



**cgC** | common ground  
co-operative



# 20TH ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Empowering adults with developmental disabilities to  
lead meaningful, fulfilling lives.

# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

By Andrea Spencer

We are thrilled to be celebrating 20 years of empowering our partners to be vibrant and engaged members of our community – this has been 20 years of seeing great friendships form, supporting people to grow in many ways, and continuing to build strong partnerships with others in the community as more and more become aware of what we do. The Board of Directors has been having bold and strategic discussions about how to continue to increase the reach and impact of our programming, and we look forward to seeing what can happen in the years to come.

2020 has been a challenging year with the onset of the global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus Covid-19, and the impact on Common Ground has been immense. To protect our partners and staff, we were forced to close our programs for a number of months, which was not an easy decision but it was the right one. I, and the Board of Directors, cannot sufficiently express our thanks and gratitude to the leadership and staff at Common Ground for bringing us through this incredibly stressful and complex time with poise, thoughtfulness, and a core focus on keeping our partners healthy and well.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

By Omar Hanif, Treasurer

The financial records for the fiscal year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 were reviewed and audited by Berman, Lofchik and Lum LLP, Chartered Accountants and were approved by the board of directors on July 28, 2020.

As your Treasurer, I work with CGC's Director Financial Manager and the board who oversee our operations. Our collaborative approach ensures that we are transparent and accountable to our members and donors; including the province of Ontario which provides almost 73% of partial funding to our job coaches, and administrative team.

Donations, grants events and other fundraising helps us to achieve the remaining 27% plus 100% of monies needed to pay for programming and operational costs such as occupancy and other expenses needed to help us run the organization.

I look forward to continuing as your treasurer as we head into our 20th year of service. Copies of our 2019/2020 audited statements can be viewed on our website or are available by contacting our administrative offices.

**Omar Hanif**  
2019/20 Treasurer

Our team was regularly connecting with partners to check in, providing opportunities to get engaged virtually and in other new and unfamiliar ways, and have put an incredible amount of thought and effort into safely reopening our programs so everyone can get back to work. We are incredibly proud of our response, and how it has highlighted the diversity, strengths, and true togetherness of our team.

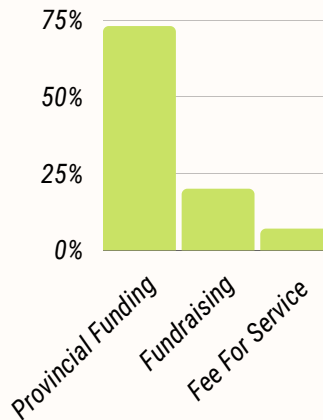
Now we must focus on our recovery; to support this and our 20th anniversary, we are excited to announce that we are organizing a campaign in which we will invite you to do 20 acts of kindness (big or small!) in your world, and invite others to do the same. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we must rely on each other's kindness to be able to succeed. We thank you for your continued support.

To the next 20 years,

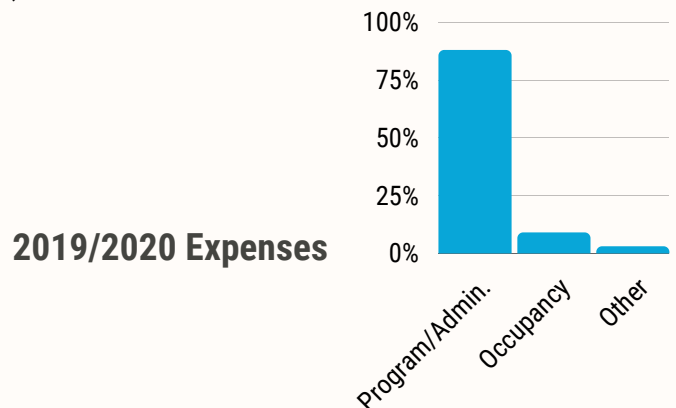
**Andrea Spencer**  
2019/20 Board Chair



Cathy & Carolyn Lemon during the filming of Global TV's "Making a Difference" 2009



2019/2020 Revenue



2019/2020 Expenses



**"With the help of Common Ground I get to make decisions and choices that affect me and my co-workers."**

- Andrew, Partner Coffee Shed & Lemon & Allspice

# OUR IMPACT

60

INDIVIDUAL PLANS  
GENERATED

97%

PARTNER  
PARTICIPATION

94%

GOALS ACHIEVED

- Improved fine motor skills.
- Desire to succeed.
- Increased confidence & self-esteem.
- Elevated participation in activity.
- Improved self-management.
- Ability to define a path to accomplishing goals.
- Enhanced focus & interest.
- Encouragement of others.



Lemon & Allspice at  
Sibley House, 1999



Coffee Shed at Wilson Hall,  
New College, 2003



Coffee Shed at  
Surrey Place, 2001



Coffee Shed JVS Toronto, Grand  
Opening, 2004

## STRATEGY

### 1 Enhance Core Programs

Evaluated our core programs to help identify areas of improvement.

New learning tools & methods developed for 2021.

Tapped into staff talents & client interests that provide broad benefit.

### 2 Build Strong Partnerships

Maintained existing partnerships and are leveraging connections toward new ventures.

Collaboration with Toronto Region Developmental Service agencies & Government.

New community partnership development.

### 3 Fuel Future Growth

Fundraising consultation & initiatives.

Developing tools that leverage our 20 years of success as a co-op, service agency & leader in social enterprise & work activity.

Creating more brand awareness online & in the community.

**"The more people see that individuals with disabilities can do, the more we break barriers"**

- Participant  
Social Purpose Enterprises, Research Study, Brock University  
University of Toronto Press, 2015



# Your Giving Matters

Donations and funding help to fund our operational, job coaching and others costs that aren't covered by our provincial, core funding. In addition to fundraising events and personal donations, we submit funding requests to foundations and organizations for specific projects and programs that are valuable.

Every donor is important to small organizations like CGC. To all of those donors who gave to us in 2019 and 2020 thank you for helping to support the programs and services that we have continued to provide for 20 years.



## TIPPET FOUNDATION



**Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation**  
**Tippet Foundation**  
**Options for Cars Co-operative**  
**Woodsworth Housing Co-operative**  
**Gay Lea Foods Co-operative**  
**Mark Winkler**  
**James Thurmond Smithgall**  
**The Visser Fund**  
**Carr Family**  
**Glass Family**  
**Tolley Family**  
**Lerners, LLP**

YPI Canada grants hundreds of thousands of dollars to community-based social service charities, 100% decided by thousands of high school students in their school-based youth philanthropy project. CGC works closely with student teams to help them develop their presentations. In 2019, the Don Mills, C.I. YPI team competed and won \$5,000 for CGC.

# Mark Winkler Award

## for Outstanding Achievement by a Partner

The Mark Winkler Award (MVA) honors the philanthropic spirit of Mr. Mark Winkler and his support of community groups that provide support to adults with developmental disabilities.

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

Every July, job coaches are asked to submit nominations to a board selection committee that selects the recipient who best meets the award criteria, of:

- Personal interest and involvement in the broader community.
- How they overcame or are working to overcome challenges.
- Commitment to their own personal development.
- Degree of difficulty in achievements.
- Contribution and benefit made to the spirit of social entrepreneurship.

This year, the board of directors invite you to congratulate, R. Winkler as the recipient of the 2020 MVA.



2019 Recipient  
L-R Chair Andrea Spencer, A. Glass  
and honoree, Mark Winkler



2020 Recipient, R. Winkler



**"I like it here, I think it's a wonderful place to be."**

- Angela, Partner at Lemon & Allspice

# A Note from John

John Visser, Retiring Board Director

I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving on the board of Common Ground Co-operative for the past six years. Sadly, this AGM marks the end of my board term – although I will continue to be a resource for the board for the next year.

Over the past six years I have been continuously impressed and inspired by the drive, determination and spirit of our partners who have a real passion for their businesses. You truly are vibrant and valued members of our community! My first exposure to many of you was during focus groups that Jenny and I conducted at each of the partnerships as part of a strategic planning process. I quickly realized I had so much to learn – but you were excellent teachers.

Thank you for your patience! Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of serving as the board representative in our monthly Joint Advisory Council (JAC) meetings, during which representatives from each partnership meet to discuss the state of each enterprise, resolve common problems, and plan for future initiatives. Your knowledge of your businesses is impressive. I know that the enterprises are in good hands.

All the best wishes for your future endeavours. I know you will all do well!

## John

PS..Many thanks for inviting me to the bowlathons and Christmas parties, which were always tremendous fun!



## Remembering Jack Quarter, Professor, OISE, University of Toronto 1941-2019

Professor Jack Quarter was a long-time member and supporter of Common Ground Co-operative and the Coffee Shed at New College in particular. Jack taught at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE), was a researcher there at its founding in 1965, became an assistant professor at OISE in 1971, and a full professor in 1988. Throughout his life, Jack was a consummate supporter of Canada's co-operative movement and the social economy overall and was the initiator for two key, research projects where CGC worked in partnership with Brock University. The author of many books, Jack was well known in the co-operative community and supported many social enterprises across Toronto. Find out more about his incredible life by visiting [jackquarter.org](http://jackquarter.org)

## 2019/2020 Board of Directors

**Andrea Spencer**  
*Chair*

**John Visser**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Omar Hanif**  
*Treasurer*

### Directors

Karen Curtis  
Heather MacLeod  
K.T. Irwin  
Sam Amin  
Joanna Drassinower

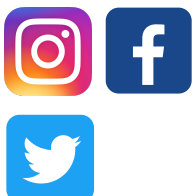
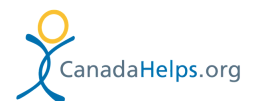
## Common Ground Team

**Jennifer Hope**  
*Executive Director*

**Nazrul Islam**  
*Financial Manager*

**Andrea Di Caro-Bent**  
*Foundations Coordinator*

**Job Coaches**, Joan Barnett, Christine Da Silva,  
Nicole Fermin  
Alejandra Gonzales, Rafael Rosales, Michele  
Steeves  
Amelia Van Alstyne (former)  
Lydia Assam (former)



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