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Letter from the Board & Executive Director

DEAR HOMELESS CONNECT TORONTO SUPPORTERS

Entering into our sixth year of operation, 2019 marked a year of transformational growth for Homeless Connect Toronto (“HCT”). As an honoured recipient of the 2019 Toronto Foundation Vital Idea and Leadership grant, HCT was able to begin planning the expansion of a youth program to connect at-risk and precariously housed youth to supports and services, as well as participate in training and professional development for our organization leaders. In preparation for these events, HCT was able to run focus groups and interviews with youth experiencing homelessness and youth agencies, which helped to inform the direction for our Youth Leadership workshops and YouthConnect event planned for Spring 2020. All of

this was in addition to preparing for HCT’s seventh annual Fall event (“HCT7”).

This year, many of the dedicated volunteers on our Planning Team and Board of Directors committed to their roles for another year. We are excited to have recruited Jennifer Ho as our new Board Treasurer. Jennifer is a CPA, and works at McCain Foods Limited as a Manager in Revenue Management, also bringing with her past experience in not-for-profit and charity auditing as well as her own personal experiences volunteering with many organizations serving the homeless population. Our Planning Team added Elena Wang to the Data Chair role, Jessica Cheung



Our HCT Board Members, Advisor, and ED joined with Kevin Frankish for a live broadcast on HCT7 Event Day

to Services Co-Chair, and welcomed Andrew Tom back to the role of Sponsorship Co-Chair. The new members of the Planning Team, working alongside of our committed volunteers allowed us to continue to provide a wonderfully coordinated and supportive environment.

A new partnership with Bag2School, an organization that works with schools and families to divert textile waste, allowed us to provide community clothing drives in 15 locations across the City. In addition, Grant Thornton LLP also organized in-house clothing drives in their office locations across Ontario. Grant Thornton staff also volunteered to sort, organize and support guests with choosing clothing at the on-site clothing store at HCT7. Bag2School generously arranged the pick-up from these 15 locations, in addition to the Grant Thornton locations. These community-led clothing drives and the logistical support from Bag2School allowed HCT to offer the largest clothing store that we have ever had at HCT7. The support of the WoodGreen Foundation, with the addition of their Young Leaders Council, continued to benefit HCT through connecting to donations and media. Mary-Anne Bedard, General Manager of the City of Toronto, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration division, attended with her team and encouraged many City of Toronto staff across different divisions to participate on the frontlines at HCT7. HCT would like to offer our ongoing thanks to Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and Mary-Anne Bedard, who both continue to show up and champion each of our events.

As part of our strategic initiatives to strengthen relationships across service providers, HCT hosted a Service Provider Appreciation Night and Panel Discussion on April 2, on “Innovating Integration” with panelists Mark Aston (former CEO/ED at Fred Victor; now ED at Covenant House Toronto; Chair, Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness), Michael Creek (Director for Strategic Initiatives, Working for Change), and Sarah Jean Harrison (Instructor, Ryerson University). There were 35 individuals representing 20 of our service partner organizations, with an engaging and dynamic panel discussion. A special thanks to Janet Menard, Deputy Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, who moderated the



Innovating Integration Panel Discussion on April 2nd with Janet Menard (Moderator), Michael Creek, Sarah Jean Harrison and Mark Aston



Our ED Melody with Mary-Anne Bedard & SSHA Staff



Councillor Wong-Tam with HCT Board



Clothing Sort @ Bag2School



"Us and Them" Film Screening

discussion.

HCT also hosted its annual documentary night on May 30th at the Toronto Public Library's North York Central Library, with a post-documentary Q&A with the Director and Filmmaker Krista Loughton. The documentary "Us and Them" told the story of four individuals experiencing homelessness and their journeys through healing, recovery, and loss. The film challenged every individual to change their view of homelessness, and "never look at a street person, or themselves, in the same way again."

HCT continued to take opportunities to share about homelessness issues in various arenas. HCT was invited to share about homelessness to Grade 7 and 8 students at Terry Fox Public School, and with Grade 6 students at Golf Road Jr Public School. Students from a Grade 10 Civics Summer School course at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute also chose HCT as a project to present as part of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. HCT also participated in the 2nd annual City of Toronto Youth Week Learn2Connect event, which gathers city supports for youth experiencing homelessness. HCT is honoured to be educating the leaders of tomorrow to become invaluable advocates for ending homelessness.

HCT was invited by our new donor partner, the Toronto Foundation, to participate as a panelist for an informal discussion on homelessness to their fundholders and guests. It was an eye-opening experience for many of the attendees, challenging their views on homelessness, affordable housing, and policies. HCT also participated in their first annual Speed-Dating for Changemakers, an event to connect their next generation Fundholders directly with community leaders and their organizations. It was a fun event to share information with young philanthropists, as well as network with other leaders from amazing community initiatives in Toronto.

Our annual Ride for Refuge walk-a-thon/cycling fundraiser brought together 33 riders on October 5th to the Lakeshore and Tommy Thompson Park area. It included a record high of families and children participating, with a total of 6 teams, walking and riding on behalf of HCT. Through the dedication and toil of these participants, we were able to raise

\$9,245. A big thanks to all the riders and walkers who committed to going the distance for our cause. In December, we also launched our first annual Holiday Giving Campaign, which raised \$6,421. Thank you to everyone who contributed to HCT this year, allowing us to continue to coordinate much needed supports for individuals across the city.

A highlight this year for our Executive Director in 2019 was being able to attend the annual Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness National Conference, which was held in Edmonton, Alberta in November. Attending this event marked the realization of a long anticipated opportunity to network and share experiences with over 1300 policy makers, funders, researchers, advocates, community leaders and frontline workers - all gathered with the intention of ending homelessness across Canada. We look forward to being part of the next national conference, which will be held in Toronto. The event also provided an opportunity for HCT to return to our roots and visit with Homeless Connect Edmonton, who supported HCT with the knowledge and materials to start our own event in Toronto, and engage in some collaborative discussions about their learnings over the past ten years.

Along with all these activities, HCT organized its seventh annual Fall event, HCT7, another successful event which brought 1000 guests experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, 363 volunteers, and 97 agencies providing services to the Mattamy Athletic Centre at Ryerson University on October 27, 2019. This year has truly been a phenomenal year of new experiences and growth for Homeless Connect Toronto. The Board of HCT is very excited as we continue to grow and expand. We are so excited for what is to come as we continue to grow and expand in our role connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with volunteers, and leading collaboration among agencies and donors to address ways of ending homelessness in Toronto.

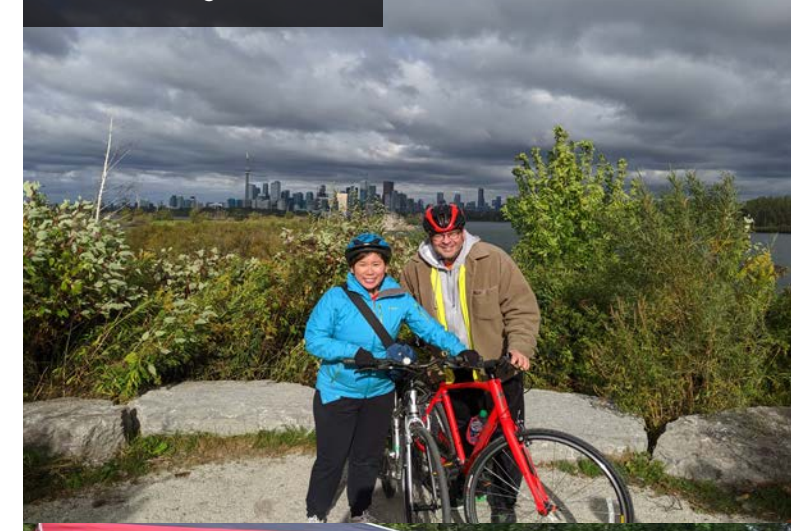
Sincerely,

Melody Li
Executive Director

Mwarigha M.S.
Board of Directors, Chair



Ride for Refuge Fundraiser



Strategic Plan

2018 - 2022

VISION

HCT is committed to helping individuals to connect the dots to end homelessness in their lives.

MISSION

Homeless Connect Toronto's mission is to engage the community and create sustainable partnerships to overcome homelessness in Toronto by:

- Increasing access to services by bringing providers to one centralized location
- Empowering guests by providing a space for their voices to be heard
- Fostering collaboration among local social service agencies by providing a comprehensive network of services
- Engaging business organizations to build partnerships with social service agencies
- Raising advocacy and awareness of issues contributing to homelessness through the united efforts of homeless persons, volunteers, social services and businesses

GOALS by December 2022

01

Fundraising for sustainability

Secure the necessary funding to allow HCT to grow and expand the provision of services to at-risk populations

- Obtain necessary funding to sustain and grow HCT services

02

Stronger partnerships with service providers

Strengthen partnerships with Service Providers and evolve service offerings to keep up with client needs

- Formalize agreements with top service providers
- Secure Service Providers to provide services for the highest client needs
- Expand HCT event initiatives

03

Operational growth to meet needs

Evolve the HCT organization to provide expanded services to clients

- Ensure the necessary staff and resources are in place
- Educate and train staff and volunteers on homelessness and client needs
- Strengthen volunteer engagement to ensure necessary support for HCT events

04

Raising Awareness of HCT

Expand communications to raise awareness of HCT and to raise client awareness of available services

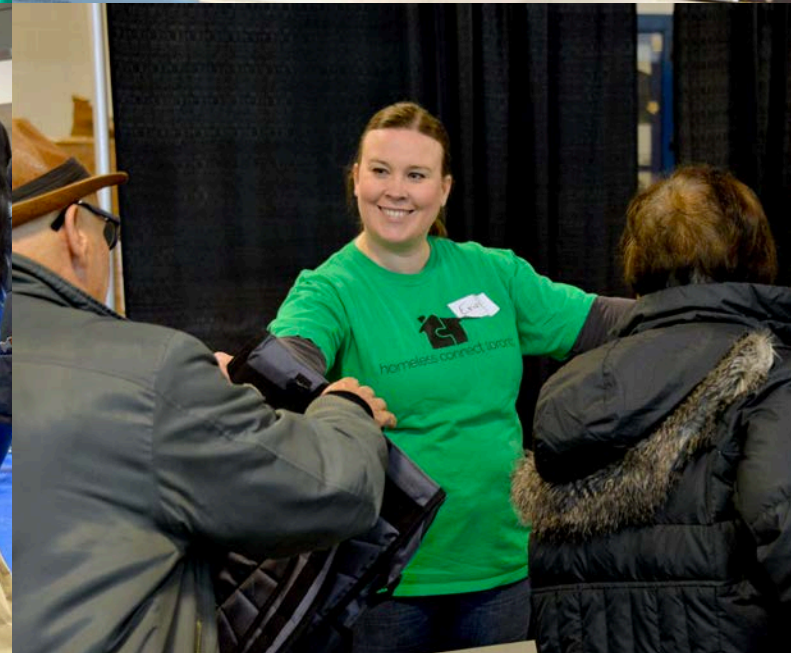
- Raise awareness of HCT among at-risk populations
- Raise client awareness of how to access services (provided by our Service Providers) outside of events
- Raise general awareness of HCT in the GTA

05

Developing Strong Connections

Make strong connections in order to maximize HCT's effectiveness

- Ensure strong relationships with government at all levels
- Identify and reach out to potential Champion(s) at City of Toronto etc.
- Pursue opportunities to match available funding initiatives with HCT's mandate



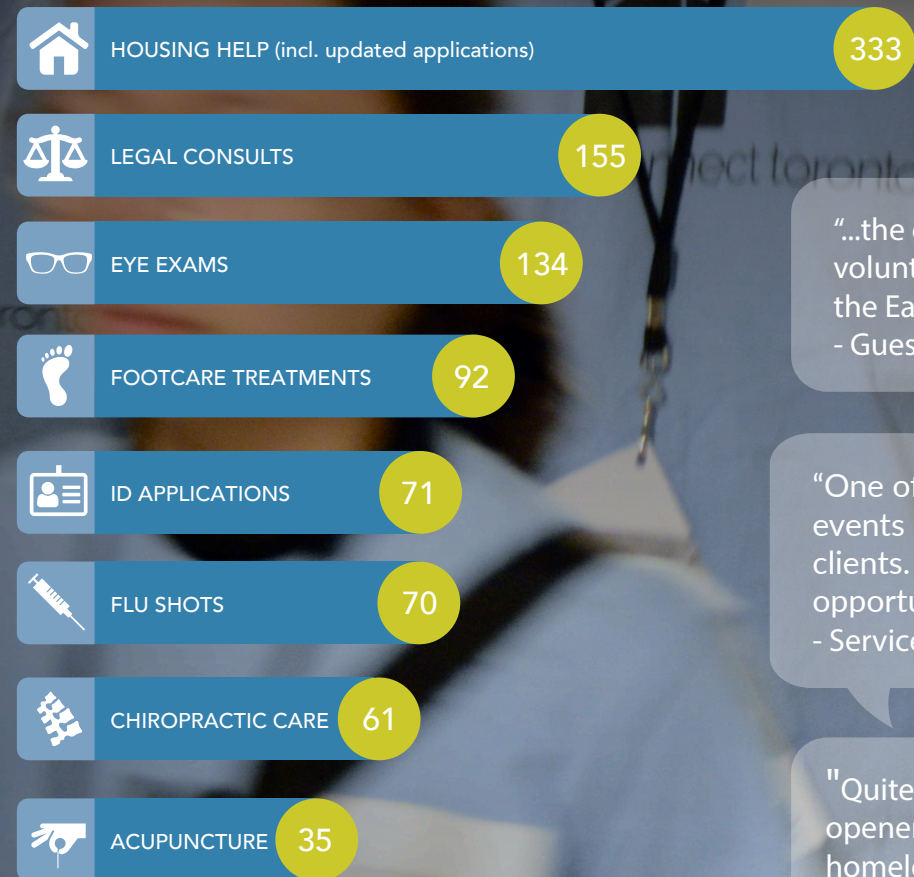
HCT7 (2019 Fall Event)

October 27, 2019
Mattamy Athletic Centre



TYPES OF SERVICES RECEIVED

(Number indicates total # of guests that accessed these services)



...AND MANY MORE!

WHAT WE HEARD

"...the energy was fantastic from the volunteers. You guys are like the rotation of the Earth, it really made my day."
- Guest

"One of the most well planned and executed events handling such a large volume of clients. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in this event."
- Service Provider

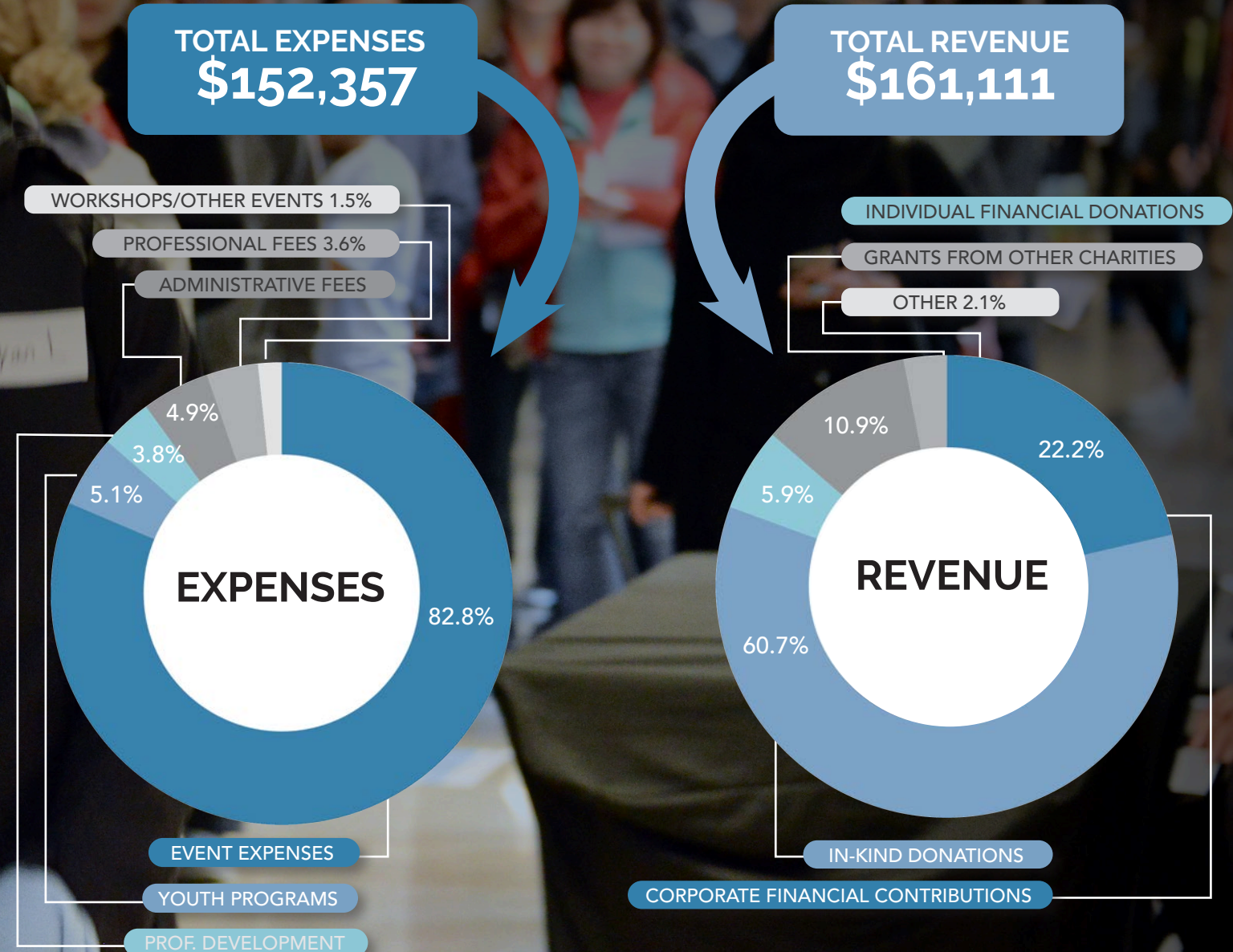
"Quite the exhilarating experience, an eye opener. Gave me a different outlook for the homeless and less fortunate."
- Volunteer

Our Financials

2019

Homeless Connect Toronto is committed to managing its finances with integrity and responsibility. As a volunteer-run organization, 94% of all in-kind and financial donations are used directly to implement HCT events and benefit our guests.

Thank you to the generous supporters and donors who enable us to continue to serve our community. Audited financial statements are available at hctoronto.org.



Thank you to our supporters

As a small charitable organization, we cannot do what we do without the support of our volunteers and generous financial and in-kind donations.

Thank you to our teams of volunteers, who have worked diligently to plan the event as well as ensure the implementation of the actual events.

Thank you to our in-kind and financial sponsors who have made it possible for Homeless Connect Toronto to take place each year. This year, Homeless Connect Toronto received over \$60,000 in financial donations.

In addition to financial donations, HCT received many in-kind donations, which include:

- 1000 CityPak backpacks for our comfort kits
- 1200 toiletry packs and socks
- Fresh produce and food & drink donations for our on-site hot lunches
- New winter gear, gently used clothing and shoes
- Disposable footcare and haircutting supplies
- Venue space, catered meals, shuttle bus service, and promotional materials

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE (\$10K+)

- Brands for Canada
- High Sierra Canada
- P&G Canada
- Second Harvest
- Sisters of St Joseph Toronto
- The Co-Operators
- Toronto Foundation



CHAMPIONS FOR DIGNITY

- Ai Nghi Le
- Andrew Hui
- Anonymous (18)
- Aretha Wharton
- Bamfords Produce
- Belinda Ngai
- Ben Gould
- Century Graphics
- Coca-Cola Bottling Limited
- Debbie Tessler
- Dennis Layton
- Don Sheppard
- Dufflet Pastries
- Enville Event Design & Catering
- Eric Wang
- Godyne Sibay
- Helaine Fogarty
- Jackie Corneil
- Janice & Leslie Yu
- Jeff Hendrix Caro
- Joyce Singh
- Kenric Leugn
- Leah Keenlside
- Louis Arnold
- Lydia Lo-Yan Hwang
- Mary Clites
- Mary Cornish
- Nga Man Carmen Chan
- Patricia Luk
- Production Walkies
- Progress Centre Medical & Pharmacy
- Quality Foot Care
- Ryerson University
- Seeleane Fari-Wong
- Tina Raso Lynch
- Wendy St Cyr
- Winnie Kui
- Yalini Sabapathy
- Yolande Truong



CHAMPIONS FOR COMPASSION (\$1K+)

- Cover-All
- Credit Education Week
- First Student Canada
- Higgins Event Rentals
- Kitty Wong
- Mattamy Athletic Centre
- Mingyu Wang
- Patisserie Monaco
- Paypal Giving Fund Canada
- Running Free Canada
- Tai Ping Li
- Warren Gonsalves
- WoodGreen Foundation

Our Network of Partners & Service-Providing Agencies

Our annual event would not have been a success without the strong network of service-providing agencies, representing a wide-range of supports including housing, health care, clothing, community support, education, employment, financial, and legal assistance. This year, we were able to add 21 clothing donation sites in the community to organize and bring to our event, with the support of Bag2School North America.



Abundant Life Health Centre
 Adam House
 Ample Labs
 Anishnawbe Health Toronto
 Avola College of Hairstyling and Esthetics
 Bag2School North America
 Bioped
 Black Coalition For AIDS Prevention
 Brain Injury Society of Toronto (BIST)
 Brands for Canada
 Canada Revenue Agency
 Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
 Cathedraltown Health Clinic
 CDR Footcare
 Charlie's Freewheels
 Chit Chat Hearing
 Cindy Collier
 City of Kawartha Lakes Family Health Team
 City of Toronto - Access to Housing
 City of Toronto - Children's Services
 City of Toronto - Community Economic Reintegration Team
 City of Toronto - Parks, Forestry & Recreation
 City of Toronto - Shelter, Support & Housing Administration (SSHA)
 CMHA Toronto Housing First Program
 CNH/The Neighbourhood House
 Complete Balance Neuro Acupuncture & Rehab
 Concurrent Disorders Support Services And Apricot (Addiction Assessment, Psychotherapy And

Referral In The Community Of Toronto)
 Correia's Footcare Service
 Costi North York Housing Help Centre
 Credit Canada Debt Solutions
 Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services
 Downtown Legal Services
 Downtown Yonge BIA
 Eileen Rijo
 Elizabeth Fry Toronto
 Erika Malka
 Evio Group
 Fair Change Community Services
 FCJ Refugee Centre
 Foot Care by Nicole
 Fred Victor
 Good Shepherd Ministries
 Grace Advocacy Clinic, Grace Toronto Church
 Grant Thornton LLP
 Harmonies 4 Hope
 Health Quality Ontario
 HearingLife
 High Sierra Canada
 Holyship Dragon Boat Team
 Inner City Health Associates
 John Howard Society of Toronto
 Legal Aid Ontario
 Little Piggies Footcare
 Logos Baptist Church (York Region)
 Marca College
 Mary Anne Smith

Matthew Genser Salon
 MCIS Language Solutions
 Melanies Nails & Esthetic's
 Musicians
 Neighbourhood Link Support Services - PAID Project
 New City Baptist Church
 Niiwin Wendaanimak (Four Winds), Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre
 Ontario Disability Support Program
 Peoples Christian Academy
 Peoples Christian Academy Early Learning Centre
 Quality Home Foot Care
 Rebel Toronto
 Red Dot Project
 RMA Canada
 Rosewood Baptist Church
 Ryerson University
 Running Free Re Use Shoe Program
 Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto
 Sherbourne Health
 Sistering
 Socks4Souls
 South Riverdale Community Health Centre
 Southside Muay Thai Academy
 Star Learning Centre
 Street Haven - Academic And Pre Employment Services
 Suneeva
 Syme-Woolner Neighborhood Family Centre
 TESS - Housing Supports

TESS - OW and ODSP Supports
 The Printing House Limited
 The Salvation Army Toronto Housing and Homeless Supports
 Toronto Alliance To End Homelessness
 Toronto Animal Services
 Toronto Central LHIN
 Toronto Paramedic Services
 Toronto Police 52 Division
 Toronto Public Health - Sexual Health Promotion Program
 Toronto Public Health - Tuberculosis Department
 Toronto Public Health Dental Services
 Toronto Public Library
 Toronto Writers Collective
 Trinh Paralegal Services
 Unison Health and Community Services
 Vanessa Vitali
 Ve'ahavta
 Ve'ahavta MYTORONTO Project
 Vibrant Healthcare Alliance
 Viral Hepatitis Care Network (VIRCAN)
 Vision Institute of Canada
 Wellspring Head To Toe Wellness Services
 West Neighbourhood House
 Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC)
 Wild Ones Wilderness
 Woodgreen Community Services
 Yuko Siwec
 Zonia Slyfield (Liberty Footcare)



Our Team

Homeless Connect Toronto 7

Board of Directors

- Jennifer Ho
- Jeffrey Li
- Nikki Latta
- Mwarigha Shad
- Richard Teicher

Advisor

- Alexander Zsager

Our Planning Team

- Andrew Tom
- Benjamin Wong
- Bonnie Tang
- Celine Chan
- Elena Wang
- Emily Fan
- Jessica Cheung
- Melody Li
- Rosemary Lai
- Steven Cho
- Terence Ha
- Timothy Yiu
- Zoona Khalid

“

I joined HCT because I personally saw the impact this event had on the guests, the smiles on people's faces, the reunions between guests and simply a space to feel included.

ZOONA KHALID



“

HCT unites our community by assisting those in need of support & also unites those who desire to combat homelessness. I truly believe in the evolving awareness that HCT brings through contributing to those in need.

ANDREW TOM





Homeless Connect Toronto is a charitable agency 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.

 www.hctoronto.org

 [@HConnectTo](https://twitter.com/HConnectTo)

 info@hctoronto.org