



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

2018



cgC | common ground
co-operative

Volume 6, Issue 5

MISSION

Empowering adults with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful, fulfilling lives

VISION

A world where all adults with developmental disabilities are vibrant and valued members of the community

VALUES

- **Independence**
- **Inclusion**
- **Respect**
- **Entrepreneurship**

Board of Directors

David Halperin, Chair

Andrea Spencer, Vice-Chair

Omar Hanif, Treasurer

Karen Curtis, Director

Jo Drassinower, JAC Representative

John Visser, Director

A WORTHWHILE COMMITMENT

A Message from retiring Board Chair, David Halperin

Dear Members,

As your retiring board chair, I'm very pleased to be able to announce that 2017-2018 was another successful year for Common Ground. Here are some highlights from the past year.

CGC continues to strengthen and build its financial sustainability by beating targets and budgets on both revenues and expenses. With the steady hand of your Executive Director, we were able to achieve our annual fundraising target by the end of the third quarter of last year and managed to keep a tight lid on our expenses while continuing to make necessary investments in programming, facilities and staff development.

We've also worked to achieve and build on the priorities identified in our 2016-2019 strategic plan. As part of this work we identified the need to retrofit and rewrite our Foundations Job Skills Training Program which involved countless hours of work by CGC coaches, Program Coordinator, Andrea Di Caro Bent and our Executive Director. Audio visual learning was incorporated into this intensive program that teaches work skills and helps people be able to identify their career goals.

We continued to broaden our reach by continuing to offer Fee for Service workshops, which enjoy strong take up due to the increasing availability of passport funding, making our innovative style of program delivery accessible to the community at large. And finally, we worked to increase awareness by participating in various round-table discussions and presenting our model of support at conferences like the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB); and various community organizations or associations.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank CGC and the board for giving me the opportunity to "give back" to the organization, as both a board member for 4 years and the last two years serving as your board chair. The Coffee Shed where my daughter works continues to play an important role in my daughter's life; they gave her a place to learn, develop friendships and to experience a sense of belonging and to experience inclusion. They supported her when she needed it and for that we will always be grateful.

CGC is wonderful organization with staff that are committed, compassionate and creative. If you are able to become involved by supporting CGC on an official level then consider joining the board of directors or a committee. The rewards and insight you'll gain when learning about the environment in which CGC operates and the challenges it works to overcome far outweighs what is a minimal and worthwhile commitment of personal time.

Thank you,

David Halperin

David Halperin
Board Chair,
2016/17 & 2017/18
Elected 2012

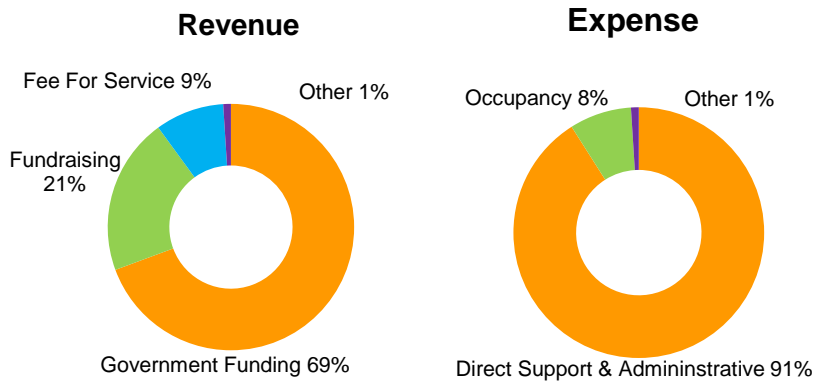
TREASURER'S MESSAGE Omar Hanif

CGC maintained a strong and steady financial position for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018 and held a healthy cash and short-term investments balance of \$458,778.

Revenues for the year were \$564,874 and expenses incurred for the year ended were \$533,771, which resulted in a surplus of revenue over expenses of \$31,103. These results were a direct outcome of the fastidious efforts in monitoring spending, and increasing revenues through fundraising and fee for service programs which generate revenue for the organization. To see the full version of our audited financial statements please visit our website. If you are interested in reviewing our social enterprise business financials please make a request to the partnerships directly.

As always, the highlight of the year is our annual bowl-a-thon fundraising event. Our 7th Annual event, held in October 2017 raised just over \$30,000 and our 8th annual event held just three weeks ago raised more than \$28,000. These funds will be used to support our programs and operational costs.

To all our corporate sponsors, members and individuals who have so generously contributed to support our organization we offer a huge thank you!



Thank You!

We thank the more than 250 individual donors, foundations, corporations, co-ops and institutions that supported our work in 2017/18



Tippet Foundation



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Foundations Program undergoes a transformation. Revised 18-week career building program combines in-class and skills learning in the social enterprises.**
- **Audio-Visual learning is incorporated into the Foundations Program curriculum.**
- **CGC passes annual MCCSS Compliance Inspection.**
- **Common Ground hosts a 7th successful fundraiser which raises more than \$25,000 to support our programs and services.**
- **CGC works with Toronto District School Board provide experiential work skills learning for students with developmental disabilities.**

IMPACTS

- **CGC helps two agencies to continue their social enterprise programs by adapting the partnership model in Southern Ontario.**
- **CGC collaborates with Montage Support Services and Toronto Public Health to modify and adapt the Food Handler Certification Program for persons with developmental disabilities who are or want to be certified workers in Toronto's vibrant and varied food services sector.**
- **18 participants from the community sign-up for and complete CGC Fee for Service Workshops.**

THE MARK WINKLER AWARD

The Mark Winkler Award celebrates the achievements and contributions of a partner who has shown their commitment to improving not only their lives, but the lives of others.



Pictured: Julie Godfrey & Mark Winkler

Congratulations to our 2017 Mark Winkler award recipient Julie Godfrey who received the award for her commitment to working toward improving her work while overcoming some personal challenges during the year.

After receiving the award Julie gained the confidence she needed to set a new goal toward finding work in the competitive marketplace. This started with a short leave of absence so she could participate in job training and job trails with Sunrise Janitorial, a social enterprise operated by Community Living Toronto. With the support and encouragement of CGC, Julie was able to maintain her place in

the partnership while undergoing this transformation. During the summer of 2018, Julie was offered an on-call position with Sunrise and presented the partnership with her resignation. Congratulations to Julie and those who were also nominated for this great award.



Julie's retirement party with Partners CGC Coaches & Surrey Place Staff

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY AND SECTOR PARTNERS

Surrey Place · JVS Toronto · New College – UofT · George Brown College Student Association · Community Living Toronto

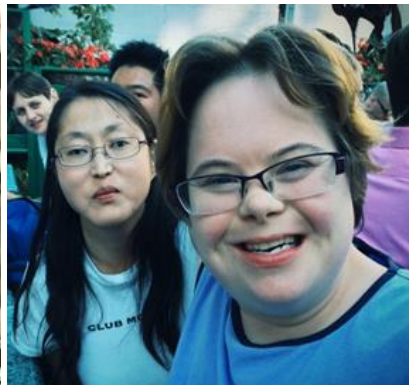


Photo Credits: J. Barnett, G.P Fantone, J. Hope

Common Ground Co-operative is a charitable service organization that supports adults who have developmental and intellectual disabilities in Toronto. Our programs provide people with the opportunity to learn and build their job skills and to experience self-employment as partners in social enterprises that provide hospitality services to the community. We also offer a range of other programs that help people lead meaningful, fulfilling lives.



Partially Funded by the Ministry of
Children, Community and
Social Services

COMMON GROUND CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

3A BANIGAN DRIVE, TORONTO, ON M4H 1G3
WWW.COMMONGROUND-CO-OP.CA
BN 884016411RR0001