

**A World Within a Block.**



**Annual Report 2019 – 2020**  
**St. James Town Community Corner**





## The Corner@240

### Sustainability as Catalyst for Unexpected Community Connections

The Corner@240 is a newly opened shared space that extends The Corner's overarching principles and unique model of community building. It was developed by was developed by The Corner and is based on a grassroots approach to community action, where the always changing social, cultural and economic dynamics of St. James Town create a flexible understanding of the services and programs that best serve resident needs.

The Corner @240 is designed to be a catalyst for environmental change at the local level, by turning residents into active participants who link their environmental footprint with the health of themselves, their family, and the world around them.

Emphasizing on the 3Rs – in this case referring to Reduce, Reuse and Repair – through its Library of Things, repair workshops and other programs.

The photo on the left and the detail on cover is from a Repair Forum organised in partnership with Repair Cafe' Toronto.



## Message from the Steering Committee

This year marked a number of achievements that highlighted the numerous ways that The Corner brought new and exciting initiatives to support the St. James Town neighbourhood. Consistent with our refreshed values of “equitable, diverse, accessible, community driven, collaborative and innovative” we listened to our community, sought out their help and worked together to deliver programs and services that responded to the evolving needs of the community.

We were very pleased to receive the assistance of Cameron Murray, from Ideas Couture who assisted The Corner with understanding what has contributed to making The Corner what it is today and to shape how it could be in the future. His report, “Envisioning and Promoting the Corner 2.0: Insights and Design Principles for a Transformative Community Hub Future” has inspired new conversations about how to shape our future. It has also provoked reflections on the success of our model and how it might influence future models of community building.

New initiatives, supported by The Corner, marked a spirit of diversity, entrepreneurship and innovation by the successful launch of the catering collective, Flavours from our Neighbours which combined local culinary skill with international tastes. Additionally, The Wellesley Residents Association was formed to give voice to tenants who face a range of housing challenges caused by aging building infrastructure. The association was recognized by an award from the Institute for Change Leaders.

Advocacy through civic engagement has always been an important part of The Corner’s work. In collaboration with residents and the Service Providers Network a petition was delivered to The City to designate St. James Town a Neighbourhood Improvement Area. This has significance for funding and other resource allocation. Residents and service providers worked hard together to meet deadlines and fulfill the requirements for this submission.



**The Corner@240**  
#108 – 240 Wellesley Street East  
Toronto, ON M4X 1G5  
[r] 416-964-6657 Ext: 240

### 2019-2020 STATS

Number of new intake:

**1 527**

Front Area Service:

**17 318**

Workshop/Onetime program/  
Meetings/Events:

**4 274**

Resident Lead program/  
Service partners lead program:

**7 176**

One to one services:

**3 978**

Outreach:

**6 676**

Total units of service:

**39 373**

Average number of programs:

**27**/month

Average number of service  
partners:

**17**

Average number of community  
partners:

**9**

Average number of community  
partners led program:

**9**

Number of placement students:

**10**

Placement student hours:

**1 014**

Number of Volunteers:

**53**

Volunteer hours:

**1 185**

Communities that are dominated by high-rise apartment dwellings face particular challenges when it comes to environmental protection initiatives. In response to this, The Corner was excited to open The Corner@240, funded by The City of Toronto. It is a share and reuse space dedicated to advancing a green environment. What makes this space special is the sharing of not only tools, equipment, games, and home appliances but also the mutual knowledge, skills and satisfaction of repairing and reusing, fixing what was broken. All of this is made possible by our community volunteers working closely with staff.

The Corner could not do its work without the many volunteers and service partners who contribute their time, talents and energy to the St. James Town community. Over the next few pages, a special shout-out will be given to local residents who have lived and volunteered in St. James Town for many years. You will also hear about the numerous programs and services delivered by our partners. Health and education initiatives such as a flu clinic, HIV prevention, cancer prevention, oral and dental care, mental health awareness, science for kids and pathways to education all contributed to the health and wellness of the neighbourhood.

On a more somber note, the end of our year signaled the onset of a new threat to our communities. With the declaration, by The World Health Organization, of a world-wide pandemic, a whole new set of difficulties faced St. James Town. This declaration prompted the immediate closure of many programs and services. I know that the next year will bring new challenges to the people of St. James Town and to the staff delivering services to them. The Corner will respond with the spirit of calm and innovation that they are best known for. There is no doubt that services, though modified, will remain accessible to our neighbourhood.

The steering committee wishes to extend a heartfelt gratitude to all of the staff, volunteers and service partners who have made The Corner such a success. We look forward to working together in the coming year to meet the new challenges ahead.

**Shirley Roberts**

Coordinator

Steering Committee





## New Initiatives

### Flavours from Our Neighbours – The St. James Town Catering Collective

*Flavours from our Neighbours* is a vibrant lip-smacking catering collective initiated by a group of passionate St. James Town residents. The initiative is an attempt to acknowledge the rich diversity of the neighbourhood and to create income generating opportunities. Being a group of members from diverse backgrounds, the collective’s menu reflects dishes from across the globe, with a motto- “Cooking with heart, and cooking healthy”.

For decades, residents had shared their culinary prowess and diverse foods with community members in informal gatherings. However, there was a lack of infrastructure to support a coordinated culinary program. The community saw an opportunity to merge existing culinary skills with event catering, while also creating income opportunities for community members.

A dietitian from Sherbourne Health partnered with residents to provide guidance on health and nutrition. The collective currently has Indian, Italian, Pakistani, Mexican, Chinese and Afghani dishes on its menu. The menu has been carefully curated to ensure any particular dish can be prepared by several individuals. The members of the collective are always looking for more participants from diverse backgrounds to join them. Find out more about the collective at [www.stjamestown.org/catering](http://www.stjamestown.org/catering)

#### LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE

*Flavours from Our Neighbours* partnered with The City of Toronto for the ‘Love Food Hate Waste Campaign’ aimed at reducing food waste. *Flavours from Our Neighbours*, along with celebrity Chef Bob Blumer created meals using rescued food.



One of many *Flavours from our Neighbours* prepared meals



## Cancer Prevention Project

Sherbourne Health's Cancer Prevention Project was made up of 6 residents from St. James Town who worked with Cancer Prevention Promoters to directly engage community members in cancer prevention, screening and awareness. The residents joined the program in early 2018 and underwent training and workshops before they reached out to community members and conducted workshops of their own.

## Interactive Science Class for Kids

Interactive Science Class for Kids is an after-school program conducted by SJT resident Nayan Dutta Biswas. The aim of the program is to develop cognitive, analytical, problem solving skills, and inspire scientific curiosity. Covering various subjects like life sciences, physics, chemistry and social sciences, the program aims to engage kids and spark their curiosity using live experiments.

“I try to teach my daughter the same things I speak about in the class. And I thought what difference does it make if a few more kids are to join” – Nayan

## 280 Wellesley Resident's Association

On the morning of Wednesday February 6th at 8 AM, the electricity, heat, and water were shut down in 280 Wellesley. Residents were told these outages would last a maximum of 24 hours. After losing heat and water for 3 days in the middle of winter, 280 Wellesley residents decided to organize to fight for a safe and healthy living space. Seeing a significant difference in management's behaviour when there was pressure and oversight and knowing there were a lot of issues that needed to be addressed beyond the outages, few residents took the lead to do a sign-up day to document those issues and ask if they could advocate on everyone's behalf. The 280 Wellesley Residents Association was born.

The association is the first of its kind in St. James Town, a collaborative effort by residents of one of the 19 highrises to ensure a safe and healthy living space for themselves. The Corner is grateful for being able to provide support with capacity building and as a space for the residents to meet.

### ST. JAMES TOWN AWARD WINNERS 2019

- SJT Change Makers:  
• **YOUTH**  
• Sachintha Fernando
- SJT Change Maker:  
• **SENIOR**  
• Femmie Prudente
- SJT Change Maker:  
• **NEWCOMER**  
• Maheswari
- SJT Change Maker:  
• **LGBTQ**  
• Danielle I. Szlawieniec-Haw
- SJT Change Maker:  
• **WOMEN**  
• Peta Francis
- SJT Change Maker:  
• **MEN**  
• Milan Slavkovic
- St. James Town Advocate:  
• Maryam Rahimi,  
• In appreciation for your time, dedication, and continuous support to the St. James Town Community
- SJT Group Award:  
• **GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION**  
• Repair Café
- SJT Group Award:  
• **BUSINESS**  
• Bell Canada
- SJT Scholarship:  
• **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ LEADERSHIP**  
• Wannason Sinnathurai
- SJT Scholarship:  
• **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ LEADERSHIP**  
• Jason Jang



Jason Morgan of the 280 Wellesley Residents Association – one of the CWA Canada Storytelling for Change Award winners

### FLU CLINICS

In 2019, Sherbourne Health provided 140 flu shots at 4 off-site clinics including at The Corner.

### WINNERS OF THE CWA CANADA STORYTELLING FOR CHANGE AWARD

- The 280 Wellesley St. Residents' Association was the winner of the ICL Alumni Association Storytelling for Change Award for the most effective and powerful public narrative and communications work.

After losing heat and water for 3 days in the middle of winter, 280 Wellesley residents decided to organize to fight for a safe and healthy living space. After attending a workshop with ICL, the Residents' Association began to canvass their neighbours and organize events, using the power of public narrative to build strong relationships and trust among tenants. The 280 Wellesley Residents' Association is using a foundation of shared storytelling to build a strong tenant association that is winning real accountability and material improvements in the lives of its members.

The 280 Wellesley St. Residents' Association received their award at the Institute for Change Leaders third-year anniversary celebrations on November 18, 2019.



## Wayne Lapointe

### The Community Handyman



Wayne Lapointe was born and raised in St. James Town, and has witnessed the radical transformations the neighbourhood has gone through. Wayne is a very active member of the community and is involved in various initiatives, especially those that include St. James Town seniors. Wayne's friends describe him as one of the sweetest and most helpful people in the neighbourhood. He is extremely handy with tools and can fix things using what is available to him at that moment. Wayne singlehandedly repainted an entire room at The Corner that seniors use regularly for their programs. From buying the paint and equipment to scrapping the old and putting on the new, Wayne did it all by himself.

Wayne is also an integral part of The Corner@240 and is one of the community fixers at the share and reuse space. Wayne is especially great at fixing home appliances, jewelry and watches. It is residents like Wayne, who go above and beyond their obligations that help create a caring and supportive neighbourhood.



Milwaukee Tools part of the Tool Library on Display at The Corner@240

### The Corner@240 Launch

Corner@240 – a Share and Reuse Space was opened to the St. James Town residents on August 9th 2019. Located at 240 Wellesley, the space aims to support a culture of reusing, sharing, repairing and repurposing items to prolong their life. The Corner@240 envisions a green environment with five Rs- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair and Reimagine!

Funded by The City of Toronto, Corner@240 and its initiatives build sustainable communities by:

- educating residents about the importance of waste reduction and reuse
- providing opportunities for sharing and repairing
- offering skills training, career enhancement and economic opportunities
- creating a space for community members to gather

Residents came in large numbers to be part of the launch, which included a community mural, junk yard competition and DIY t-shirt.

The space also runs several programs including Fix-it Mondays in partnership with Repair Café, Design and Make your Own Clothes, Trash to Treasure, Computer and Laptop Maintenance, and Bike Clinic, which are led and facilitated by resident volunteers.





St. James Town's worlds tallest mural

Picture Courtesy: Mark Gaglione

## St. James Town as Neighbourhood Improvement Area

In March 2014, The City of Toronto identified and designated 31 neighbourhoods as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs). Based on various indicators of socio-economic need, NIAs are given priority status on public and private funding towards community development and sustainability. St. James Town was not identified as a NIA, despite having higher rates of hospitalization for mental health and ambulatory care sensitive conditions, lower access to continuous primary care, preventative care and alternative levels of care, highest lower urgency emergency department visits, and being the most densely-populated neighbourhood with a significantly lower median household income than the City of Toronto. Over the last two years, SJT also experienced large-scale critical incidents, requiring multi-sectoral response efforts from local community service providers, Office of Emergency Management, Red Cross, and all levels of government.

**The NIA petition was submitted to Toronto City Council with support from many stakeholders in the community and unanimously voted for a suitability criteria review.**

The St. James Town Service Providers' Network, along with residents, launched a collaborative petition to advocate for SJT to be designated a Neighbourhood Improvement Area. Over 857 signatures from residents and 18 letters of support from service agencies strengthened the efforts.

On September 9th, 2019 Toronto City Council unanimously agreed and directed the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to engage in determining the suitability for St. James Town (SJT) to be identified as a neighbourhood improvement area for the next city-wide review.

Advocacy work of the St. James Town neighbourhood has resulted in a system level review scheduled for 2020. This shows that community advocacy & collaboration can lead to big changes on a city level. We want to thank the entire community and our partners and supporters for their dedication and hard work to make this happen!





**TOP:**

Residents watching cultural programs during the St. James Town Festival

**BOTTOM:**

Neha (right) receiving her Neighbourhood Photography Competition prize for Runner-up.



**NOTE:**

Unfortunately this year's **SPRING GATHERING** was canceled due to COVID-19

## Celebrating the Community

### SJT FESTIVAL

Every year the St. James Town Service Provider's Network (SJTSPN) hosts the St. James Town Festival to celebrate and promote diversity in the SJT community.

To reflect this collaborative effort by organizations and community residents, the committee chose to make the theme of this year's festival: "Stronger Together and Resiliency".

Continuing this tradition of collaboration, Cabbagetown and St. James Town partnered together for joint community festivals on Saturday September 7th. As neighbours, residents from Cabbagetown and St. James Town often frequent local establishments and generally spend time together- whether it's for shopping, friendly connections, or to access programs and services. Bringing the communities closer together through a joint festival helps to support these ongoing connections.

This year the SJT festival attracted a bigger than usual crowd. Thanks to various performers at the festival, the atmosphere was festive and entertaining. There were performances from about 10 resident groups including children, seniors and youth. The festival also had several food vendors who provided residents with culinary tastes from around the globe. In addition, there were arts and crafts vendors, games, and many other activities. Several local organisations and service providers had their booths set up so that residents could connect with services available in the neighbourhood.

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

It is important to take time to recognize the contributions and efforts of our volunteers. Over the years, we have had many volunteers join us from various backgrounds and specializations which has contributed to the diversity of our team. The festival is one of those events that bring out the true spirit of volunteerism in the St. James Town community and beyond. Every year, following the Festival, we celebrate our volunteers through an event.

This year we hosted volunteers who helped us organise the SJT Festival. The aim was to celebrate them with a delicious dinner prepared by Flavours from our Neighbours catering collective. Volunteers were welcomed with an icebreaker session followed by some fun and games, the opportunity to mingle with one another and to take part in a raffle draw.



We were pleased to give awards to volunteers and partners that have done amazing work with The Corner. There was a special mention to Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Mandi Restaurant for their generous support during the Festival.

“We are not residents of SJT, but we commute here. We usually volunteer and take part in other community events such as Spring Gathering or the St. James Town Festival. We enjoy actually doing community work and we get to interact with people. The SJT community is very diverse.” – Labeeba and Aadeeba

## Crisis Response

### 650 PARLIAMENT: ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRE

August 21st, 2019 marked the one-year anniversary of the 650 Parliament St. fire. Some of the tenants of 650 organized a vigil on the 20th of August, with Corner staff and community members in attendance.

While residents are not yet able to return to their homes, this past year has shown the strength and resilience of SJT in working together, supporting one another, and advocating for what the community wants and needs.

This year we demonstrated what we, a collection of agencies and community members, can accomplish when we work together: developing a neighbourhood crisis response strategy, forming tenant associations and working together in times of need.

### CRISIS RESPONSE TO 200 WELLESLEY FIRE

On November 8th, the emergency crews were outside 200 Wellesley Street East to deal with a fire on the ninth floor of the Toronto Community Housing building (TCH). Health Access staff at The Corner met with TCH staff to coordinate supports that residents would need that day.

The Corner’s doors were opened to residents who needed a place to stay warm. A Service Providers’ Network meeting had been scheduled at The Corner that day and the staff who came for the meeting joined in to help meet the immediate needs of the residents. The service providers were able to settle people at The Corner and provided breakfast and lunch. When they were able to go back to their apartments, Health Access and TCH staff made visits to the residents affected by the fire to check-in with them to see if they needed any further assistance.

#### TOP:

Residents alongside Mayor John Tory during the 1 year Vigil of 650 Parliament Fire

#### BOTTOM:

Members of the 280 Wellesley Residents Association interacting with the police during the crisis response





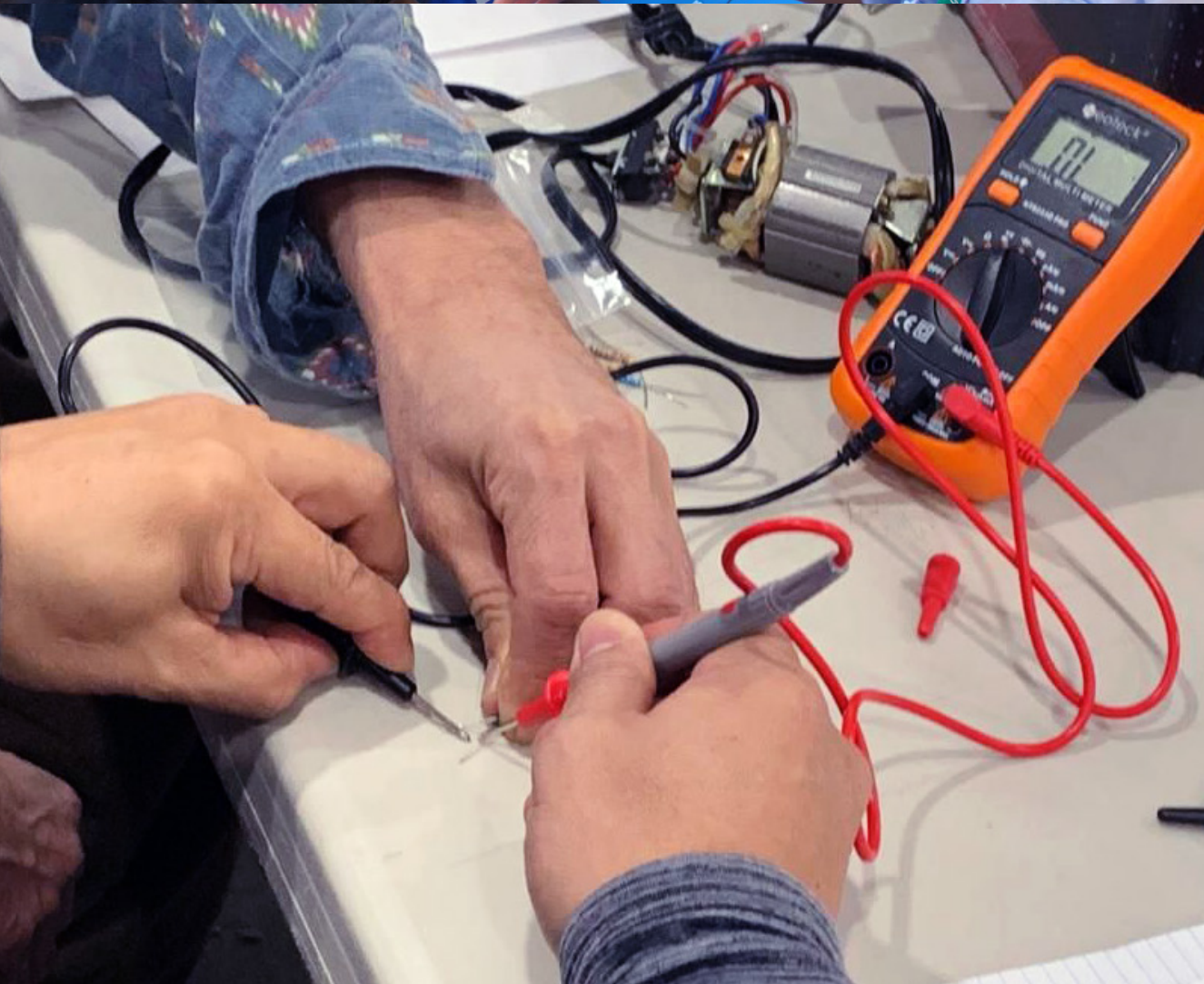


**TOP:**

Residents interacting with Service Providers during Newcomer Welcome Days

**BOTTOM:**

The Corner@240 holds a Repair Café



**“In watching two men dissect a radio, I saw the silent bonds forming of equal trust and respect.”**

– Georgie (International Placement Student)

## Spotlight on Programs

### ORGANIZATIONAL SPOTLIGHT – 35 YEARS OF PROGRESS PLACE

On October 10, 2019, Progress Place had 3 reasons to celebrate – Its 35th Anniversary, World Mental Health Day and Brenda Singer, founding Director receives the Order of Canada.

For over 35 years, Progress Place has been a recognized leader in psychosocial rehabilitation throughout Canada and the international Club-house community. Since 1983, Progress Place has been instrumental in leading the recovery model with its innovative and high-impact initiatives.

In 2012 Progress Place launched The St. James Town Mental Health Program in collaboration with Fred Victor, Hospice Toronto, Dixon Hall and Toronto Public Health to support seniors (55+) living with mental illness and addictions. Based on a recovery model with integrated services the goal of the program is to outreach and engage older adults to decrease social isolation, support healthy aging at home and improve access to health care. The program is offered 3 days a week at The Corner.

### NEWCOMER WELCOME DAYS

The St. James Town community is often called a landing pad for newcomers, and the community had identified the need to increase access to information and supports for people new to Canada. On June 21, 2019 Health Access St. James Town held Newcomer Welcome Days at 666, 700, and 730 Ontario Street.

Newcomer Welcome Days connect newcomers and residents with services on-site, and create long-term connections.

### REPAIR CAFÉ

A Repair Café was held on the 14th of August by The Corner@240 in partnership with Repair Café Toronto. The concept of the Repair Café was developed by Martine Postma in 2009 and the first Repair Café was held at Fijnhout Theater, Amsterdam-West.

Repair Cafés are opportunities for neighbours to help neighbours fix broken household items. Volunteers help repair small appliances, home electronics and general housewares, while also teaching residents how to fix their household items. The Corner@240 will have an ongoing partnership with Repair Café Toronto to organise repair events and for capacity building.



### **FUN WAY TO LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Introduction to Photography allows children to grasp the basic concepts of taking a picture and understand photography as an art form. This course breaks down the theories, styles, importance of different expressions, and significant terms that are used in photography. The program is facilitated by youth volunteer Sachintha Fenrando

Some activities include showing students how to paint a picture using real paint and canvas, while using different styles to capture a photo. For beginners or even experts, this class brings out the fun of learning a new skill.

### **HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The Corner collaborated with St. Stephen's Community House's HIV Prevention Program to provide harm reduction and sexual health services to the Community.

The HIV Prevention Program aims to engage with high-risk populations, and the services that support these communities, by holistically caring for people who are affected by HIV, Hep C, and substance use related challenges. For more info visit [www.sscho.ca](http://www.sscho.ca).

The evidence-based link between HIV, Hep C and harm reduction calls attention to the multiple barriers one person can face, and the various services they may need access to in order to receive effective support.

### **SJT PATHWAYS**

SJT Pathways is an initiative created to guide youth towards achieving their dreams. On Friday January 24, 2020, St. James Town (SJT) Pathways held their first ever event at The Corner. Dr. James Aw, chief medical officer at OMERS and former chief medical officer at Medcan Health, came to speak to high school students. Dr. Aw told the story of his family's immigration from South Korea when he was a young child, their adaptation to North America, and his subsequent path to success through universities and corporate medicine. This discussion got everyone thinking about their personal goals and the ways in which they can start working towards them.

The SJT Pathways program encompasses the promotion of awareness of the long-term benefits of a post-secondary education geared towards the careers of the future. In addition, this program facilitates access to adult role models who are engaged in a variety of entrepreneurial endeavors for direct advice in specific career paths. Specifically, SJT Pathways provides guidance about long-term career development and the initial steps required, how to apply for an internship, how to start a business, what top

### **TOP:**

Youth volunteer and photographer Sachintha during the St. James Town Festival

### **BOTTOM:**

Neighbourhood Youth alongside Dr. James Aw (Extreme left) at the first Pathways event







**TOP:**

Get Growing: Participants show off their seed kits during the gardening workshop

**BOTTOM:**

Kids and youth in the neighbourhood along with Arthur Biyarlanov (Centre, Last row) during a Ramadan Donation Drive



Canadian, U.S. and international graduate schools are looking for and how to prepare your candidacy.

Pathways will, in the coming days link more SJT youth to industry leaders who can guide and mentor them in their career path.

**GET GROWING!**

Get Growing workshops on balcony food gardening, a partnership between The Corner@240 and the City of Toronto Tower Renewal. The aim of the program is to encourage and promote balcony gardening in St. James town to address food insecurity and also to promote gardening as a community initiative.

60 participants attended the workshop over two days and were given starter kits and seeds to set up their own balcony gardens in their apartments.

## Event Highlights

### SOUTH ASIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The residents of St. James Town came together to celebrate the South Asian New Year on April 26, 2019. More than 80 participants including residents, staff, and volunteers attended the event. The event also featured henna art, and food brought by South Asian community members.

### ORAL AND DENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

On the 6th of May, Toronto Public Health facilitated a workshop on Oral and Dental Health for Filipino seniors. The workshop focused on personalised care, diet, oral hygiene and where and how they can connect to required services.

### TORONTO NEWCOMERS DAY

May 16th marked the 5th annual Toronto Newcomers Day, where newcomers could learn about services and programs. The Corner team along with TNO (The Neighbourhood Organization) shared a booth to raise awareness about the various programs at The Corner.

### DONATION DRIVE WITH ARTHUR BIYARSLANOV, THE WOLF

Arthur Biyarlanov, a.k.a The Chechen Wolf, is Canada's most accomplished boxer in over two decades, and a resident of St. James Town since the age of 10. Arthur, along with The City and The Corner, organised a Donation Drive for St. James Town residents. Arthur met the donors and interacted with youth, sharing autographs and playing sports. More than



60 families in the neighbourhood benefited from the donations raised by this drive.

“Even now when I am in St. James Town, I can’t walk outside without saying hello to people. Everyone knows me, I know everyone. It’s home.” – Arthur Biyarlanov

### SENIORS DAY PROGRAM 7TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Seniors Program celebrated its 7th anniversary, with over 30 members and staff. We went down memory lane, and compared the start of the program to how much we’ve grown over the years.

Some of the testimonials made by the group were:

- “This program is therapeutic for me and helps to reduce stress”.
- “I enjoy the friendships, meals, games and the warm and welcoming feeling”.
- “I love the program and appreciate it. Thank you for having a program like this.”
- “This program is an important part of my life!”
- “I look forward to coming each day, meeting my friends, socializing and being happy”.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month was celebrated on February 28 with live music, Congolese dancing, a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, and an informative presentation on the history of Black Canadians, celebrating their many contributions and shedding light on the grief and struggles of black immigrants who are affected by gun violence.

### KNOW YOUR PRIDE

On June 13th the annual pre-pride festival for 2019 called ‘Know Your Pride’ was celebrated at The Corner. This year’s event highlighted the history and the incredible milestones accomplished by the LGBTQ+ community.

The event was conducted in collaboration with Sick Kids, Toronto Public Health, The Neighbourhood Organization, Sherbourne Health, and Soy Flame Youth. With all the activities taking place during the event, what made this year’s pride festival special was the stellar performances by SOY (Supporting Our Youth) Flame Youth. SOY is an organisation working with youth from the LGBTQ+ community. Performances included dance, singing, rapping, and drag.

### SENIORS FORUM 2019

The annual seniors Forum was held on June 17th and included workshops, entertainment, food, and fun. The event was planned by the Older Adult Consortium, a subcommittee within the St. James Town Service Provider’s

#### TOP:

Seniors Day Program  
7th Anniversary Celebrations

#### BOTTOM:

Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony  
During Black History Month  
Celebrations







**TOP:**

World Refugee Day Celebrations at Nathan Phillips Square

**BOTTOM:**

Former MP Olivia Chow, at the Institute for Change Leaders' special seminar



Network. Over 60 seniors from the community from various backgrounds attended the event. The food was catered by Flavours from Our Neighbours – the St. James Town Catering Collective. Agencies such as Alzheimer’s Society and Toronto Public Health provided seniors with informational workshops that sparked conversations around aging and understanding disorders such as dementia.

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

World Refugee Day was observed on the 20th of June. There are an estimated 65 million displaced people worldwide. In 2018, Canada resettled the highest number of refugees in the world. Canadians have always taken pride in opening their doors to newcomers. Residents of Toronto showed their support for refugees worldwide through the Annual Refugee Walk.

Participants expressed their solidarity and shared their thoughts on the need for Canada and the world to provide refuge to the most vulnerable of our global citizens. Residents from St. James Town along with Corner staff and volunteers took part in the event.

**OPEN STREETS TO**

Originating in Bogota, Columbia, as Ciclovía (Cycle way) in the 1970s, Open Streets has grown into a global concept for promoting car-free streets. On Aug. 18, 2019, the first Open Streets event of the year in Toronto took place at Yonge and Wellesley. St. James Town residents along with The Corner staff and several volunteers represented the neighbourhood at the event. The outreach team and volunteers from the St James Town community came up with different activities and games to attract and engage more people to the event. Activities included face painting, ping pong, basketball, volleyball, darts and dance performances by residents.

**INSTITUTE FOR CHANGE LEADERS**

On September 12, in a special seminar facilitated by former MP Olivia Chow, founder of the Institute for Change Leaders, members of the St. James Town community were provided useful tips on how they can become effective leaders for change. The workshop was conducted at the New Common in St. James Town. With a focus on storytelling, the seminar gave space for members to share their stories with one another and to learn how they can utilize their voices to achieve results for their community.



## MIND MATTERS

World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10th every year. In 2019 the theme of the day was “40 Seconds of Action” referring to the fact that one individual commits suicide every 40 seconds. On the 10th of October small engagement activities were organised at The Corner and a major event involving community members was organised on the 28th of November.

Activities included self-care bingo, Emoji Wall, and activities with a focus on the importance of getting a good night’s sleep, healthy nutrition, and available resources in the community. “Therapeutic Paws of Canada” volunteers Sandy and Max were available for a quiet time and puppy hugs. Raju, a local artist demonstrated his amazing skills by drawing portraits for participants.

This event was a collaboration among Health Access St James Town (HASJT) Sherbourne Health, SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health, The Community Healing Project, and Youthdale. The event was organized at New Common’s beautiful Space at 225 Wellesley east.

## FALL PARTY FOR KIDS

On the 30th of October, a fall- Halloween party was organised for the children in the neighbourhood by The Corner in partnership with Medallion, the landlord for 12 buildings in St. James Town. The kids loved pumpkin crafts and all of them got to take home the pumpkin they worked on and decorated. Volunteers and organisers were there to help with the decorations. Children also had the option of participating in temporary face tattoos and other games and activities. Participants enjoyed taking photos with Halloween frames. It was heartwarming to see several newcomer families creating new memories by taking pictures. Over 150 residents participated in the event.

## NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In support of the National Day of Remembrance and Action to Stop Violence against Women, The Corner took part in Central Neighbourhood House’s annual event to honor the women and children that have been affected by violence.

The theme of the event was human trafficking. It was titled Taking Back Control: Exploring Human Trafficking and Its Impact on Our Community and was held on December 6th in remembrance of the 14 women that were murdered at Polytechnique Montréal (previously known as École Polytechnique de Montréal).

### TOP:

Emoji wall at Mind Matters

### BOTTOM:

A family Click: Residents at The Fall Party for Kids







**TOP:**

Kids enjoy “Junkyard Wars” – a recycling art competition during the launch of The Corner @240.

**BOTTOM:**

Ho Ho Ho: Photo with Santa!



The purpose of the event was to bring awareness to parents and youth on how human trafficking affects everyone. There were guest speakers that spoke out about their personal experiences of human trafficking and how easily they were influenced. Along with the discussion panel, there were many performances, including spoken word poetry.

**ST. JAMES TOWN HOLIDAY PARTY**

On the 18th of December, St. James Town residents celebrated the holidays together at a party organised at The Corner. The gathering was attended by more than 300 residents and supported by more than 30 volunteers.

All the children who attended the gathering were given toys as Christmas gifts donated by Bell Canada. They also received mittens knitted by family members of 51 Division Neighbourhood Police Officers. Kids loved taking pictures with Santa, which was without a doubt the highlight of the evening, thanks to Medallion. For several newcomer families, it was their first Christmas experience with Santa, gifts and carols. Members from Trinity Life Church lit up the environment with beautiful carols throughout the gathering.

Our partners Medallion, Progress Place, Trinity Life Church and The Neighbourhood Organisation (TNO) generously supported the event by providing a delicious turkey dinner.



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**FUNDERS**

TCLN – Toronto Central Local Health  
Integration Network  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Toronto Employment and Social Services

Tower Renewal Office  
City of Toronto  
United Way

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**SERVICE PARTNERS**

ACORN  
Alliance for South Asian  
AIDS Prevention  
Bleecker/Wellesley Activity Network  
Central Neighborhood House  
Fred Victor  
Hospice Toronto  
Leacock Foundation  
Peacebuilders  
Progress Place  
Sherbourne Health  
Sickkids  
Sunshine Seniors  
The Humane Society

The Neighborhood Organization  
Toronto Public Health  
Unispere Canada  
University of Toronto  
Yonge Street Mission  
Reaching Out Through Music  
Charlie's Freewheels  
Stella's Place  
Creating Caring Community  
St. Stephen's House  
Woodgreen  
Spirit of Math  
Repair Café  
Toronto Tool Library

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**STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

Amna Shah  
Hannah Goodbrand  
Lovlyn D'Souza Pereira  
Maryana Tanyashyna  
Tanvir Kaukab  
Vickie Rennie  
Chelladurai Yogarajah  
Criss Habal-Brosek

Nalini Pandalangat  
Ravi Subramaniam  
Shirley Roberts  
Veronica MacDonald  
Jelani Matthew  
Wilma Sinnathurai  
Sasha Cragg-Dore



**ACCESSIBLE | COMMUNITY DRIVEN | EQUITABLE | DIVERSE**

**St. James Town Community Corner (The Corner)**

105 – 200 Wellesley Street East, Toronto, ON M4X 1G3

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