



2024 Annual Report



applegrove
community at its core

 **TORONTO**
An Agency of the City of Toronto



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About Applegrove

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 City Agency and not-for-profit corporation function together as one organization governed by a volunteer Board of Management appointed by City Council and Board of Directors for corporation. Applegrove serves a catchment area spans from Jones Avenue to Woodbine Avenue and from Lake Ontario to the railway tracks north of Gerrard Street. Our 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.

"Volunteering with Applegrove for the past 9 years has been a blast. I've had the opportunity to work with incredible staff and volunteers, and to organize amazing events like the East End Music Fest — truly one of the most enriching experiences ever! It's been a privilege helping Applegrove grow and become a key resource for the community and I look forward to many more years! "

"I am not naive to think that power-differentials can be easily wiped away, but I do think that Applegrove has clearly made it a priority to approach their work in a community informed, client centred, humble, compassionate way ... I feel so lucky to have the Applegrove organization in the neighbourhood where my family lives."

*"We love Applegrove, whatever they do, it is always with the youth and children in their mind, and they love them, taking care of them very well.
THANK YOU ALL FOR THAT!!!"*



Message from Board Chair & Executive Director

Applegrove's core values of inclusion, collaboration, integrity and quality are at the heart of all that we do. They inform our decisions and guide our activities, daily and over the long term. Here are highlights of what that looked like in 2024:

Inclusion – Our Staff-Board Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee created its first annual report. It describes the co-creation of a mural with Indigenous Artist Mo Thunder, DEIB in management performance plans, new development opportunities for staff, how we made Applegrove spaces more reflective of our staff and community, cultural activities led by staff and more. We remain very committed to the journey of building equitable systems and a culture of inclusion and belonging for all.

Collaboration – Working with others is how we like to do things. In 2024 our first East End Music Fest featured local musicians and artists while raising funds for Applegrove programs. Partnership is at the core of the East End Food Hub, where we work closely with the Leslieville Farmers' Market, East End United Regional Ministry and its Nourish East End food bank to meet local food needs and created a new Seniors Café as a cornerstone activity at the Food Hub.

Integrity – Applegrove treasures the trust of its participants, employees, partners, funders and community and prioritizes being open, transparent, reliable and accountable. In 2024 this included expanding our annual reporting to include a DEIB Annual Report and Food Hub Annual Report, and heavily investing in protecting our IT and data systems from cybersecurity threats.

Quality – Applegrove is known for high quality programs. Our amazing staff love to look for new ways to improve programming. 2024 highlights include introducing baby/toddler yoga and outdoor park programming at our EarlyON drop-ins, adding a Sports Specialist position to Summer Camp and finding great day trip destinations for seniors.

We look forward to continuing to put these values into practice to support a strong and positive organizational culture and community.



SUSAN MUNN
BOARD CHAIR



SUSANNE BURKHARDT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Year in Review

2,626 people
making 24,965 program visits

24 events



"This is my happy place! The staff are welcoming, friendly, and so knowledgeable, I have learned so much from them and other parents I've met here about who I want to be as a parent and an individual."

89 volunteers
contributing 4,205 hours

4,736 program service hours

"We have been a family of Applegrove 10 plus years and both my kids have benefited from this amazing organization. From the after school program, summer camp and leadership camp. I am thrilled to live in a community with such an amazing organization."

"Applegrove programmes get seniors out to meet and socialize with other people, giving a sense of belonging somewhere. Their programmes are very interesting and varied. I would recommend going to Applegrove to make new friends, learn something new about cooking, exercising, etc."

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
- Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
- RBC
- The Neighbourhood Group
- Toronto Neighbourhood Centres
- Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
- Youth Employment Services

Other Contributors

- Casa Di Giorgio
- Cineplex Cinemas Beaches
- Club Sandwich
- Honest Impact Initiative
- Leslieville Kitchens
- Spin Master
- Wok & Roast Chinese BBQ

Partners

Thank You!

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
- Kids Up Front!
- Leslieville Farmers' Market
- Neighbourhood Food Project
- Ralph Thornton Community Centre
- S.H. Armstrong Recreation Centre
- South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- The Children's Book Bank of Canada
- The Neighbourhood Group
- The Neighbourhood Organization
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Toronto District School Board –Focus on Youth
- George Brown College – Social Service & Child and Youth Care Programs
- Toronto Metropolitan University – Social Work Program
- Toronto Metropolitan University – Early Childhood Studies
- Toronto Metropolitan University – Nursing Program
- Toronto Public Library –Gerrard/Ashdale Branch
- YMCA of Greater Toronto

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



Meet Our Team

Staff 2024

- Aida Badillo Avila
- Aleen Abdoon
- Amy Erving
- Ayaa Ibrahim
- Brooklyn Lucas
- Callum Jackson
- Cathrina Michiele
- Emma Labreche
- Enedina Small
- Esther Lee
- Jakub Bros
- Jared Calder Floirendo
- Jaydon Bailey-White
- Jennifer Arima
- Josh Grainger
- Judy Wong
- Kala Neupane
- Karen Chan
- Kiyanna Smith
- Laeticia Sanga
- Laurie Hutchison
- Liliana Sanchez-Valdez
- Louise Maynard
- Lucas Nogueira
- Maeve Faragher
- Maryam Bhayat

Board Members 2024-2025

- Brian Buchan (Treasurer)
 - Brian Wood
 - Camille Bettonville (Vice Chair)
 - Jean Lim O'Brien
 - Kirstin Vanderpark
 - Pat Jordan
 - Paula Fletcher (City Council representative)
 - Sara Ehrhardt (TDSB representative)
 - Sarah Lasch
 - Susan Munn (Chair)
 - Tammy Rogers (Secretary)
-
- May Seto
 - Maya Cooperstock
 - Michi Mattos Parodi
 - Monica Vela
 - Nanor Boghossian
 - Natnael Teguenet
 - Nawang Chouni
 - Noah Hiscock
 - Olivia Uslenghi
 - Patricia Petruga
 - Percy Clark
 - Rachel Malcolmson
 - Susanne Burkhardt



Staff

Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan (2024–2028) focuses on meeting community needs, reaching out to those in greatest need and strengthening Applegrove so that it has the right resources, tools and people for the future. Guided by our new vision (where we are going), mission (how we get there) and set of organizational values (core principles), we've made good progress on the plan's strategic priorities:

1 To respond to the needs of our changing communities by evolving our organization to be more accessible, equitable and inclusive we:

- increased subsidies in our Afterschool and Camp programs by 20%
- built stronger relationships with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) staff for more effective program outreach to local TCHC communities
- worked with our Food Hub partners to launch the new Seniors Café program.

2 To deliver exceptional services to our communities by developing our staff and volunteers and enhancing our processes, systems and tools we:

- hired a part time IT Worker to build capacity for using digital tools and protecting sensitive data
- offered new development opportunities to our staff, to build knowledge and skills
- created new financial reporting abilities by investing in software upgrades.

3 To ensure that our communities have access to Applegrove for years to come by growing our revenues and addressing our infrastructure priorities we:

- created the East End Music Fest as a new annual fundraising event
- doubled our annual fundraising revenue, going from \$16,048 to \$31,813
- worked with our partners to upgrade the commercial kitchen at the Food Hub.

4 To create a supportive and collaborative culture by advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) we:

- defined what DEIB means at Applegrove
- created and actioned our first DEIB annual work plan
- held a community mural co-creation process in our lounge, facilitated by artist Mo Thunder.

Financials



2024 Audited Financial Statements are available at:

<https://applegrovecc.ca/about/governance/annual-reports-audited-financial-statements/>

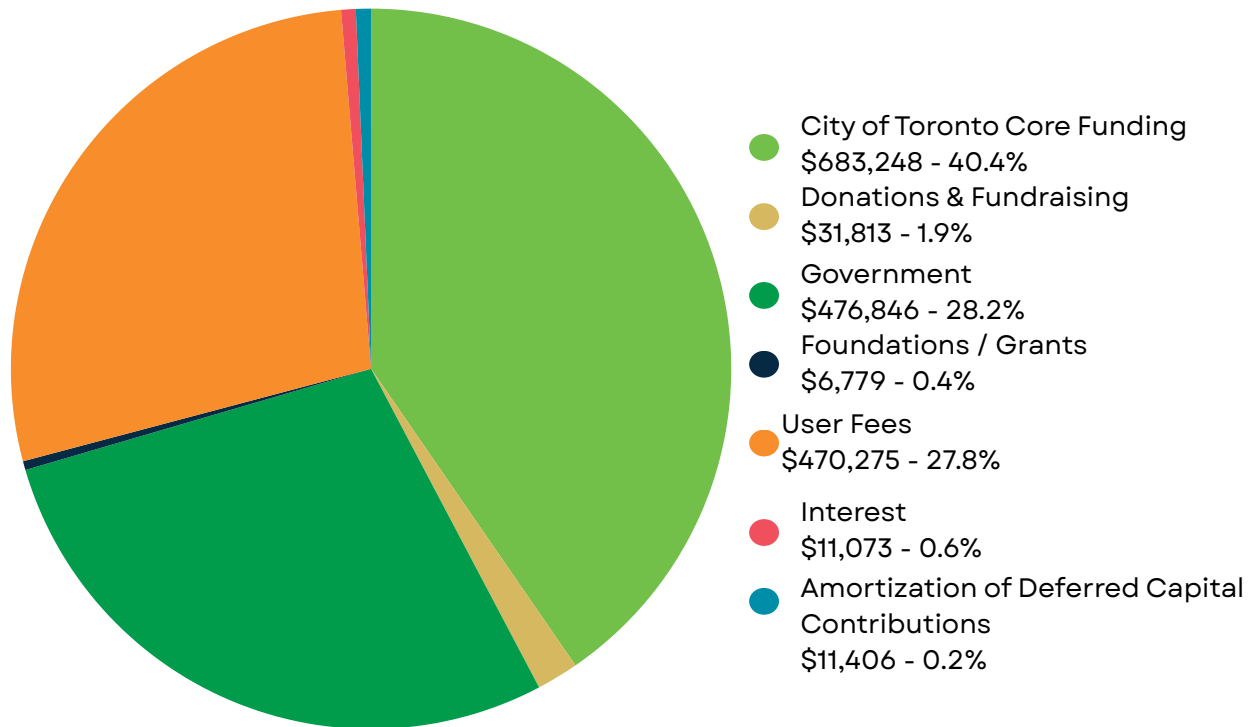
2024 Funding Overview

	Administrative	Program	Combined Total
Revenue	691,477	999,963	1,691,440
Expenses	691,477	921,507	1,612,984
Surplus/Deficit	0	78,456	78,456

Statement of Financial Position

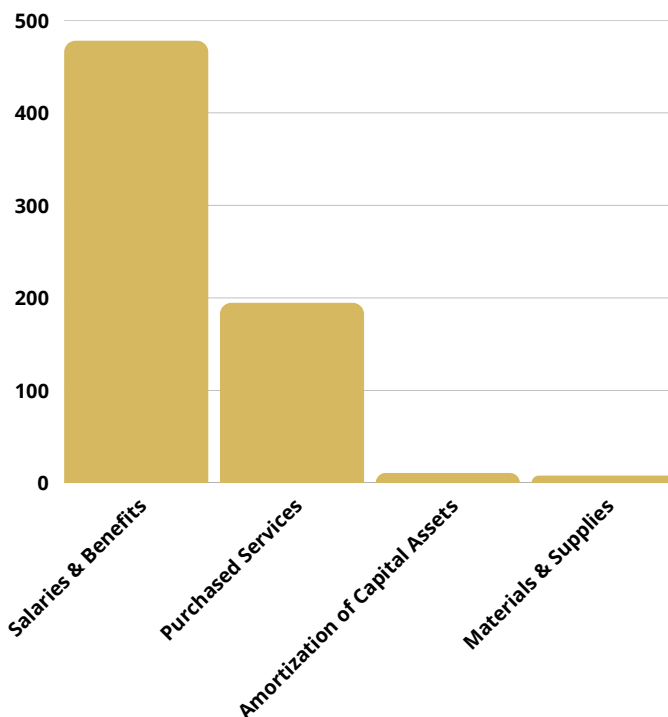
Assets	2024	2023
Current Assets	698,814	623,975
Tangible Capital Assets	20,576	29,843
Long Term Receivable - City of Toronto	175,538	186,704
Total	894,928	840,522
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	266,715	270,081
Post-Employment Benefits Payable	175,538	186,704
Deferred Capital Contributions	13,592	23,110
Total	455,845	479,895
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Program Funds	297,099	218,894
Invested in Capital Assets	6,984	6,733
Internally Restricted - Reserves	135,000	135,000
Net Assets, end of year	439,083	360,627

2024 Revenues by Source

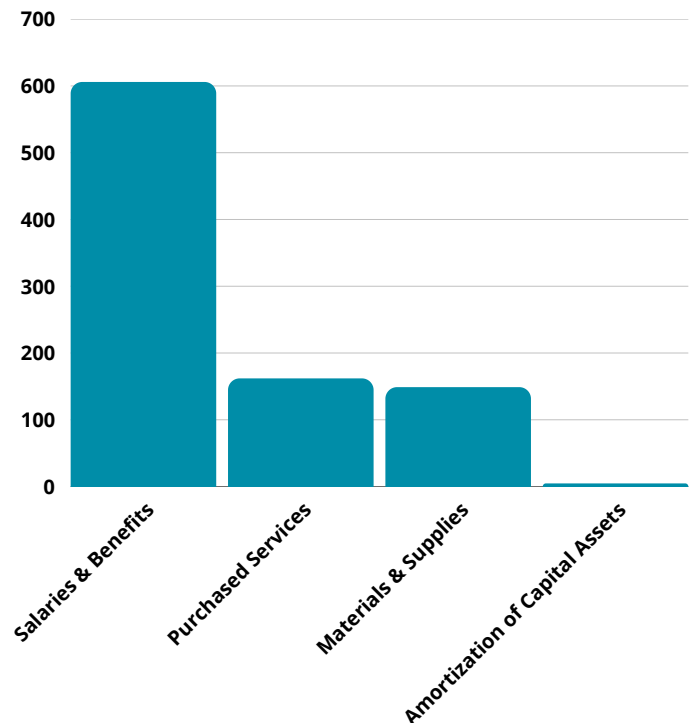


2024 Expenses by Type

Administration



Program



Families & Early Years

Prenatal Program

106 participants, making 842 program visits

Part of Health Canada's Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, this weekly program offers pregnant women and new mothers a chance to get together, share stories, connect over shared experiences and support one another. The format includes regular workshops delivered by professionals about pregnancy, delivery, infancy, nutrition, maternal mental health, parenting and more.

This program grew after going online during the pandemic and now thrives with as a hybrid program. Sessions are virtual in winter, with monthly in-person sessions added from May to October so that everyone can meet face to face, share a meal and socialize. Most new participants hear about this program through word of mouth – a sure sign that it provides valued support!



"An amazing program that provides women (especially first-time moms) with the support, resources and tools necessary to help mommy and baby thrive. This is definitely a hidden gem of a program which provides benefit for all participants one way or another."

EarlyON

869 participants, making 4402 program visits

Our Woodfield and East End Food Hub locations were both busy in 2024. In summer the Woodfield program moved to the Food Hub location due to construction at the school. It is a much smaller space so the program often spilled into the large sanctuary space, which was fun for the kids.

In 2024 we introduced a weekly outdoor summer program in Woodbine Park that drew a lot of new people. People also enjoyed events like a visit from Pawsitively Pets and a show by Jay Moonah's one-man blues band Broke Fuse. Thanks to a renewed partnership with Toronto Public Health, Public Health Nurse Debbie Ettienne now visits each month to answer health-related questions.

Children & Youth

Afterschool Program

80 kids, making 10,961 program visits

This program had great energy, creativity and meaningful moments in 2024. Student-led fundraisers like ice cream and bake sales, and a carnival organized by the kids gave kids a chance to take initiative, work as a team and give back to their community in fun and rewarding ways. We also celebrated the incredible diversity within our program through joyful and educational Holi, Eid, and Rosh Hashanah activities led by our amazing staff. These celebrations helped foster understanding, inclusion, and curiosity – values that are at the heart of everything we do.

Youth Leadership

26 youth leaders, making 210 program visits

This program brought together an incredible group of 12–15 year olds for weekly sessions focused on personal growth, skill-building, and community impact. Through interactive workshops they explored leadership and employment skills like resume writing and mock interviews. They also got hands on leadership experience by planning and running activities for the afterschool program.

We also made time for fun! From social outings to team-building games, our youth had the chance to build friendships and enjoy time together. We are proud of the confidence and skills they developed and can't wait to see where their leadership journey takes them next.

Summer Leadership

28 youth leaders, making 348 program visits

Participants had an unforgettable experience, taking part in a variety of engaging workshops led by inspiring guest speakers, covering topics like self-care, equity and inclusion, and leadership empowerment. A special highlight was our visit to Spin Master Toys for an exciting behind-the-scenes look at creativity and innovation in action.

Summer Camp

215 campers, making 2,122 program visits

Due to construction our camp had to relocate to Roden Public School. We missed our home at Duke but the new space worked well. We even added more spots so that more kids could join us for an unforgettable summer of new experiences and friendship.

This year we added a Sports Specialist position to the staff team, which let us introduce more types of sport-related activities to our curriculum. It also provided welcome support to our (very) busy counsellors. Thank you to our amazing summer staff, supportive families and Roden School for helping us provide a safe, fun, and enriching environment for campers in an unusual year!

Adults & Seniors

Seniors Program

231 participants, making 4,600 program visits

This program was on the move in 2024 with many day trips to spots like Markham Lunar Nights, St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Elora. City trips were also popular, especially the ROM and visits to the opera. Seniors consistently tell us how much our trips mean to them as many don't have the resources, confidence and/or companions for travel and exploration. By exploring new sights, sounds, flavours and experiences they stay active and feel less isolated.

We saw many new faces at our movie matinees, where people share lunch and a movie. With grant funds we upgraded our lounge with a large screen, projector and good seating, making matinees better than ever! Line Dancing, Food Champions, Yoga, Spanish, Games and Crochet/Knitting are busy as always thanks to our great team – Aida, Judy, Patricia & Yvonne!

Seniors Café at the East End Food Hub

This welcoming new drop-in is a relaxed space where people can play games, socialize or simply just be. Delivered with our Food Hub partners, it's timed so that people have the option to stay for a free meal at the Nourish community dinner. This supportive community space, is especially valuable for people who may face barriers to attending more structured programs.

Income Tax Clinic

Once again we had a strong volunteer team to assist low-income adults, seniors and families in submitting their income tax returns. Here are some highlights of the financial impact of this program on our clients.

\$529,569 in returns and credits recovered, including:

\$44,708	Refunds	\$2,705	ON Seniors Property Tax Grant
\$105,041	ON Trillium Benefit	\$253,815	Child Tax Benefit
\$59,294	GST Benefit	\$64,006	Canada Carbon Tax Benefit



Seniors Active Living Fair

In November we had a blast at our Seniors Active Living Fair, attended by more than 100 seniors. A wide variety of information, services, resources and products to support seniors were represented across the 31 exhibitors present. Workshops included a cooking demo, fitness experience, and naturopathic medicine. People particularly enjoyed the light fitness with its chair exercises, light weights, specific moves for parts of the body and some dancing!

East End Food Hub

This collaborative food-focused space is powered by a partnership between Applegrove, the Leslieville Farmers' Market, Nourish East End, and East End United Regional Ministry, with funding support provided by the City of Toronto. Together, we work to strengthen our community by providing programs and services focused on food security, entrepreneurship and community building.

In 2024 we advanced our vision of a thriving, inclusive hub rooted in food, community, and shared leadership. Along with delivering programming and community space, our focus was on strengthening joint governance, exploring social enterprise, and activating the Sanctuary as a vibrant community venue and market-hall.

- 20 community programs
- 2,641 hours food production
- 3,150 lbs CSA (community shared agriculture) produce distributed
- 43,000 meals distributed



2024 East End Food Hub
Annual Report available at:
www.eastendfoodhub.org!

Don Summerville

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, which is nearing completion! Along with helping to coordinate the Don Summerville Scholarship Program and supporting the process of offering employment opportunities for tenants, we were part of regular Tenant Advisory Group meetings and supported two tenant-led social events – an outdoor summer meet up and a winter holiday event.

Events

Toy Drive

This annual event brought holiday cheer to many, with a focus on supporting families living in Toronto Community Housing and other equity-deserving communities. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community and an incredible contribution from Spin Master Toys we made a truly meaningful impact.

We registered 140 children/youth but thanks to many donations we also gave toys to local housing communities, the New Frontiers Residence and Ojibiikaan – for a total of 350 toys! Our Toy Pick Up Event at the Food Hub was a hit, with 60 attendees. This is a team effort and we so appreciate our partners, volunteers and toy donors!



Special
Thanks to:



"Unlike other charitable events I have attended, there did not seem a stark divide between those working that day and those who came to receive. Everybody chatted, shared food, laughed and played games. It did not feel transactional but felt more like a community celebration."

East End Music Fest

A new annual event to celebrate east end artists and raise funds to support our programs.

Our inaugural East End Music Fest fundraising event was a great success. About 300 came and we raised \$15,000 from ticket sales, silent auction and donations. The night featured amazing performances from east end artists Jerry Leger & the Situation, Shakura S'Aida, The Uplifters and Christopher Hale with Ozzy Lyall, and fabulous art from Carolina Reis, Heidi Burkhardt, Kat Palmer, Lisa Herrera, Marnie Brunton, Ron Loranger, and Susan Horley.

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT!

Lead Donor

- Honest Impact Initiative

Event Sponsors

- Barnyard Roofing
- Carolina Reis
- Context Developments
- Westlake Capital

Supporting Suppliers

- Blackhare Print Studio
- House of Empanadas
- Magic Oven
- Christos Tsirbas

Donors above \$250

- Dashwood & Dashwood
- Shakura S'Aida
- anonymous donor



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