Community and Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP)
- Community Outreach Canada
- Credit Canada: Debt Solutions
- Dixon Hall
- Downtown Legal Services
- Free Geek Toronto
- George Brown College: Augmented Programs
- Good Shepherd Ministries
- Horizons for Youth
- Inner City Health Associates
- Inner City Family Health Team
- John Howard Society of Toronto
- Justice for Children and Youth
- Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services
- Matthew Genser Salon & Wellness Spa
- MCIS Language Services
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Native Women's Resource Centre Toronto



Guests receiving fresh cuts from a dedicated team of hair stylists

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SERVICE-PROVIDING AGENCIES



Clothing bank led by Community Outreach Canada, TSCAC, Berea Lutheran Hats and Mats Project, Brands for Canada. Highly successful – nothing left behind!

Neighbourhood Link Support Services: PAID Project
OASIS Addiction Recovery Society
Peoples Christian Academy: Early Years Centre
Salvation Army Harbour Light Ministries & Homestead Addiction Services
Salvation Army: Toronto Housing and Homeless Supports
Sandra Chabot Holistic Nutrition
Sperro
St. John's Ambulance
Street to Trail Association
The Good Neighbours' Club
Tips Nail Bar
The Scott Mission
Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC)
Toronto Christian Resource Centre
Toronto Employment and Social Services
Toronto Paramedic Services
Toronto Public Health: Dental Outreach
Toronto Public Health: Homeless At Risk Pregnancy
Toronto Public Health: Sexual Health Promotion Program
Toronto Public Health: TB STOP
Toronto Public Health: Vulnerable Adults and Seniors
Toronto Public Library
Toronto Simpson Chinese Alliance Church
Toronto Transit Commission: Wheel-Trans
Turning Point Youth Services: Project Going Home
Unison Health & Community Services
Ve'ahavta
Vector Health Clinics
VETS Canada
Vision Institute of Canada
West Toronto Housing Help Services
Weston King Neighbourhood Centre
Workplace Essential Skills Partnership (WESP)
Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centre
Youth Employment Services

Board of Directors

Michael Shapcott
Priti Saini
John Carey
Azar Farahani
Melody Li

Our Steering Committee

Alvita Chan
Andrew Tom
Ann Steckles
Charis Ip
Dhanukshi Jayawickreme
Georgette Gregory
Jonathan Liu
Melody Li
Sidney Sau
Terence Ha
Timothy Yiu
Viola Cheung

Our Subcommittee Members

Alex Zsager
Amanda Feng
Kathy Biasi
Kenric Leung
Monica Gomez Orozco
Retha Ganaprakasam
Rosemary Lai
Scott McCauley
Stephanie Zhou



HCT volunteers preparing for guests at Mattamy Athletic Centre



Homeless Connect Toronto is a non-profit organization in Toronto committed to collaborating with social service agencies, business organizations, volunteers, and the greater community to end homelessness. By facilitating sustainable partnerships, HCT is dedicated to fostering a comprehensive network of services and creating greater access to existing supports and services.

hctoronto.org

 [HConnectTO](https://twitter.com/HConnectTO)

 [HConnectTO](https://www.instagram.com/HConnectTO)