



applegrove  
community at its core

# 2023 Annual Report







## ABOUT APPLGROVE

Applegrove Community Complex was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the Ontario Corporations Act in 1979, is registered as a charitable organization with Revenue Canada, and has operated as a City of Toronto funded community centre since 1983. The agency is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors as well as a Board of Management appointed by City Council, and serves a catchment area that spans from Jones Avenue to Woodbine Avenue and from Lake Ontario to the railway tracks north of Gerrard Street. Applegrove's main location is inside the Duke of Connaught School, with a satellite location at The East End Food Hub. Programming is also provided at other community locations.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Applegrove’s 45th anniversary approaches in June 2024, it’s an interesting time to reflect on where Applegrove has been and where it is headed. Here’s a quick snapshot that provides some perspective on Applegrove over the past 45 years:

	2003	2013	2023
# people employed	17	28	56
\$ total revenue	\$534,063	\$859,106	\$1,639,956
Most participant visits	Parent Child Drop-In	Parent Child Drop-In	Afterschool Program
Afterschool program	18 children	36 children	80 children
<i>\$ City administrative + program funds</i>			

Over time Applegrove has grown and evolved in response to community needs. A strong focus on serving children, families and seniors is a constant. In recent years we expanded our scope to include a focus on food and food security at the East End Food Hub, a collaboration with the Leslieville Farmers’ Market and Nourish East End/East End United Regional Ministry.

In the coming years Applegrove’s development will be guided by a new organizational vision, mission statement and values. These resulted from our 2023 strategic planning process, which engaged more than 200 people representing Applegrove’s board, staff, participants, partners and the community at large – the highest engagement level for any organization ever seen by the consultant we worked with! That level of engagement speaks volumes about Applegrove’s extensive and incredible community and we thank everyone who participated.

It also gives us confidence that the plan reflects community priorities and will help to strengthen Applegrove as a pillar of the east end for the next 45 years. The strategic plan emphasizes making sure that our programs and services are accessible to those who need them most. This aligns with our ongoing journey to become an organization that is as diverse, equitable, and inclusive as possible so that everyone connected to Applegrove feels that they belong here.

We encourage you to read the plan on page 8 of this report and look forward to our continued collaboration as we move forward on Applegrove’s amazing journey.

**Susanne Burkhardt**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Jim Valentine**  
BOARD CHAIR



# YEAR IN REVIEW



**26,843**  
**PROGRAM**  
**VISITS**

↑31%



**27**

**EVENTS**

↑59%



**96**  
**UNIQUE**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

↑1%



**2546**

**UNIQUE**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

↑46%



\*Increases are relative to 2022

“We’ve been Applegrove supporters, members and proponents since 2010. Love the Applegrove organization and community involvement. There are so many people that Applegrove has helped, supported and/or educated on some level to contribute to the broader community. Applegrove is a community pillar, leader and enabler of feeling of belonging”



# FUNDERS & DONORS

## Government

- City of Toronto – AOCC Funding, Social Development, Finance and Administration; Children’s Services; Toronto Public Health
- Government of Canada - Canada Healthy Communities Initiatives; Employment and Social Development Canada; Public Health Agency of Canada; Community Volunteer Income Tax Program,
- Province of Ontario – Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture; Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility; Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

## Organizations & Foundations

- CP 24-CHUM
- Metcalf Foundation
- Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
- RBC
- Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
- Youth Employment Services

## Notable In-Kind Contributors

- Club Sandwich
- Wok & Roast Chinese BBQ
- Spin Master

*Thank You!*

# PARTNERS

## Program Partners

- 519 Glitterbug
- Club Sandwich
- Context Development Inc.
- Duke of Connaught Public School
- East End Community Health Centre
- East End United Regional Ministry
- Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre
- George Brown College – Social Service Worker Program
- Kids Up Front!
- Leslieville Farmers’ Market
- Neighbourhood Food Project
- Ralph Thornton Community Centre
- S.H. Armstrong Recreation Centre
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- St. Stephens Employment & Training Centre – TNG Community Services
- The Children’s Book Bank of Canada
- The Neighbourhood Group
- The Neighbourhood Organization
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Toronto District School Board – Focus on Youth
- Toronto Metropolitan University - Early Childhood Studies
- Toronto Metropolitan University - Nursing Program
- Toronto Metropolitan University - Social Work Program
- Toronto Public Library – Gerrard/Ashdale Branch

## Facility/Site Partners

- Duke of Connaught Public School
- East End United Regional Ministry
- Leslieville Farmers’ Market
- Neighbourhood Food Project
- Nourish East End
- Pegasus Toronto
- S.H. Armstrong Recreation Centre
- Toronto Formosan Presbyterian Church
- WoodGreen Woodfield Daycare



# MEET OUR TEAM

## The Board (2023-2024)

- Ann McKechnie
- Brian Buchan
- Camille Bettonville
- Jim Valentine (Chair)
- Moneca Yardley (Treasurer)
- Paula Fletcher (City Council representative)
- Sara Ehrhardt (TDSB representative)
- Sarah Lasch
- Shirin Karim
- Susan Munn (Secretary)
- Tammy Rogers

## Staff Team (2023)

- Jennifer Arima
- Natnael Asmerom
- Jaydon Atell
- Aida Badillo Avila
- Raylene Bailey-White
- Spencer Beckwith
- Maryam Bhayat
- Zubeda Bhayat
- Nanor Boghossian
- Jakub Bros
- Susanne Burkhardt
- Cindy Campbell
- Karen Chan
- Persephone Clark
- Maya Cooperstock
- Alicia Crilly
- Gabriella Cunha
- Olivia Dawson
- Lucas de Almeida Nogueira
- John Dongor
- Amy Erving
- Benjamin Ferguson
- Jared Calder Floirendo
- Josh Grainger
- Madeleine Holden
- Laurie Hutchison
- Ayaa Ibrahim
- Hafsa Ibrahim
- Callum Jackson
- Andrew Kershaw
- Emma Labreche
- Scarlett Laporte
- Tammy LeBlond
- Esther Lee
- Brooklyn Lucas
- Rachel Malcolmson
- Shelley Manousos
- Uline Mathurin
- Michi Mattos Parodi
- Louise Maynard
- Shernel Monlouis
- Kala Neupane
- Patricia Petruga
- Jahnaya Reid
- Stacey Rupert
- Liliana Sanchez-Valdez
- Leaticia Sanga
- May Seto
- Isaac Shore McNab
- Nina Small
- Kiyanna Smith
- Olivia Uslenghi
- Monica Vela
- Sophie Wagner
- Judy Quen Wong









# STRATEGIC PLAN

Our 2023 strategic planning process involved a review of our activities, structure, data, funding and finances, demographics and local issues in consultation with participants, volunteers, partners, staff, board and others - followed by much discussion and deliberation!

We are excited about having a new vision (where we are going), mission (how we get there) and values (core principles) to guide us. Our strategic priorities speak to the importance of equity and inclusion by making sure that we focus on meeting community needs, and connecting with and serving those in greatest need. They will also guide us in building up and strengthening Applegrove so that it has the resources, tools and people needed to keep meeting those needs well into the future.

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

## WE ENVISION

Connected communities where everyone can grow and find a sense of purpose and belonging.

## OUR MISSION

Applegrove is a vibrant and welcoming place that delivers programming to foster joy, promote wellbeing, enrich lives and build community.

## OUR VALUES

### INCLUSION

We welcome everyone and respect diversity. We are committed to understanding different perspectives, broadening our attitudes and we work to address social inequities.

### COLLABORATION

We value time spent with people. We work together with our community and partners to achieve our shared goals and we support our team to do and be their best.

### INTEGRITY

We keep our promises. We earn trust by holding ourselves accountable for following through on our commitments.

### QUALITY

We strive for excellence. We seek out opportunities to have fun, be curious and creative, and to grow and learn, so that we can make the greatest difference for our community.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### A RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

- a. Enhance our delivery of high-quality programs and services that respond to and address changing community needs
- b. Improve outreach to and engagement with communities that experience barriers to programs and services
- c. Increase community engagement in programming, volunteering, and organizational decision making

### SERVICE EXCELLENCE

- a. Strengthen our organizational infrastructure and capacity
- b. Strengthen skills and competencies across the organization

### A CENTRE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- a. Increase and diversify revenues
- b. Implement strategies that will help to address facility challenges

### ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

- a. Attain our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) goals
- b. Improve staff satisfaction, engagement, inclusion and sense of belonging



# FINANCIALS

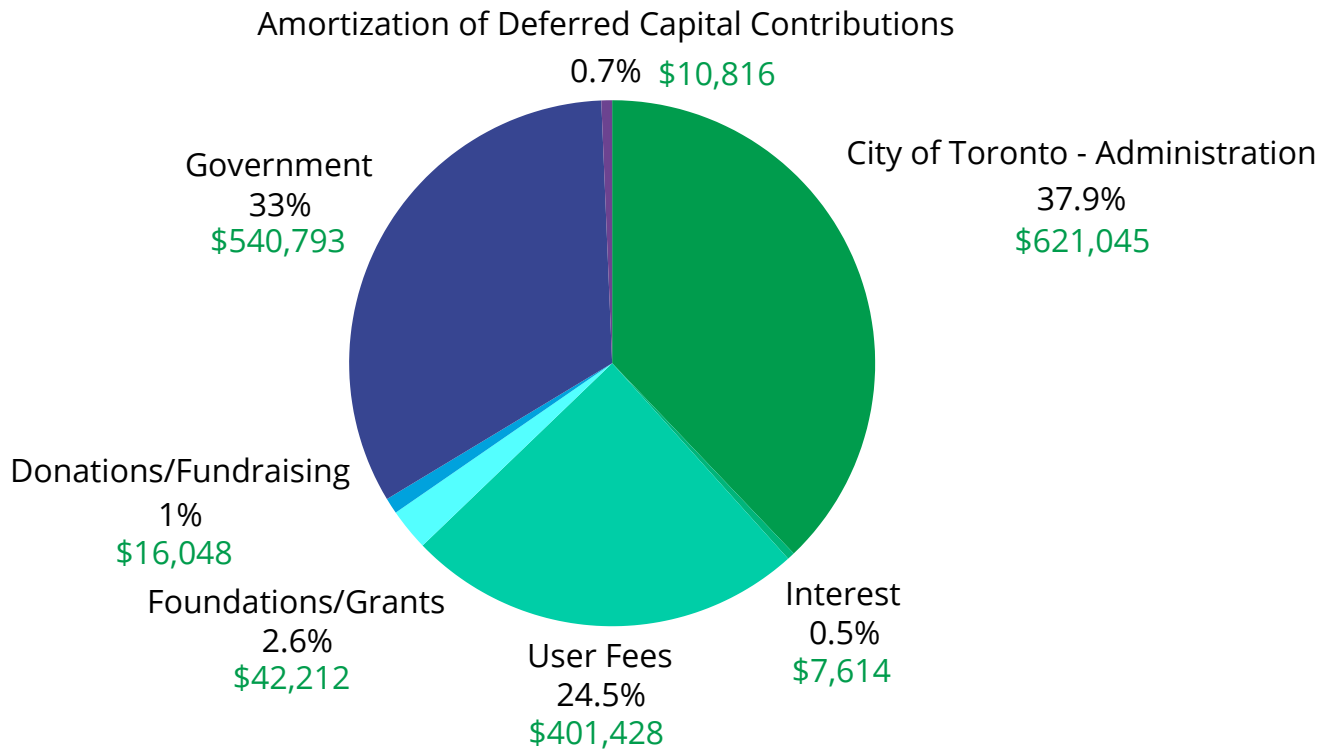
## 2023 Financial Overview

	Administrative	Program	Combined Total
Revenue	629,243	1,010,713	1,639,956
Expenditures	629,243	989,473	1,618,716
Surplus/Deficit	0	21,240	21,240

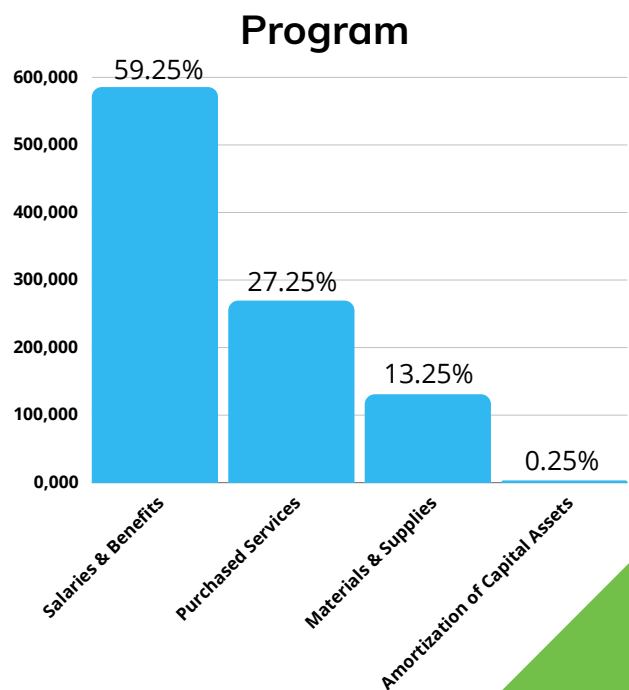
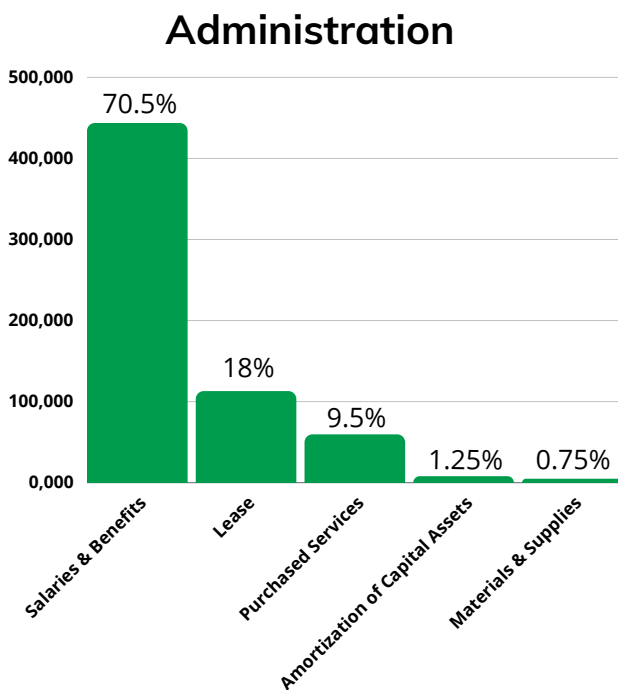
## 2023 Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2023	2022
Current Assets	623,975	679,867
Tangible Capital Assets	29,843	34,340
Long Term Receivable - City of Toronto	186,704	197,359
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>840,522</b>	<b>911,566</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	270,081	342,996
Post-Employment Benefits Payable	186,704	197,359
Deferred Capital Contributions	23,110	208,229
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>479,895</b>	<b>572,179</b>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Program Funds	218,894	191,872
Invested in Capital Assets	6,733	2,516
Internally Restricted - Reserves	135,000	145,000
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>360,627</b>	<b>339,387</b>

## 2023 Total Revenues by Source



## 2023 Expenditures by Type



Purchased services include:  
 IT, auditor, insurance, internet/phone, TDSB permit fees, contracted services





“My introduction to Applegrove was through a friend who invited me on a trip. Ever since I've been participating and formed new friendships. I have invited other friends who are inviting other friends because we are so welcomed and accepted here.”

“The programs are easy to participate in and are a good way to meet new people and learn new things. Applegrove has helped save my sanity after COVID!”

“These programs are a goldmine of support; providing age appropriate activities and safe spaces for children to play , explore and develop and for parents and caregivers to connect and receive inspiration. So grateful.”

“I've been going to the drop-in for over eight years. The space and the staff have supported me through the most difficult moments of pregnancy and child rearing. It has been a space where my children are allowed to exist freely and I am able to relax knowing they're safe and engaged. It has been the place I've met my best friends and my only friends with kids. I love the drop in and am so happy it exists.”



“The Early-ON was my safe haven throughout the pandemic and beyond. Without it, I would not have survived my parental leave. It is a place to be yourself, where you are welcomed as you are, in whatever mood you or your children are in, and it is just OK to be you. Further it is a fun, and exciting place for children to play and learn, and for parents to meet other local parents. It has a wealth of resources for adults, access to different books that I might not have found on my own, and full of exciting activities for my children that I couldn't manage on my own.”



“We give our children the option of selecting the camps they would like to attend each summer and Applegrove is consistently top choice. Great programming at a great cost. Applegrove is a crucial community hub and provider. We are supporters in many ways and feel really confident with our kids being in the summer camp programs.”

# FAMILIES & EARLY YEARS

## Prenatal

Feedback from people who attended this program in 2023 told us that the program provided essential information, support and encouragement to a diverse group of women and their families as they navigated pregnancy, childbirth and babies.

Along with making and learning from new friends, participants were able to dive into topics like labour and delivery, nutrition, sleep, safety and mental health with community professionals and one another.

As food prices soared, the food boxes and grocery gift cards provided became increasingly important in allowing many families to consistently access fresh and healthy food at a critical time of life for mothers and babies.

## EarlyONs

It was a busy year at the Parent Child Drop-in and Applegrove Connection. One longtime program staff (Louise) was on leave and another (Stacey) left to pursue a new opportunity. We wished both well and went on to experience the same challenges in recruiting staff faced by many other early childhood programs. Our remaining staff did an amazing job running both programs and eventually we were able to welcome Laurie and Amy to the team.

As the community became more aware of the Applegrove Connection's relocation to the East End Food Hub it became more popular and the relatively small space we have there is seeing a lot of action! The Parent-Child team continued to provide a great variety of activities at that location, while also engaging participants through their popular online content.

**30 FAMILIES (90 PEOPLE)**

**783 PEOPLE VISITED**





# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Afterschool

Unfortunately, we had to close our Satellite Afterschool program that served the Bowmore Public School in June 2023 due to low enrollment. The demand at the Duke of Connaught program was high, however, and we were able to expand the program at that location. The program included cooking once a week and many other great activities and events that provided the children a fun, positive and enriching outlet after a long school day.

## Summer Camp

Our popular Summer Adventure Day Camp was at full capacity in 2023. We offered an exciting line-up of trips and activities and had several guest facilitators come and offer new exciting activities for the children. We again partnered with Ralph Thornton and Eastview Community Centres for a Leader-In-Training program. On top of that, we saw an increase in volunteerism from youth in our camp.

**96 CHILDREN**

**196 CAMPERS**

**11,574 PROGRAM VISITS**

**14 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**





## Youth Leadership

In partnership with Ralph Thornton and Eastview Community Centres, we continued to offer our Youth Leadership Program this school year. We saw our enrollment triple from the previous year. Focused on developing leadership and life skills, youth got involved in the community through events and projects and attended workshops about famous leaders, food insecurity, and career/post-secondary preparation. They also enjoyed some social outings.

## Summer Leadership Camp

Our Summer Leadership Camp also reached full capacity in 2023 and we tested a three-week session. The youth planned a successful community event, helped with our programs and Food Hub partner initiatives like Club Sandwich, and ran a Flea Market event for our summer camp. They also got an inside look at a few interesting organizations through tours at Spin Master Toys and Ted Rogers School of Management, alongside fun trips like going to a Blue Jays game.

**33 YOUTH**

**8 TRIPS**

**228 PROGRAM HOURS**

**4 EVENTS**



# ADULTS & SENIORS

## Cooking, Dancing, Trips & More

Our monthly seniors calendar included many types of activities that evolved based on participant feedback and our research into community needs. At the end of 2022 seniors told us that they wanted more food programming and trips. So in 2023 we introduced new cooking and learning workshops based on different cuisines and took food-focused trips, such as the Niagara Peach Festival. At the same time, our longstanding games, yoga and Spanish lesson programs remained popular. Not to mention line dancing led by our enthusiastic and committed volunteer instructor Yvonne!

## Food Champions

This unique program blended programming with volunteerism. It brought together a committed group of seniors to cook and eat together, and to help our community partner Club Sandwich prepare some of the 34,730 (!) sandwiches/meals that were distributed to east end providers and programs that support people experiencing food insecurity.

It's a beautiful example of Food Hub partnerships weaving a web of mutual support within our community.

262 SENIORS

14 TRIPS

30 VOLUNTEERS





## Seniors Active Living Fair

This event is an annual highlight for our seniors' program, which aims to create social connections, keep people active and promote lifelong learning.

The 2023 event was supported by a cross-section of our staff who all enjoyed spending time with seniors at the event. The audience was enthusiastic and enjoyed singing along and dancing to the musical performance, as did many of the exhibitors who were there to share information, resources, services and products geared to supporting seniors.

**111 ATTENDEES**

## Income Tax Clinic

It was a banner year for this program! We had a strong volunteer team that worked both in person and online to assist low-income adults, seniors and families in submitting their income tax returns. In 2023 we served almost twice as many people as in 2022. Here are some highlights of the financial impact of this program on our clients:

- Refund total – \$147,469
- Ontario Trillium Benefit Total – \$422,793
- GST Benefit Total - \$123,407
- Canada Carbon Tax Benefit Total - \$64,006
- Child Tax Benefit Total - \$273,198
- Ontario Seniors Property Tax Grant Total - \$4,321

**209 RETURNS FILED**



# EVENTS & PROJECTS

## Events

Every year we host and/or provide support to others who are hosting community events. While we have not yet gone back to our tradition of hosting one large community event (traditionally this was our Pastafest event), we offered and were part of numerous different types of events.

These included:

- Hosting two Community Movie Nights at the East End Food Hub, one led by the Summer Youth Leadership Camp participants
- Supporting two tenant-led social events for the Don Summerville community
- Providing food, volunteers and activities for one of Nourish East End's monthly community dinners
- Bringing our staff and board together for two (fun) socials
- Holding dozens of in-program events, parties and fundraisers

**27 EVENTS**

**621 ATTENDEES**



## Holiday Toy Drive

In partnership with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), Spin Master Canada and Honest Impact Initiative, we held our very first Holiday Toy Drive in 2023.

A huge donation from Spin Master caused much excitement when it arrived, with kids peering in the windows at the pile of toys in our office! Our community was also very generous and we ended up distributing toys to families at three different locations. We are excited to continue working with our partners to make this an annual tradition.

**150+ TOYS  
DISTRIBUTED**

## Don Summerville Revitalization Project

Applegrove continues to work with Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) and Context Development Inc. to engage and support tenants during the revitalization of the TCHC Don Summerville site. Activities included helping to coordinate the Don Summerville Scholarship Program. The Applegrove board was represented on the evaluation panel which selected four very deserving scholarship recipients in 2023.

One of the goals of the revitalization process is to connect tenants with revitalization and other employment opportunities. As in previous years, Applegrove hosted a Don Summerville youth employment summer placement position, supported the promotion of employment opportunities to tenants and, as a community partner, attended and provided support to the Tenant Advisory group.

## East End Food Hub

In 2023 the Neighbourhood Food Hub evolved to become the East End Food Hub. Grounded in a partnership between Applegrove, the Leslieville Farmers' Market and East End United/Nourish East End, our shared vision is of a vibrant and caring community, supported by an innovative local food hub whose programs foster equitable access to nutritious food, cultivate local leadership, and encourage ongoing community dialogue and collaboration to advance just and sustainable food systems.

Collectively we offer an exciting mix of markets, community programs, food supports and volunteer opportunities to meet a range of food and related community needs.

Learn more by reading the 2023 East End Food Hub Annual Report on our website.









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community at its core

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