



St. Christopher  
House **100** YEARS  
1912-2012



# Annual Report 2011-12



YESTERDAY AND TODAY AT ST. CHRIS





## ■ 2011-2012 overview

# Celebrating 100 years of good neighbouring

**A**t St. Christopher House, we like to look forward. After all, so many of the individuals and families with whom we work first come to us during difficult moments in their lives. It's in tough times – transitions, challenging life phases, poverty or ill health – when we are all most in need of friendly support. Looking forward to better times, and helping to make those better times a reality, is such a critical part of what we do.

And yet, here we find ourselves at one hundred years. For a century, now, from 1912 to 2012, St. Chris has been an integral part of

our West Toronto community. As we sift through a hundred years of history, we are struck by the same thing that jumps out as we review our work from this past year – St. Christopher House is a

bustling, busy hive of activity. It's activity that is inspired by the community, that provides participants with the tools they need to gain greater control of their own lives and in turn initiate other activities,

that responds to community needs and that brings people of diverse life experiences together. St. Christopher House – then, now, and in the future – is community. Through this special edition of our annual report, we aim to share with you just a few of the achievements we're proud of, the history that is part of our city's heritage and our goals for achieving greater impact in the first years of our second century.

### ■ by the numbers

#### We served last year:

pre-school children 0-6	1,640
school-aged children 6-12	1,242
youth 13-24	2,186
adults 25-64	11,829
seniors 65+	5,567
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,464</b>





**Clockwise from far left:** Emily (staff in centre) and mothers from our Parkdale community kitchen cook up a meal for parents and children. Newcomer immigrant and refugee youth participating in basketball. The Community Parents Outreach Program Tamil parent picnic is just one of many activities bringing mothers with large families together for mutual support and fun. Quiet time at the annual Summer Children's Camp.



## 100 YEARS 1912-2012

The multi-service neighbourhood centre model build bridges between age groups, between ethno-cultural and First Nations experiences, and between people with skills (e.g. digital) and people eager to learn.

# Using our strengths to prepare for the future

St. Christopher House remains a strong organization in part because of continual reflection and commitment to improvement. Over the past year, the volunteer Board of Directors led its own transformation to make sure that each Board member is better able to be engaged and contributing to the overall governance of the House.

Board members are volunteers with a tremendous amount of responsibility in a complex organization in a changing community. We spent some time this year developing new structures to help manage the workload. Lidia Monaco, Acting Executive Director, worked with Kapri Rabin, Board President, and with the Board to implement a new committee structure. The committees then went on to produce well-informed and well-considered recommendations for Board decisions. While daily operations of the House remain the responsibility of staff, our new structure

has clarified and enhanced the Board of Directors' accountability.

This year, too, St. Christopher House continued to work on our existing strategic directions while developing a new Strategic Plan. First of all, as you will see throughout this report, we have made significant progress on the existing strategic directions:

- raising our profile in Parkdale,
- redeveloping programs in light of the changing community,
- pursuing strategic partnerships, and
- actively contributing to public policy development.

Thanks to all the staff for the progress made on these important goals.

At the same time, economic conditions have worsened for many Canadians and there are real threats on the horizon to the community services sector. For example, some of our recent progress working with youth in Parkdale and other program areas faces the threat of looming funding cuts. Developing a set of priorities for the new Strategic Plan involved taking a hard look at both the external environment and the results of extensive consultations. These new priorities will, we hope, strengthen St. Christopher House's ability to weather difficult times ahead.

Fortunately, this past year offered a heartening reminder of another major strength of St. Chris that goes way back to the beginning of our history: the skill and commitment of our staff team. While Maureen Fair was on leave for 2011, Lidia Monaco stepped up as Acting Executive Director. The dedicated senior staff team and staff right across the House pitched

in in many different ways together to add support to Lidia's strong guidance and leadership. We thank each of you.

Similarly, the Board of Directors, as volunteers, devoted extraordinary time and effort over the past year. We appreciate their commitment as community members governing the House. Thank you also to all the generous donors and the hundreds of talented volunteers who contribute in so many different valuable ways to the community through your work with St. Christopher House.

- Kapri Rabin, Board President
- Lidia Monaco, Acting Executive Director 2011
- Maureen Fair, Executive Director



**Maureen Fair, Kapri Rabin, Lidia Monaco**





**Back row left to right:** Gokche Erkan (on leave), Doug Roth, Tamara Ferris, Earl Miller, Rebil Brown, John Yip, Sheila Hellier, Gilberto Fernandes, Lynne Woolcott (staff), Matthew Regan. **Front row left to right:** Odete Nascimento (staff), Maureen Fair (Executive Director), Kapri Rabin (Board President), Lidia Monaco (Acting ED 2011), Naki Osutei (Board Vice President). **Missing:** Dave Sohi (Board Treasurer), Ed Segalowitz, Margaret Young, Elder Marques, Lambrina Nikolaou (staff).



**Gilberto Fernandes**, Board member and a PhD student in history, spent weeks digitalizing thousands of St. Chris historical photos, creating an exhibit and book about St. Chris history. It is online at: [goo.gl/AdjWL](http://goo.gl/AdjWL). To see the entire collection of historic St. Chris photos go to: [goo.gl/FoMms](http://goo.gl/FoMms).



**100 YEARS**  
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# Promoting early success for kids

The founders of St. Christopher House wandered Toronto neighbourhoods in search of the right spot to found their settlement house. When they “looked up the street and counted 100 children playing on Leonard Street and Bellevue Place alone, they knew that this was an ideal place for the settlement.” \*



Our founders, Sara Libby Carson, James S. Woods and John G. Shearer, knew it then. We know it now. Children are the heart and soul of a community. Throughout the history of St. Christopher House they have been at the heart of our work. Back in 1912, we set up one of the city of Toronto's first Well Baby Clinics, hosted 50 children and their mothers at a two-week summer camp on Lake Scugog, and kept children cool in the crowded Kensington Market neighbourhood in the heat of summer with “Hose Parties”.

Today, St. Christopher House offers services to children and their families through partnerships with complementary organizations and at sites in the West Toronto neighbourhoods – areas like Parkdale, Trinity-Bellwoods, Little Portugal and

Niagara – where we have developed deep roots. Our focus is on supporting children's varied needs in a coordinated way.

## After-School programming

This year, we were able to nearly double capacity of an existing after-school program in Parkdale. Nearly 50 children from three local schools gather at Holy Family Catholic School daily. The program provides everything from homework support and daily physical activity to development of essential skills such as dealing with conflict.

The six-to-nine year-olds in our Dundas and Ossington after-school program created a video for which they rewrote the following lyrics from the original Justin Bieber song:

*St. Chris After School, where we hang out every day / We go, we go, outside and play tag in the school yard / We know, we know, how to be good to each other it's not hard / Every day from three to six o'clock we're here to play. / In room 248, there's not a*

*thing that we would change / Because we're amazing just the way we are! / And when we smile, the world stops and stares for a while / Because we're amazing just the way we are!*

## Strengthening families

Taking care of kids when their folks are working has been a focus for us from our earliest days. So, too, has been strengthening families in other ways.

Our Portuguese-speaking Fathers' Group enjoyed another successful year of strengthening family bonds, while this year we revived an old but very successful, curriculum-based program called Strengthening Families for the Future. Families begin each weekly meeting with an evening meal before parents and children break out into separate groups to talk about important issues like bullying, stress, communicating with parents, sex, and alcohol, before reuniting for a group discussion. This year, the program has been expanded to reach 12-16 year-olds as well as the 7-11 year-old age group, and

\* Patricia O'Connor, writing in her *The Story of St. Christopher House 1912-1984, a booklet created for The Toronto Association of Neighbourhood Services in 1986.*





#### Clockwise from above:

A “St Chris Hose Party” underway; a big smile on this boy with his cello in one of the oldest of St. Chris’ existing programs, the Music School; Nursery School staff comforting a (temporarily) sad boy.



the program reached out to local immigrant communities of Hungarian Roma, Tibetan, Mandarin, Tamil and Vietnamese.

#### Getting ready to learn

Parents and their children who are registered in Senior Kindergarten for September attend three weeks of school readiness programming by St. Chris in July, in a transition-easing partnership with Queen Victoria Public School in Parkdale.

“Come September,” says Lidia Monaco, Director, Children, Youth and Family Services, “they feel like [the school is] their space. They come into school ready to learn, less anxious. They’re much more able to learn.”

#### Music School

The Music School at St. Chris, which opened in 1930, remains a special part of our programming for children (as well as other members of all ages). The program offers high quality, subsidized music lessons to children from disadvantaged

backgrounds.

“People come for music lessons,” explains Monaco. “They find out what other services are available. Maybe they need English as a Second Language training.

Maybe they need a job. They might say, ‘Oh, they have senior services here – my grandmother’s home alone’. It’s a gateway into our services, although people just come in to have piano lessons.”

## LOOKING FORWARD

**We are in** a very difficult time for funding for the child and youth sector. Stable, ongoing funding for programs is very hard to come by. The recent provincial EDI report reveals the Parkdale neighbourhood to still be among Ontario’s most disadvantaged communities in terms of school readiness. Our school readiness program exists thanks to a community-minded principal and the good will and in-kind contributions of Queen Victoria Public School and other partners. We look for

opportunities to replicate this program in other Parkdale schools.

Many of the Hungarian Roma children we work with also face uncertain futures as their parents confront changing immigration and refugee laws. Recently proposed changes undermine the efforts of Roma to settle and integrate into Canadian society. Some families are returning to Hungary despite well-documented historical and current persecution and oppression. We will continue to help those who stay.



## ■ youth services

# Identifying talents and developing skills

**Y**outh at St. Chris are diverse, active and bursting with talent! Back in the war-era 1940s, St. Chris youth sponsored dances for servicemen. In the 1950s, youth overcame challenges like addiction, chronic unemployment and prostitution through a strong set of programs for youth including sports like ping pong and boxing.

In the 1960s we supplemented our teen club with youth workers who went out to meet young people involved in gangs and drugs on their own turf. The popular St. Chris Steel Drum Band for local black youth was created to “drum out delinquency”. In addition, various St. Chris sports teams participated in city-wide leagues for decades. As a true measure of community development impact, once again this year

the “alumni” of these youth programs reunited at Connie’s Sunday Jam, celebrating their mentor, the late Connie Carrington, their strong ties to each other, and their celebration of their lasting community.

Today, we continue to nurture the skills of young people between the ages of 13 and 24 through a wide range of programs that typically combine self-expression and socializing with leadership and skills development.

### Spaces for youth

St. Chris heard from our community that youth need their own space. Over several years, we organized multiple partners to develop Parkdale Youth Space in the hub of services of the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC). We have increasingly seen newcomer youth integrating into the programs for other youth – a great step forward in their settlement in Canada. This year we had the opportunity to add another space for young adults, particularly for those who have dropped out of high school. Dufferin Mall Youth Services is now operated by St. Chris, and, like Parkdale Youth Space, offers on-site programs and services from many other agencies including access to computers, socialization, public health education, counseling, and our own St. Chris employment supports.



### Jobs for youth

Back in 1983, the Metro Job Youth Corps put unemployed youth to work in local non-profit organizations. Today, its successor, the Toronto Youth Job Corps, continues that work with its phased, supportive program to get youth with high barriers to employment ready for the workplace. They

get life skills, work experience in a setting supervised by St. Chris staff, and then a job with an employer in the community. This year, we added Canadian Tire, Hot Docs and other great organizations and businesses to our roster of employers.



## LOOKING FORWARD

**Parkdale** Youth Space funding is ending in September so we will work with the youth, our partner agencies, and local political representatives to seek alternative funding and strategize about alternatives. The Dufferin Mall space is not an alternative, as we have to move from that space this year as well. As always, resourcefulness and pulling together as a community will be key to keeping important initiatives

like this alive.

In the next year we plan to focus on ways of helping youth either stay in school or return to education. We want to help youth and young adults get inspired and ready for post-secondary education or training and apprenticeships – and sooner rather than later to avoid the discouraging stints of unemployment and low-wage, precarious work left for people with low education.



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**Sports and music** have always brought diverse local youth to St. Chris. Mixing and integrating youth of different backgrounds remains a primary goal.

# Supporting adults through transitions

**W**ith adult programming at St. Chris, we meet people where they are, whether it's struggling with severe mental health and addiction issues, like many participants of the Meeting Place at Queen and Bathurst, or looking for work as an immigrant struggling to get by, or learning to read or use a computer for the first time.

The range of programs we offer reflect people's real needs in another way as well: all of us have social needs, physical needs, emotional needs and needs for culture and activity. Most of all, *we all need to belong*.

That's why program participants so often become volunteers as well. Someone who has benefited from our work may decide to join our Community Action Group on Social Issues which advises the Board and staff. Someone else may volunteer in the community kitchen at the Meeting

Place. A parent may bring her children for music lessons and wind up discretely meeting with a Woman Abuse staff to help her escape violence in her relationship. Or a child may grow up in our After-school program and be inspired to donate to St. Christopher as an adult.

## **Living on the edge**

In a city where affordable housing is scarce and getting scarcer all the time, people with low-income and mental

health or addictions issues are effectively screened out. We have been heartened by some successes this year – including housing 50 harder-to-house homeless people through a partnership with Na-Me-Res and Furniture Bank.

At the same time, this year as a community we faced real heartbreak together with the unprecedented premature deaths of 15 long-time members of The Meeting Place drop-in. Most of these members were men and women who dealt with tremendous challenges including childhood abuse, racism, poverty, and/or mental health problems and often with severe addictions. They were each a valued member of our community and are badly missed by their peers and by staff.

## **Residential school abuse survivors**

A program that began late in 2009 providing emotional, legal and financial services to native residential school abuse survivors and their children is wrapping up

**A member** of the Meeting Place pauses for a moment of reflection during the annual Members' Retreat in Kinark, Ontario.







**Post-war, Japanese-Canadians** found a safe and welcoming home in St. Chris. Adults and kids alike dressed up for the 1950s Easter Parade in Kensington Market. Fitness and health activities have always been popular at St. Chris.



## GRATEFUL FOR FAPS

"The FAPS program at St. Christopher house was a source of immense help to me. I had not done my taxes in 7 years, and was so intimidated and overwhelmed. My taxes were a gigantic mess of papers, I had no idea where to even begin. I am so grateful to have access to the FAPS program, I appreciate that Tamara Griffith (Community Financial Worker at St. Christopher House) worked with me, sorted through my taxes with patience and humour."

— D.Smith, FAPS program participant

this year on a real high note. This year, 13 of our members received a total of nearly \$2.2 million in compensation through the Independent Assessment Process. Meanwhile, over the past year we have hosted bi-weekly residential school dinners, bringing survivors together with other St. Chris members, family members and native elders and healers in a safe, welcoming space.

## Working on better personal futures

Local adults coming to St. Chris have access to a continuum of education and academic upgrading opportunities. They can go all the way from basic adult literacy to community college career programs or entrance to university plus access to simple, but effective training in practical

job skills (i.e. safe food handling, operating a cash register, computers and software). Our Employment program completes the continuum of service for adults, with job developers seeking out job opportunities for our community and employment specialists guiding and preparing unemployed people for new work.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**The Meeting Place** will work with more specialized partners to help our members better manage or recover from their addictions or mental health problems. We are taking steps to connect more seamlessly with the community mental health and addictions healthcare system. At the same time, we want to preserve our informal setting – our "living room" drop-in that is a valuable refuge and touchstone for homeless members

of our community. What's more, this informal setting allows staff to respond immediately and with respectful familiarity to our individual members as crises arise (which is often).

Much of "looking forward" for the adults we serve depends on both the state of the economy and on provincial and federal government policies influencing employment and determining immigration status. The future is quite uncertain in both areas.



One community, many traditions: here, the Vietnamese group in our Elderly Persons Centre shares their culture and cuisine with the Portuguese seniors group on the occasion of the Lunar New Year.

## ■ seniors and people with disabilities

# Aging well with a supportive community

**S**t. Christopher House's focus on supporting people throughout their lives really shines through in our work with seniors. We work with older adults ranging from well to very frail, and offer a very wide range of programs to serve the continuum of needs.

The members of our community include a retiree who, through participation in our computer instruction programs, became adept in social media, allowing him to stay in touch with friends overseas, share his knowledge with other St. Chris members, and follow soccer. Our community also includes members with severe cognitive impairment who take part in exercise, horticulture and baking among other stimulating and social activities.

Here's another example: our Tuesday Evening Group. A group of senior women who began practicing mindfulness meditation together on Tuesday nights has grown under the leadership of participants themselves into a very supportive self-help group. The older women talk about issues in their lives, engage in activities they decide on together - which range from meditation to dancing (they even held a flash mob dance at a couple of our

events) - and Tuesday evening sessions always end with a group relaxation. One of the great joys of St. Chris is watching as program participants, like our Tuesday evening group members, take the tools we give them, the staff support and welcoming space we offer ... and run with it.

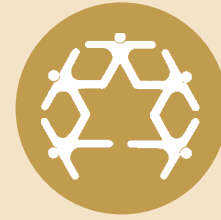
The Tuesday Evening Group affirms our belief in joy and community throughout the lifespan. So too does the Homes at Last program, which served 1,220 people this year upon their discharge from hospital. This year we found that we're really becoming part of the healthcare system, with hospitals and community agencies increasingly referring seniors to this key service that ensures seniors get the coordinated care they need returning home from the hospital.

Meanwhile, our new Enhanced Adult Day Program provides full-day care for



**Clockwise from below:**

The early days of our Meals on Wheels program; old age can be active and beautiful with group fitness programs; The Health Action Theatre by Seniors troupe, shown here a decade ago, is still going strong today.



**Our services to seniors** in Parkdale expanded this year to include more community development and wellness activities for seniors

very frail people or people with advanced dementia. This day programming, an addition to our existing adult day programs for frail seniors and those with Alzheimer's, allows family members to work outside the home instead of remaining at home around the clock to provide care. "We're

trying to provide a basket of services in the community to allow people to stay at home longer," explains Odete Nascimento, Director of the Older Adult Centre.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

**Our seniors'** programs (which also serve some adults with disabilities) will continue to work with other players in the healthcare system to ensure more choice of location of extended healthcare - so that depending on their needs and wishes, seniors may get care in their home through St. Chris Home Supports and Meals on Wheels, or in a community centre such as the St. Chris Adult Day Program instead of more institutionalized settings. Rapid and profound change is happening in the healthcare system, with more opportunity for community-based care - now we just need to make sure the resources flow accordingly.

# Coming together for a better community

**T**hroughout our century of activity, community development has been an important theme, weaving seamlessly into the work we do with individuals and families. Working one-on-one is important, but so is working together to promote the kind of change that affects everyone who lives in a neighbourhood, a city, or a country.

The initiatives in which we take part range from immigration and settlement issues to poverty reduction – these are the issues that make or break a neighbourhood, that really touch people in the most important aspects of their lives.

## **Financial advocacy**

A few years ago, St. Christopher House developed FAPS, a program better understood by its full name, Financial Advocacy and Problem Solving Program. It's a great program that increases people's ability to improve their own lives, fights poverty in

the community and strengthens local businesses. We are proud to help expand its reach with other neighbourhood centres: from Jane-Finch last year to Agincourt and Scarborough this past year. . This year we are working with TD Bank tax clinic volunteers to provide an extra dimension to the program

## **Refugee rights**

We celebrated Refugee Rights Day this year with a huge gathering of diverse participants. We debuted a video comparing the situation for a refugee who arrived on Canadian soil before the UN Declaration on the Rights of Refugees (and later ended up on the St. Chris Board of Directors to the experience of a person who arrived more recently and found St. Christopher House.







**Celebrating together** also builds community

**LOOKING FORWARD**

There is no shortage of community issues for CAGSI to develop responses to – we will be waiting with CAGSI to see the recommendations of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario and the reaction of the provincial government regarding proposed changes to welfare and disability programs.

St Chris will need to continue to monitor and respond to rising real estate prices in our area – we need to make sure that low-income individuals and families continue to have homes here and feel at home here.

**Anti-poverty advocacy**

This year, poverty continues to be a critical concern for our members. Our Community Advisory Group on Social Issues (CAGSI) is 12 community members reflecting the diversity of age, socio-economic and ethno-cultural groups in downtown west Toronto and served by St. Chris. The lived experience of the group members is a foundation for informing St. Chris and for formulating public policy.

This last year CAGSI developed public education materials, delivered workshops for other community members and staff, and participated in the provincial and federal elections, the City of Toronto Core Service Review and budget consultations, the importance of income tax and filing income tax, the Mowat Centre Employment Insurance Task Force, and the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario.



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**Clockwise from far left:** a 1990s Town Hall with other downtown neighbourhood centres; early income tax clinic for seniors; the 1980s Cleaners’ Action Group advocating to Queen’s Park; early days of fun with some long-lasting St Chris contributors.



## ■ what we do

# Programs at St. Christopher House

### Pre-school Children

- ▶ Growing Up Healthy Downtown drop-in for families with preschoolers, workshops and special events
- ▶ Parkdale-High Park Early Years Centre drop-in and structured activities for children and their caregivers

### Parents

- ▶ Community Parents Outreach Project for newcomer families with accompaniment, workshops and parent support
- ▶ Portuguese Fathers' Group with parent skill building, social and recreational activities
- ▶ Parent Advisory Networks
- ▶ Parents for Action Now advocacy on issues concerning parents
- ▶ Monthly Parkdale community kitchen with workshops and childcare

### School-aged Children

- ▶ After-School Programs social-recreational activities, homework support
- ▶ Winter, March Break, and Summer Day Camps
- ▶ After-School Tutoring Program
- ▶ Individual support to children who have experienced violence in the home
- ▶ Drug Awareness and Prevention Programs with school events and workshops
- ▶ Music School individual lessons, recitals, concerts and special events
- ▶ Music School After-School Opera Program
- ▶ Strengthening Families for the Future weekly workshops and family meals

### Youth

- ▶ Parkdale Youth Space drop-in skill development and special events
- ▶ Dufferin Mall Youth Services drop-in, supports and counselling
- ▶ Mentorships and activities for newcomer youth
- ▶ Youth After-School Tutoring
- ▶ Youth Summer Leadership Program

- ▶ Drug Awareness and Prevention Programs school assemblies and workshops
- ▶ Graffiti Transformation Project murals for local businesses
- ▶ Youth Advisory Committee
- ▶ Toronto Youth Job Corps life skills, pre-employment training and job placements

### Adults

- ▶ Woman Abuse Program individual and group support
- ▶ Transitional support to women leaving abusive relationships
- ▶ Employment Preparation Program one-to-one employment support, skills development, career exploration, job search, job leads and connecting with employers
- ▶ Woman Abuse Program individual and group support
- ▶ Transitional support to women leaving abusive relationships
- ▶ Financial Advocacy and Problem Solving individual case work on financial problems, workshops, public education and policy development regarding financial tools, income tax clinics
- ▶ Immigrant and Refugee Services including settlement, volunteer tutoring and mentoring, workshops, outreach and support to homeless newcomers
- ▶ Adult Literacy individual tutoring with volunteers, group work



**Partner agencies** bring specialized help such as occupational therapy onsite for our community.

- ▶ General Educational Development (GED) preparation for high school equivalency
- ▶ Academic upgrading and preparation for post-secondary education and career improvement
- ▶ Computer Training and Internet Access
- ▶ Meeting Place Drop-in help with basic needs (showers, laundry, telephones, computers), Aboriginal ceremonies and group supports, community kitchen, odd jobs, information and referrals to healthcare, legal services, housing
- ▶ Parkdale Meeting Place evening drop-in with social and recreational activities, information and referral to healthcare, legal services, housing



- ▶ Music School individual lessons, recitals, adult choir, concerts and special events

### Seniors and people with disabilities

- ▶ Client and Family Services - intake, assessment and case management, income tax clinic, home visits, and crisis intervention, caregiver support and counseling
- ▶ Alzheimer and Frail Elderly Day Program and Enhanced Adult Day Program - supervised care in a group setting with multicultural activities and special events
- ▶ Home Support Services and Supportive Housing with homemaking, personal care and respite care for caregivers



- ▶ Visiting, Social and Safety program with regular monitoring and socialization in people's homes
- ▶ Meals on Wheels Transportation - daily delivery of hot or frozen choices of meals to homes and rides to appointments, shopping or social activities
- ▶ Congregate Dining and Health Promotion

- ▶ Seniors Community Development with leadership development, Health Action Theatre for Seniors, Seniors Social Action Group
- ▶ Elderly Persons Centres with daily social drop-in, fitness and recreational activities
- ▶ Members' Council, self-help group, volunteer team and social learning clubs
- ▶ Home at Last Program facilitating safe return home of seniors upon discharge from hospital

### All age groups

- ▶ Recruit, screen and match volunteers and students to programs and projects
- ▶ Community Undertaking Social Policy projects that bridge between people's lived experience and public policy decisions
- ▶ Community Action Group On Social Issues
- ▶ Annual planning and priority setting
- ▶ Public education and community consultations



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**Clockwise from left:** The St. Chris Summer Camp at Lake Scugog was much beloved for many decades. Back in the city, children played on the St. Chris rooftop playground or learned to read in the nursery school.

# Our sincere thanks to our donors

*St. Christopher House appreciates the support of the following funders and donors in 2011-2012. We also thank the 868 individuals who supported us financially this year.*

## Government

- Citizenship & Immigration Canada
  - Settlement Directorate
- Heritage Canada
  - Community Anniversaries
- Human Resources & Social Development
  - Community Development & Partnerships Directorate
  - Learning Strategies & Support Division
  - New Horizons for Seniors
  - Office for Disability Issues
- Industry Canada
  - Community Access Project
- Public Health Agency of Canada
  - Health Programs & Services
- Ministry of Children and Youth
- Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
  - Citizenship & Immigration Division
  - Regional & Corporate Affairs Division
- Ministry of Community & Social Services
  - Community Services Branch
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
  - Provincial Programs Branch
- Ministry of Health Promotion
  - Standards, Programs and Community Development Branch
  - Strategic Policy & Planning Branch



**Thanks to our athletic supporters** and fundraisers at the ScotiaRun event.

- Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities
  - Employment Ontario
  - Skills Development Office/ Employment Ontario
- Central Toronto Local Integrated Health Network
- City of Toronto
  - Children's Services Division
  - Public Health Division
  - Shelter, Support & Housing Division
  - Social Development, Finance & Administration Division
  - Toronto Employment and Social Services Division
- Toronto Arts Council

## Foundations

- United Way of Toronto
- CHUM Charitable Foundation
- D.H. Gordon Foundation
- Jackman Foundation
- Kids Up Front Foundation

- The Henry White Kinnear Foundation
- Lorraine Macdonald Fund
- Harry A. Newman Memorial Foundation
- Project Engagement
- Rainbow Foundation
- The Grace Rodwell-Muncaster Foundation
- St. Christopher House Community Endowment
- The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
- Toronto Community Foundation
  - Geoffrey B. Scott Memorial Fund
  - Wilkinson Family Fund
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation

## Corporations, Local Businesses & Employee Groups

- Anonymous
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Australian Boot Company
- Autodesk Canada, Co.

- BMO Employee Charitable Foundation
- Bean There Ltd.
- Body Blitz Spa
- Campbell Craft Consulting
- Cosmopolis Productions Inc
- Creative Impact Communications Inc.
- Credit Canada
- Crumpler
- The Dakota Tavern
- Dewart Gleason LLP
- Estoprint Ltd.
- Euro Toronto
- Flight Centre
- Girl Friday
- George Kaplan Agency Ltd.
- Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc.
- Goed Eten
- Harvest Manor Homes Inc.
- House On Parliament
- Hydro One Employees' and Pensioner's Charity Trust
- Imaginus Canada Limited
- Intact Financial Corporation



## ■ st. chris locations

- 1 **248 Ossington Avenue**
  - 2 **Meeting Place and St. Chris Administration**  
588 Queen Street West
  - 3 **Parkdale Meeting Place in PARC**  
1499 Queen Street West
- Supportive Housing and Elderly Persons Centres**
- 4 20 West Lodge Avenue
  - 5 Springhurst Manor,  
1447 King Street West
- 6 **Parkdale Community Programs**  
**Parkdale Youth Space**  
1497 Queen St. West, #103
- 7 **1033 King Street West**
  - 8 **Dufferin Mall Youth Services**  
900 Dufferin Street

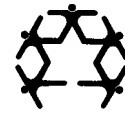


Italian Canadian Savings & Credit Union  
Kelly's Tree Care Ltd.  
L R CARTAGE  
Lax O'Sullivan Scott Lisus LLP  
Life Design Systems Insurance Agency Limited  
London Life Insurance Company  
Made You Look  
MaxSys Group of Companies  
McCarthy Tetrault LLP  
McKee Masonry  
Mutual Synergy Group  
One Of A Kind Pasta & Grill  
Ontario Power Generation Employees & Pensioner's Charity Trust  
Platinum Unlimited Inc.  
RBC Royal Bank  
Rad Unlimited Inc.  
Red Tea Box  
Roberts Gallery  
Scratch Lab DJ Institute  
The Second City  
Spadina Auto Inc.  
Spearin Investments Ltd.  
Stephen Bulger Gallery  
TD Bank Financial Group

TD Bank Group  
TJX Canada  
Ultor Consulting  
Yip Management Services Inc.

### Churches, Service Clubs & Associations

CUPE Local #3393  
The Horticultural Societies of Parkdale and Toronto  
The Japanese Paper Place  
Lanark Community Programs  
Needlework Guild of Toronto  
The Ontario Library Association  
Raising the Roof  
St. Christopher House Alumni Fund  
The Samaritan  
Social and Enterprise Development Innovations  
Toronto Neighbourhood Centres  
Toronto Chamber Voices  
Toronto Police Service 14th Division  
United Way of Oakville  
United Way of Peel Region  
United Way/Centraide Canada  
Volunteer Toronto



St. Christopher House

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Christopher House has as its central purpose the enabling of less-advantaged individuals, families and groups in the community to gain greater control over their lives and within their community.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

St. Christopher House will work in partnership with the community to promote personal and social change in order to achieve a safe, healthy and accepting society for all. To this end, we will work with our resources and the strengths of the community to:

- ▶ build bridges within and across communities
- ▶ promote access to full participation in society by addressing barriers such as illiteracy, inadequate incomes, unaffordable housing, and discrimination of all types
- ▶ assist people to meet individual and family needs
- ▶ provide the tools and opportunities for people to control their own lives and to take on leadership in the community
- ▶ advocate for changes in social systems that will ensure dignity, quality of life, and equal opportunities for all.

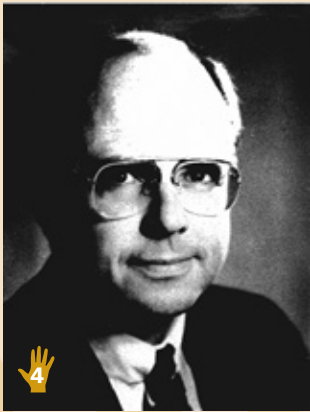
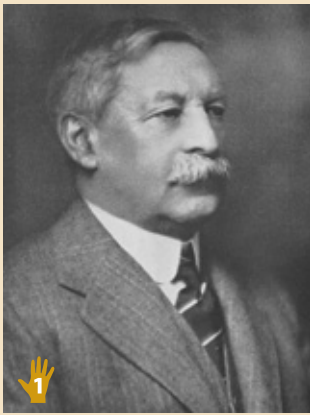
### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- ▶ develop programs to respond to our changing neighbourhood
- ▶ develop strategic partnerships
- ▶ enhance our Parkdale presence
- ▶ use a community development approach with networks to plan integrated services and advocate on policy

### ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

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# This house was built by many hands.

- 1 **Sir James Woods**, the philanthropist who founded St. Chris in 1912.
- 2 **Iria Veira**, Portuguese immigrant and community activist on the Board in the 1970s and 1990s.
- 3 **Debbie Yam**, former Music School student and volunteer accompanist for the choir. As a youth, Debbie brought the Chinese Head Tax issue to the attention of St. Chris.
- 4 **Don Bean**, former Board member, longtime fundraising volunteer and donor. Don's leadership drove the capital campaign for our 248 Ossington location..
- 5 **Bob Ellis**, former St. Chris staff member, former Board President, co-leader of the St. Chris "Alumni", and mentor to hundreds of children and youth.
- 6 **Maria Cidade** lives in the community and brightens everyone's day as a volunteer and guide to people arriving at the House.
- 7 **Stan Meek**, (photo not available) former Board member, major donor who kick-started the Community Endowment with a \$1 million matching fund.

Please give what you can: [stchrishouse.org/donations](https://stchrishouse.org/donations)