



TORONTO CITY MISSION

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

OUTREACH



Steph Liew
Kingston-Galloway



Elaine Kwok
Flemingdon Park



Jeff Barker
Willowtree



Chara Benson
RMM (Victoria Village)



Elita Fung
St. James Town



Devorah Kim
Flemingdon Park



Eliot Kim
Willowtree



Chiara Tari-Arnold
RMM (Jane-Finch)



Carol Bain
Finance



HaEun Kim
Flemingdon Park



Felicia Fischhoff
Flemingdon Park



PJ Trinidad
St. James Town



Lawrence Kim
Kingston-Galloway



Michelle Lau
Outreach Worker

BOARD



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Melat Hallu
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Bill Feng
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Melanie Au
Member

TCM STAFF

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SERVING IN TORONTO

Through God's transformational power, we build loving relationships to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



The Economist has consistently ranked Toronto among the top ten cities of the world as great places to live. With such positive recognition it would be easy to assume that the work of Toronto City Mission, and other organizations which serve the poor and marginalized of our city, is largely done.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. For all too many people, it is actually harder today to live in the city than at any time in the past 50 years. The percentage of working poor is significantly higher in Toronto than any other Canadian city. Fewer than half of Torontonians who are unemployed qualify for Employment Insurance. The percentage of people classified as poor is increasing as is the number accessing food banks.

We all can imagine what poverty looks like: having to use payday loans companies; walking to save a token; choosing the cheapest and least nutritious foods; leaving children alone while the single mother is out; wishing for the end of summer so children can get supervision and perhaps a meal at school. More than anything, poverty means constant stress and anxiety. It can feel hopeless.

Toronto City Mission helps to stand in the gap. Our mission is to bring help and hope to our neighbours who are marginalized by poverty. Help by making life a little easier and hope by talking about Christ's unbounded love for each of them and living as Christian witnesses. We desperately need more workers so that we can increase those we interact with and light our beacon of hope ever brighter.

How can you help? Very simply, we need your prayers for the mission and for the individual outreach workers. We need more volunteers to tutor and to work with youth. We need greater support from individuals, from churches and businesses. Will you consider increasing your giving and inviting others to help?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Hodgson".

Neil Hodgson
Chair of the Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been another incredible year for Toronto City Mission.

Our community programs continue to thrive as we work with children and families in communities impacted by poverty. Our youth programs have been evolving beyond tutoring and discipleship to mentorship as young people face challenges in this increasingly complex world. We delight in watching how God is transforming lives!

Sonshine summer camp is a vital part of our ministry. TCM runs 7 weeks of camp in 4 locations across Toronto and is offered for free to 125 children from families impacted by poverty. We employ 16 interns to come alongside our Outreach Workers and this year, we were thrilled to hire Chantal, our first intern to have grown up in our afterschool programs.

We faced a particular challenge this year when our Christian values were put to the test. We stepped out in faith as we refused funding from the government that would have required us to align with their liberal set of values. As a result, we saw God's Church at work. God proved his faithfulness, abundance, and sovereignty as individuals, foundations, and churches gave above and beyond their usual giving to fill the entire \$100,000 gap!

We have hearts of extreme gratitude for every Spark who partners with us throughout the year by praying, volunteering, and giving financially.

In the year ahead, we look forward to deepening our relationships with community members and partners—as well as connecting with new partners. Please join us in prayer as we embark on strategic planning to help us build a sustainable mission for many years to come!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Addison".

Dave Addison
Executive Director

Spark | Purposeful Giving

Spark is a community of supporters who engage with Toronto City Mission on a regular basis. Through praying, volunteering, and giving financially, we can build a sustainable foundation to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.

Find out more at www.torontocitymission.com/spark

Be a Spark - Pray, Volunteer, Give.

PRAY



Praying is foundational to a believer's life; it sustains, protects, encourages, and leads us. It is relational rather than telling God what, when and how we want something. Prayer is becoming more intimate with God in order to understand His desires and passions for us and those we pray for.

*"Now devote your heart and souls to seeking the Lord your God."
1 Chronicles 22:19*

VOLUNTEER



Volunteering is the action to our faith; we serve God through serving others. God has given us gifts and has called us to use these gifts to be active witnesses for His glory in service to others. Regular volunteering builds relationships that last.

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"
1 Peter 4:10*

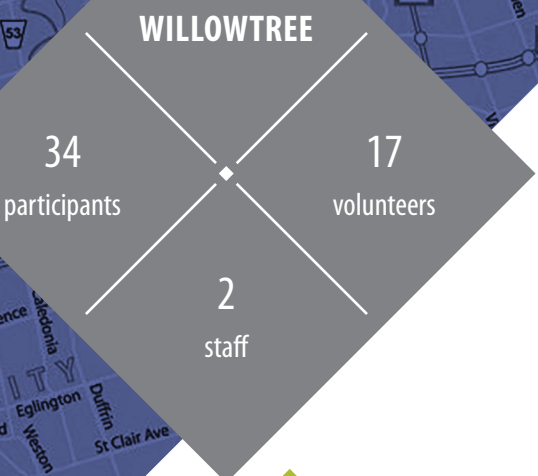
GIVE



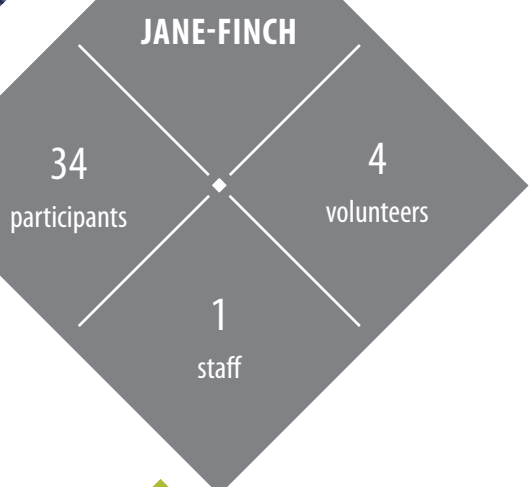
Giving is an act of obedience to God. God expects us to give, and give cheerfully to the Church so that the Church can be generous with giving to others who need it. In return, God is faithful and we receive His blessings in abundance.

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."
1 Corinthians 3:6*

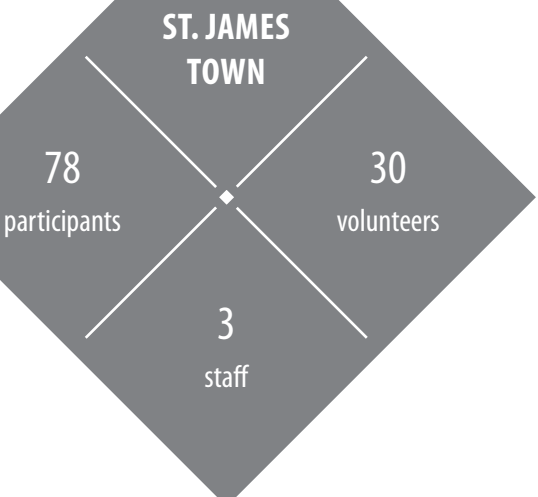
COMMUNITIES



Willowtree is a Toronto Community Housing community that borders one of the most affluent neighbourhoods in Toronto. The Willowtree community has a population of almost 600 people with 58% being children and youth (Toronto average at 29%). Willowtree has a very high population of adult females (3 times higher than the population of adult males), as most of the households are headed by single moms.



The Jane-Finch community is a living, breathing example of a community functioning with the characteristics noted in the Poverty by Postal Code report. This community is the most diverse in the city, being comprised of 120 different nationalities and over 100 different languages. It boasts the largest populations of youth, sole-support families, low-income earners, and public housing tenants of all other communities in the city of Toronto. The 2001 census report indicated that 30% of families were headed by single parents, significantly higher than the city average. The disproportionately high incidence of single-parent families and youth populations appear to have a compounding effect, where lone parents, the majority of which are single mothers, are struggling to support their children due to the time limitations caused by working multiple jobs, or the financial limitations caused by under-employment.



St. James Town represents the area with the highest density of residents in all of Canada (64,636 ppl/km² compared to 886 ppl/km² for Toronto). Over 40% of the families in St. James Town live below the poverty line, with the majority of residents being new immigrants to Canada. After the English language, Tagalog (Filipino) is the most common language spoken at home, followed closely by Tamil.

WE SERVE

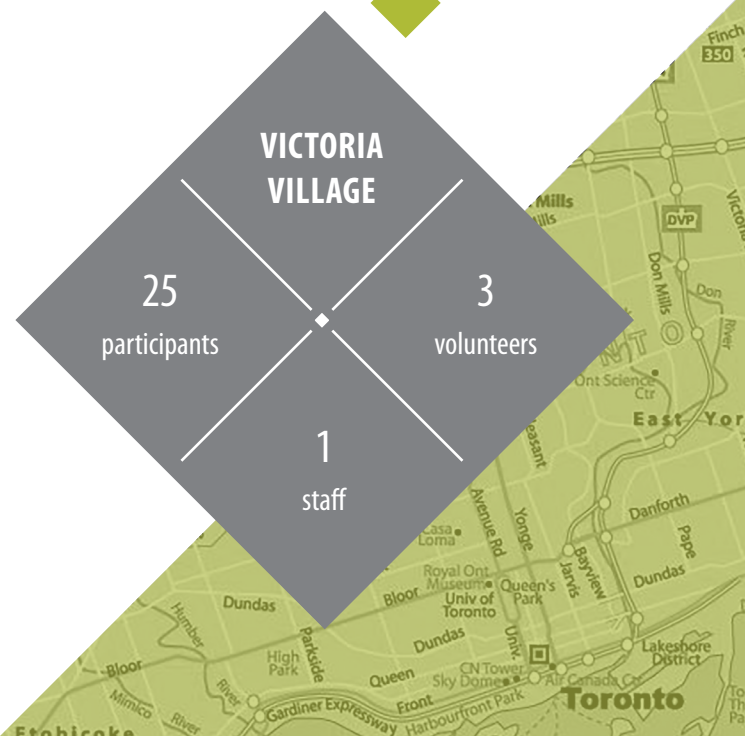
Flemingdon Park is a diverse community that has been a landing pad for recent immigrants as Toronto Community Housing provides many new Canadians with affordable housing. Over 30% of the population at Flemingdon Park is considered to be living below the poverty line (compared to the Toronto average of 19%). A high number of single parent families living here also live in poverty with the unemployment rate reaching 15% (Toronto average is 9%).



Kingston-Galloway is a diverse neighbourhood in Scarborough Village with a population of 23,427 people. The community has a high percentage of low income families at 33% (compared to the Toronto average of 19%). 32.5% of families with children are single-parent families. Kingston-Galloway has the highest density of Toronto Community Housing units in Toronto.



Victoria Village is a multicultural community with a high prevalence of unemployment and single parent families living in poverty. This community includes about 18% who are recent immigrants, with a high percentage coming from South Asia (India, Pakistan, etc). The unemployment rate in 2006 was 10.8% which is much higher than the city of Toronto's average of 7.6%.



PROGRAM REVIEW

TCM's Role Model Moms program is not only limited to the classroom, but it also strives to support our students' struggles at home and in the community. Our community lunches, childcare-staff interactions, and promotions of post-secondary opportunities have been great ways to discover exactly how our program is impacting the students and how we can better reach everyone's needs.

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Every Wednesday, our teaching assistant toils away in the kitchen to provide a delicious community meal. **These lunches open up a safe environment where moms can discuss their struggles, make friends, and seek support.** Experienced mothers always offer wisdom and suggestions to the newer moms, and it is wonderful to watch them build each other up. Many of them are starting over in a new country with a new language. The most common issues they face are finding affordable housing and solidifying their immigration statuses. Although we network with every program and resource we possibly can, sometimes the greatest encouragement is found watching the students support each other and find answers through sharing what helped them most.

CHILDCARE

Our childcare staff have also been making sure our students have all the resources available to help them navigate their way through difficult socio-economic issues. After discussing their children's development in the childcare, our staff have learned about the struggles some mothers have at home as parents. Our staff have helped them identify any behavioural

ROLE MODEL MOMS

or developmental concerns. Many of the moms have accessed speech therapy, Ontario Early Years programs, counselling services and developmental assessment services through the suggestions of our staff. **It has been a blessing to see how these services help the children grow and build self-confidence.**

POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Our program coordinators—Chiara and Chara, seek to motivate our students to think past graduation, set goals for post-secondary education, and re-enter the workforce. Many of our students are re-entering school for the first time and they doubt their capability of continuing school.



Our moms attended a seminar held by Ryerson and University of Toronto which discussed topics relevant to helping mothers tackle the barriers to post-secondary education. These topics included: navigating OSAP, programs tailored to parents' schedules, one-on-one career counselling services, and helping children apply for college/university. **Our moms shared that all these resources gave them hope that their pursuit of education didn't have to end with Role Model Moms - it was only the beginning.**

SONSHINE DAY CAMP



This is my second year serving as a summer intern at Sunshine Day Camp. I am so thankful that God brought me back to St. James Town to continue building relationships within this community and to gain more experience with urban ministry. The highlight of my summer was simply being back in the SJT community with the children, teens, and families. I loved how there was a deeper sense of trust that was developed and how I was able to have meaningful conversations with kids as they opened up to me about their families and tough situations they are facing.

God has definitely taught me a lot through this experience. Most of all, he taught me to rely on His providence rather than my own abilities. With new responsibilities as a returning intern and with many new kids at our camp, I thought I would be overwhelmed. I struggled at times when I doubted my own abilities and wished I had certain qualities that would make me “a better person and leader”. However, I saw how God gave me this peace that only comes from Him. He gave me wisdom while dealing with behavioural incidents and creative ideas to minister to the kids. It was such a good reminder how God uses broken, far from perfect people like myself (not only superstars that stand out) to ultimately bring Him all the glory. Working at TCM has allowed me to see first-hand how meaningful it is to build relationships with each individual kid and how God is able to use us in ways we can’t even imagine to bring Him glory.

By Priscilla Ip, Summer Intern at St. James Town



PROGRAM REVIEW

YOUTH XTREME & JUNIOR XTREME



The Junior Xtreme program at Kingston-Galloway has been particularly encouraging as we witness teens who are wanting to know more about God. A couple of the teens have shared how they read the Bible daily, and others have shared that they want to read and understand it more. For the girls' group, they suggested that instead of going through a devotion book, they will read their own Bibles during the week and then come back to share something that they've read. The girls are starting to take leadership in planning the activities and even how devotion time is structured. I see that the leadership qualities, actions, and the desire to know more about God is spreading from one youth to another.

By Esther, Outreach Worker, Kingston-Galloway



KIC & EPIC

This year, I have been looking for more ways to incorporate the gospel into our tutoring programs and help the tutors intentionally share their faith more with the kids. I stumbled upon an answer when I remembered that I had some Bible word searches available for the tutors to use with their kids, and one tutor told me that it had started a great conversation about God. I decided to print more Bible word searches. The next week, I was tutoring an older boy and when he was done his homework, we worked on a word search. He started asking me very deep questions like: “How do we know there is a God?” and “Where did Jesus go for the three days when he died?” It shocked me that he had these questions on his mind, as I sometimes underestimate the depth to which kids can think and understand. We ended up having a great conversation about these questions, and I encouraged him to ask more of them in the future as well. He seemed to appreciate the chance to ask such questions, and also seemed to understand the answers that I was sharing with him. It was a great answer to prayer, and I’m hoping that there will be many future opportunities for the tutors to share with the kids about Jesus!

By Rebecca, Outreach Worker, St. James Town



PROGRAM REVIEW

MENTORING & TLC

It seems that over the last couple of years, things have started to trend positively for youth from Willowtree who are looking for employment. It is still a major prayer request and need, but I have definitely noticed a positive change in the number of the youth from Willowtree who have been able to secure jobs for the summer or over the course of the entire year. Youth Employment has been a focus for part of our youth programs, whether helping with resumes or practicing interviews.

Last summer, some University of Toronto students put together an employment manual for us that included really helpful information on how to find a job, how to write a resume, and interview skills. Overall, it has been really refreshing to see how a number of youth have been able to get jobs. Youth employment can be a major driver of positive change. Thank God for this ongoing development!

By Jeff, Outreach Worker



BASKETBALL FOR DADS

The men's basketball program has been going on for over 10 years now! Even though the program is primarily about basketball, it is much more than that. It's actually a time where dads can have fun, release some stress, and form close friendships with one another.

After our last basketball session this May, we hung out with a few of the men. We reminisced about the early days of Basketball For Dads when we started with only 2 dads on the very first day. The dads remembered this day clearly as the program has blossomed and grown ten times in number. Many of them shared how thankful they were for the community of friends they were able to create through this ministry. It all starts with small talks, which sometimes lead to deeper conversations and sharing some of the struggles and burdens they go through.

It has been encouraging to see the same men attend the program consistently. The more we develop a relationship with the dads, the more we can see God working in their lives. We are thankful to see how some of the planted seeds have grown.

By PJ and Eliot, Outreach Workers





With many friends of TCM in attendance, IGNITE 2018 was an evening of celebrating the lives transformed and the relationships that continue to be built within our six communities. It was a time filled with fellowship, worship, inspiring testimonies from TCM community members, staff, and Sparks.

END OF YEAR BBQs



Thank you to Chinese Gospel Church (Scarborough), Elevation Church and the many individuals who helped us host BBQs for the communities to end off our school year programs.

The day was filled with good food, games, and activities enjoyed by all!



18 TEAMS

\$24,040 raised

sending 240 kids to Sunshine Day Camp for one week!!

On February 23rd, 151 players attended TCM's annual SpikeBack Against Poverty indoor beach volleyball fundraiser. Through generous donations from supporters, we were able to raise \$24,040 for TCM's Sunshine Day Camp - helping 240 children spend a week playing games, singing songs, going on field trips, and experiencing the love of Christ through staff and volunteers. This was an especially important fundraising event as we did not receive our usual Canadian Summer Jobs grant due to our unwillingness to agree to the attestation.



Team Harbord Alumnis



Team Attack the Block



Team Christian Mingle

The Gift of Christmas

It was my first time participating in the Flemington Park community Christmas dinner, so I did not know quite what to expect. During the planning, it was quite easy to get caught up in all the details, but as things fell into place and the evening arrived, He reminded me to be present in the night ahead. Reflecting on the evening, the Christmas dinner seemed to contain glimpses of God's beautiful design for His people. The night was a special picture of people with vast backgrounds and experiences coming together. As we sang songs, it reminded me of His purpose for His people to worship. As church volunteers brought gifts, served food and conversed with strangers, it reminded me of His call to nurture and care for one another. Finally, as we listened to the preaching of His word, it reminded me of His call for evangelism and reaching those who don't know Him yet. Overall, it was so special to witness the church's presence in the Flemington Park community that evening.

By Elaine, Outreach Worker





POVERTY & JUSTICE IN TORONTO

On a global scale, Toronto is known to be one of the best cities to live in. We're diverse and we have great healthcare and education, which can't be taken for granted. But we're not a perfect city. It is heartbreaking to say that Toronto is the child poverty capital of Canada. In 1990, all parties in the House of Commons pledged to end child poverty in Canada by 2000. Yet, in 2017, the Children's Aid Society of Toronto found that one in four children (18 years and under) live in relative poverty, as opposed to absolute poverty.

Challenges in Low Income Communities

Families living in poverty face various challenges on a daily basis. Parents who are working multiple jobs may not have time to prepare meals for their children or help them with their homework. A big disadvantage for children in low income families is that they do not have the same opportunities for education. Many early education, after-school or tutoring programs cost money. Extra-curricular

activities outside of school, such as sports and arts programs, cost money. University and college cost money.

For new immigrants, they struggle with language and cultural barriers, along with finding affordable housing and proving their immigration status. It is also difficult for them to find jobs when they do not have any social connections.

Biblical Perspective on Poverty

In the Bible, poverty is not simply about having insufficient resources. Poverty also refers to those who don't have a voice, power, status, or health. Time and time again, the Bible reiterates a social responsibility to care for and protect the poor (Lev. 23:22, Isa. 1:17, Jas. 1:27).

It also describes God as being in solidarity with the poor. This is shown in the person of Christ, who humbled himself and became one of the poor. He had "no place to lay his head" (Luk. 9:58) and he spent the first few years of his life on Earth as a refugee, fleeing persecution from

Herod (Matt. 2:16-23). At Regis College, University of Toronto, there is a sculptural installation by Timothy Schmalz that depicts Jesus as a homeless person. Jesus is seen sleeping on a park bench. His face is hidden under a blanket, but the crucifixion wounds on his feet give away his identity.

A Voice for the Voiceless

During Jesus' ministry, he was very counter-cultural in everything he said and did. He invited everyone to come to him, both rich and poor. He empowered women, whose voices were suppressed and had boundaries placed on them by a patriarchal power structure. For instance, Jesus stood for the woman who was caught in adultery, while the man was not publicly shamed (Jn. 8:1-11).

Above all, Jesus is concerned with our spiritual poverty. Amos 5:19-15 describes this as separation from God. His mission was to restore the broken relationship between God and man.

By Jeff, Outreach Worker

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current

Cash	48,919	282,106
Marketable securities	1,258,764	1,201,358
Accounts receivable	28,877	36,749
Prepaid expenses	14,699	15,248

Restricted cash	25,000	25,000
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Capital assets	—	—
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TOTAL ASSETS	1,376,259	1,560,461
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LIABILITIES

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,293	12,627
Deferred revenue	28,892	132,060

NET ASSETS

General fund	1,310,074	1,390,774
Endowment fund	25,000	25,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,376,259	1,560,461
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REVENUE AND EXPENSES

REVENUE

Individuals	336,932	275,552
Churches and ministries	136,555	169,277
Foundations and associations	188,407	168,750
Government grants	156,041	141,562
Bequests	10,120	54,406
Gifts in kind	11,776	52,384
Special events	65,172	33,979
Corporations	24,507	30,534
Cost recoveries	7,687	8,460
Gain on sale of capital assets	—	—
Camp fees	1,600	6,500

TOTAL REVENUE	938,797	941,404
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EXPENSES

Community programs	789,700	812,862
Resource development	168,854	144,634
Operations and administration	100,697	104,175

TOTAL EXPENSES	1,059,251	1,061,671
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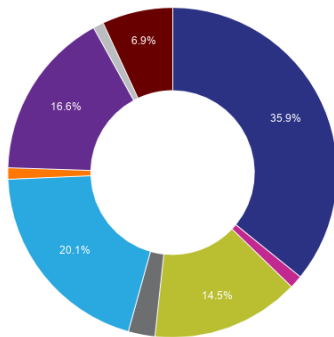
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

BEFORE THE FOLLOWING:	(120,452)	(120,267)
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Investment income (loss)	39,752	130,456
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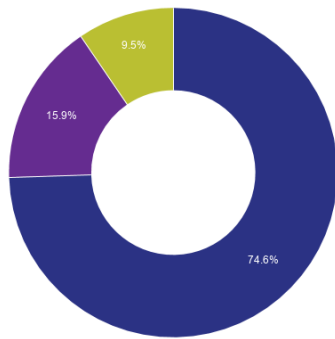
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	80,700	10,189
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REVENUE BREAKDOWN



- Individuals
- Churches and Ministries
- Foundations and Associations
- Government Grants
- Bequests
- Gifts in Kind
- Special Events
- Corporations
- Other

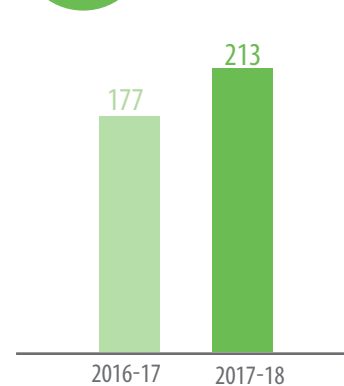
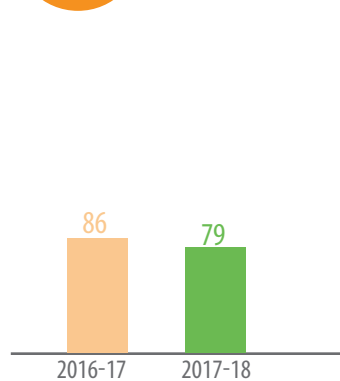
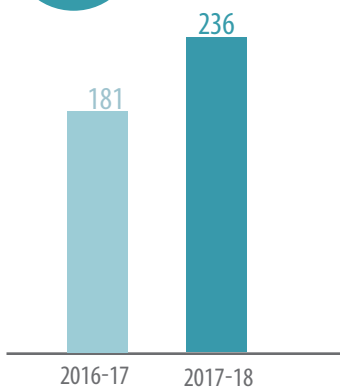
EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



- Community Programs
- Resource Development
- Operations and Administration

SPARK | PURPOSEFUL GIVING IMPACT

Sparks that give on a regular basis provide consistent and predictable support that we can rely on so that we can focus on the mission of our organization. **Our Spark community is growing. Thank you!**





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