

## **Executive Director's Report June 1, 2016**

### **Yet Keen Seniors Program**

We began our annual membership drive in April 2016. We also started planning a new fundraising campaign. Yet Keen cookbooks are ready to be used as thank you gifts to donors who have made a donation of \$20 or more to Yet Keen. The fundraising goal is to raise \$10,000 to support Yet Keen's programs and services.

### **Children & Youth Program**

Our Headstart program staff have been working diligently to meet the new legislative requirements in the recently updated Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (formerly Day Nurseries Act). This includes the development of a new Program Statement that aligns with the Ministry guiding document, "How Does Learning Happen"; Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, as well as many other requirements and new policies and procedures. These new requirements need to be in place by May 27, 2016.

### **Community Development**

The Making Voices Count project has focused on moving forward the social agenda in Ottawa, with a particular focus on transit. In recent weeks, and with the Healthy Transportation Coalition taking a lead, the creation of a low income bus pass has gained significant momentum. The Transit Commission meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> reviewed a report on a low-income transit pass. Community members were mobilized in advance of this meeting to make their voices heard on the issue. This resulted in Ottawa's Transit Commission deciding to ask the Province for the \$3.3 million needed to fund the pass.

### **Community Health Promotion**

SWCHC now offers a new workshop entitled "Cooking Healthy from the Neighbourhood," co-facilitated by our Dietitian, Bonnie Baxter, and our Community Health Promoter, Janelle Vandergrift. The workshop was created for those who want to eat healthy on a budget from within the neighbourhood and might lack transportation to shop elsewhere. The workshop explores which stores and resources are located in the neighbourhood, the best-budget finds for meeting nutritional needs, and programs like the Good Food Markets, Market Mobile and Good Food Box which make buying fruits and vegetables more accessible. An important component of the workshop is discussing food security, food deserts and how having a low-income creates barriers to eating well, regardless of personal choice and shopping strategies. The workshop has been offered at St. Luke's Table, the Family Shelter and the Rochester Heights Community House.

### **Community Development & HIV Health Initiative: African Caribbean and Black Community**

The program completed and submitted a funding application Letter of Intent to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to extend the ACB community development and HIV health initiative 5 more years. When the LOI is accepted, we will submit the full proposal. Our current program funding agreement with PHAC ends March 31, 2017. In addition, we attended an Ontario HIV Treatment Network - PHAC A/C track research project meeting in Toronto to re-launch the Track

for the Toronto and Ottawa sites. As well, we received \$8500 from the Department of Canadian Heritage to organize a Multiculturalism Day Event on June 25, 2016. We recruited a student who is completing a Masters in Health Promotion to help with the planning and organization of this event.

### **ACB HIV Prevention Program**

We held a volunteer appreciation and workshop event on April 9, 2016. The goal of the workshop was to create more awareness about the effective utilization of volunteers' resources and the role that volunteers play in supporting the ACB program. The workshop explored volunteer skills, assets and their time availability as well as their responsibilities and expectations. A total of 26 volunteers attended the event.

### **Rochester Heights Community House**

The Art class offered at the Rochester Height Community House is taking the children in the after school program to a glass bowing studio and a clay studio on May 18, 2016 to teach the children about these specialized arts and to give the children an opportunity to ask questions and to experiment with clay and glass for the first time.

### **Families First Program**

During this quarter, there were 29 families referred to the Families First Program. The family composition included 54 children, 25 of whom were female and 29 who were male. Among the families, 63 clients had multicultural backgrounds and 34 households were newcomers. During this reporting period, 30 families secured housing including 23 placements in subsidized housing, 3 private market units, and 3 rent supplement units.

### **Practical Assistance Support to Clients**

The Social Services Walk In Program is offered afternoons at both sites. Clients do not need an appointment to see a counsellor who can support them with urgent needs. As part of this program, clients may be offered practical assistance including bus tickets and vouchers, redeemable for groceries or baby supplies. Perhaps not surprisingly given the economy, we are seeing a steady increase in client contacts, along with annual costs, for the provision of practical assistance. We had an increase of 352 contacts from 2014-15 to 2015-16. This can be explained only in part by the opening of Rosemount in September 2014 since we did not experience significant demand for practical assistance there until well into 2015-16. Annual costs for food and baby supply vouchers increased by \$1000.00 during the same period of time.

In our 2016 budget submission to the City of Ottawa, we noted this trend and requested an increase to our funding for both emergency assistance costs as well as staffing for this program.

Submitted by: Jack McCarthy  
June 1, 2016