

APPLEGROVE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

ANNUAL
REPORT
2025



applegrove
community at its core

MISSION AND GOVERNANCE

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 a Board of Directors for the corporation. Applegrove serves a catchment area that 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.



MISSION

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025
HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025 we continued to strengthen Applegrove from the inside out, guided by our strategic plan and making steady progress. We are focused on making sure that Applegrove has strong operating systems, a skilled workforce, a functional facility and is supported by diversified funding so that it can deliver more to its community today and create a stable and sustainable organization for future generations. Key achievements this year included customizing our accounting software to improve financial tracking and reporting, creating a new risk management process and developing an updated volunteer program.

Our focus on strengthening Applegrove as an organization is, in part, a response to the current landscape of great political, social, and economic uncertainty. This plays out locally in many ways, including a deepening affordability crisis and growing social isolation in our community. Much of our work is about helping people to navigate these challenges. On a practical level we offer affordable and accessible programs that meet the needs of our community. We also create spaces to support community-building and social connection grounded in consistency, shared experiences and trust.

Research shows that sustained social connection creates bonds that are essential for physical, mental and emotional health. This type of deep connection takes time, cannot be forced, and is the root system from which a sense of belonging grows. After almost five decades of creating and strengthening local connections, it's also where the true magic of Applegrove lies.

Looking forward to 2026, we are excited about further exploring the concept of belonging at Applegrove and it's potential for shaping a more just, equitable and inclusive organization and community. We invite you all to be a part of this journey.

Tammy Rogers
BOARD CHAIR

Susanne Burkhardt
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3,053
people
served

136
volunteers
3,535
hours served

26,953
visits to
programs
& events

\$100,000+
value of
in-kind
contributions

75%
growth in older
adult & seniors
participation
over 10 yrs

STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VALUES



STRATEGIC PRIORITY HIGHLIGHTS

A RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

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

- ✓ Engaged 37% more people as agency advisors, leaders and volunteers
- ✓ Increased outreach to communities facing access barriers
- ✓ Began to gather more demographic and needs data through our program evaluations

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

- ✓ Secured funding for a permanent part time IT Support Worker
- ✓ Strengthened our accounting system and financial policies
- ✓ Developed a new volunteer program

A CENTRE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

- ✓ Grew donation and fundraising revenue by 12%
- ✓ Worked with the City to advance discussion on a permanent home for Applegrove

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

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

- ✓ Created a new incident reporting process to identify risks, learn and improve accountability
- ✓ Increased DEIB learning and training activities for staff and board members

FINANCIALS

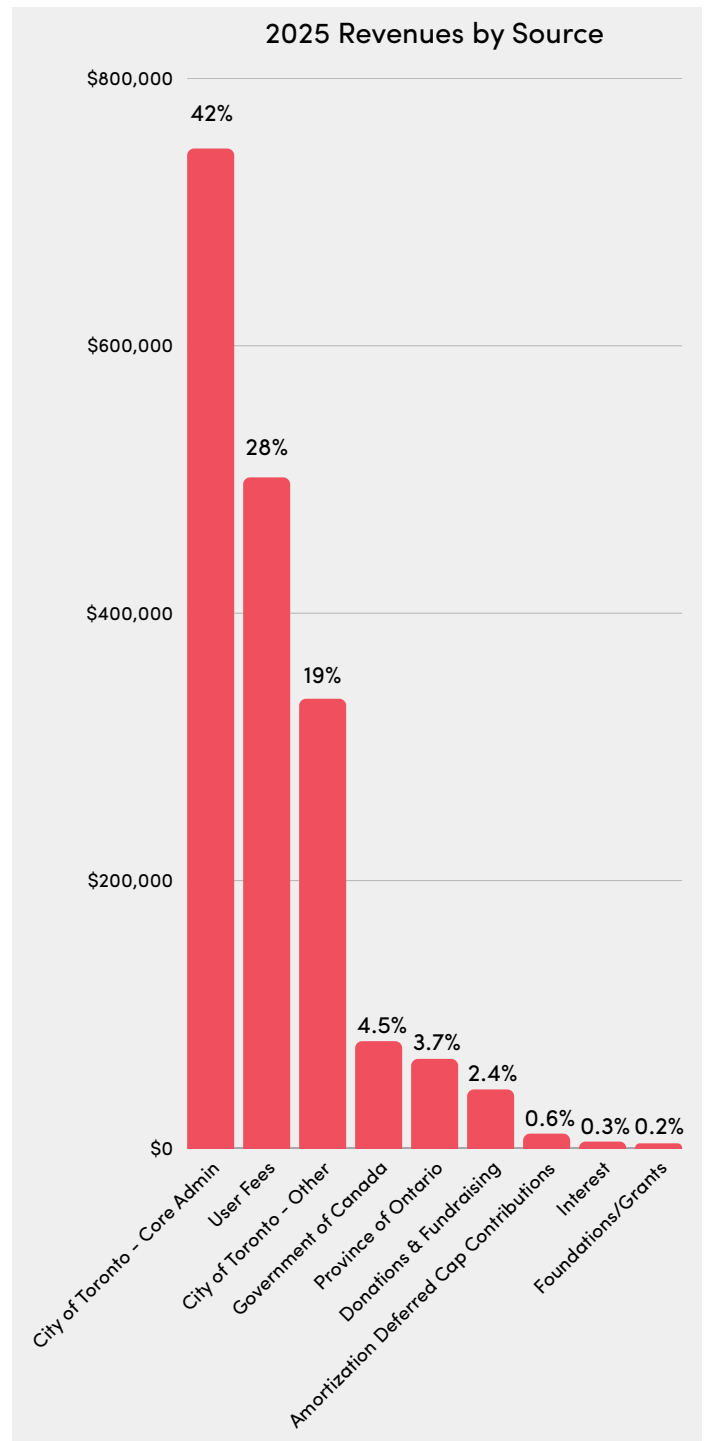
2025 Financial Overview

	Core Administrative	Program	Combined Total
Revenue	756,244	1,038,312	1,794,556
Expenses	756,244	963,641	1,719,885
Surplus / (Deficit)	0	74,671	74,671

Financial Details

Core Administrative		
	2025	2024
Revenue		
City of Toronto	747,538	683,248
Interest	706	229
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	8,000	8,000
Total Core Admin Revenue	756,244	691,477
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	516,994	477,928
Purchased Services	219,151	194,697
Materials & Supplies	12,099	10,852
Amortization of Capital Assets	8,000	8,000
Total Core Admin Expenses	756,244	691,477
Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0

Program		
	2025	2024
Revenue		
City of Toronto	336,009	323,884
Province of Ontario	66,664	74,676
Government of Canada	79,901	78,286
User Fees	501,572	470,275
Donations & Fundraising	43,810	31,813
Foundations/Grants	3,500	6,779
Interest	4,098	10,844
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	2,758	3,406
Total Program Revenue	1,038,312	999,963
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	657,067	605,951
Purchased Services	155,960	161,984
Materials & Supplies	146,026	148,881
Amortization of Capital Assets	4,588	4,691
Total Program Expenses	963,641	921,507
Surplus / (Deficit)	74,671	78,456



FAMILIES & EARLY YEARS



EarlyON

Our EarlyON drop-in programs at Woodfield/Duke of Connaught and the East End Food Hub are welcoming and supportive spaces for children age 0 – 6 and their parents/caregivers. Each month staff create a thoughtful program calendar with a range of art, cooking, singing, dance, yoga, workshops and other activities to support and learn about different aspects of child development. In 2025 park days and summer outdoor programming were popular, as were the special events like concerts and visits with Pawsitively Pets, a hands-on animal education program.

896
participants

4,485
program
visits

"Applegrove, especially Woodfield, is the most magical place, the support I receive as well as the break I feel I get (my children love it there!) is second-to-none. I truly value the knowledge of the staff and appreciate their support. Parenting is hard but Applegrove makes it easier!"

Prenatal

This weekly program offers pregnant women and new mothers a chance to get together, share stories, connect over shared experiences and support one another, through a combination of virtual and in-person sessions. Learning also happens through workshops delivered by professionals on topics like pregnancy, delivery, infancy, nutrition, maternal mental health, parenting and more.

In 2025 collaboration with our EarlyON program was expanded to strengthen pathways for ongoing family support. After a full needs assessment done with our program partners, we also successfully renewed the funding for this program through to 2030!

23
expecting
families

921
program
visits

"This program has been a lifesaver for me. As someone with limited family support, I've been able to not only lean on the women in the program but also have my husband be knowledgeable about what to expect. Before finding this program, we were paying for prenatal classes and this has been invaluable. "



CHILDREN & YOUTH

87

students

Afterschool

This is a space where kids age 6–12 can learn, create, move and be themselves in a welcoming and supportive environment. Along with activities like cooking, crafts, games and outdoor play in 2025 we introduced homework time to ease pressure on families. Our staff team are incredible at involving kids and families through special projects that build leadership skills and confidence. This year's fundraising activities raised almost \$2,000 and a staff-led Ramadan Clothing & Toy Drive was held to support families in Toronto's Muslim communities.

13,173

program
visits

"This program has helped my kid gain confidence socially and emotionally... As a family we appreciate Applegrove as a community organization broadly and particularly appreciate the work put into creating a supportive, safe and inclusive environment for our child."

Youth Leadership

This year our weekly school year program for youth age 12–15 fostered deep participant engagement and emphasized entrepreneurship. Highlights included market-based activities, business fundamentals learning sessions and a successful market fundraiser.

Leadership camp in summer was a fun-filled experience with trips, outdoor activities, interactive learning workshops and visits to the RBC Trading Floor and Spin Master Headquarters, made possible through Applegrove's strategic partnerships.

39

youth
leaders

664

program
visits

OLDER ADULTS & SENIORS



Our program roster included a mix of ongoing programs, new activities, special events and trips. Offering a range of activities lets us provide options for people with varying physical abilities, cognitive needs, and personal interests. It also creates different ways to connect with community, allowing people to sustain familiar social support networks as well as meet new people.

2025 Programming:

- Book Club
- Chair Yoga
- Cooking Workshops
- Educational Workshops
- Food Champions
- Games
- Gentle Fitness
- Knit/Crochet Social
- Line Dancing
- Movie Matinee
- Advisory Meetings
- Seasonal Celebrations
- Seniors Cafe
- Social Circle
- Spanish
- Trips

355
older adults
& seniors

4,263
program
visits

Income Tax Clinic

Our amazing volunteer team helped low-income community members to submit income tax returns with a significant financial impact for clients with \$534,039 in returns and credits recovered.

202
returns
filed



\$49,074
\$162,226
\$155,117
\$98,909
\$63,138
\$5,575

Tax Refund
Ontario Trillium Benefit
Child Tax Benefit
GST Benefit
Canada Carbon Tax Benefit
Ontario Seniors Property Tax Grant

Thriving Together Leadership Program

The Thriving Together leadership group saw 15+ people take part in planning, training and skill-building activities to gather information, build skills and support one another in designing and delivering new programs and activities based on the interests of local seniors. It was wonderful to see trips, celebrations and a new ukulele club organized by seniors for seniors!

Seniors Active Living Fair

This annual seniors' fair was a tremendous success, drawing 130 attendees and featuring 25 exhibitors. Participants connected with vital community resources, enjoyed a cooking demonstration, learned through a Cantonese language Alzheimer's presentation and were treated to a musical performance by "Ukulele Mama," fostering community engagement, well-being and fun!

EVENTS & PROJECTS



Toy Drive

This event brought holiday cheer to families living in Toronto Community Housing, New Frontiers Residence (Wigwamen) and clients of Nourish East End Food Bank. 225 children and youth from 95 families registered, with many coming to pick up gifts at our holiday event. Thanks to the generosity of our community and partner Spin Master Toys we were also able to provide toys to Ojibiikaan, a local Indigenous non-profit. This is a team event and we are grateful for every donation and volunteer hour that helps to make it happen.

61%
Increase in participation over 2024



Don Summerville

26
scholarships
awarded
since 2019

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. This includes helping to coordinate scholarship and employment programs, participating in the Tenant Advisory Group, supporting tenant-led social events and providing one on one support to tenants as needed.

\$537,192
earned by
tenants at jobs
secured via
revitalization
since 2019

In 2025 construction of the new TCHC building was completed and tenants began to move back in December after having been relocated for five years. Applegrove has developed a strong relationship with this community and will continue to play a leadership role in ensuring that tenants are engaged and supported as they return and re-integrate into our community.

EVENTS & PROJECTS

continued

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 from the City of Toronto. Together we provide a continuum of supports from emergency food provision to affordable fresh food, community programming and informal social networks.

In 2025 we advanced our vision of a thriving, inclusive hub rooted in food, community, and shared leadership. A major development was the Leslieville Farmers' Market making the Food Hub it's winter home, which improved consistent access to fresh, local food in the neighbourhood. On the community programming side, we added more cooking programs and our Food Champions group continued to bring seniors together to prepare meal kits for others. We also saw more space use and rentals by other community partners.

The removal of fixed pew seating from the Sanctuary in fall has given us a more flexible, multi-use community space that we have great plans for in 2026!

48,971

visits made to the food hub

3,500+

people accessed basic food needs support



24,532

social media hits

"The seniors cooking workshops have been a truly wonderful experience... Being able to participate as much as we chose made it easy to feel part of a community. It wasn't just about learning new recipes, it was about feeling involved and connected."

See 2025 East End Food Hub Annual Report at www.eastendfoodhub.org

East End Music Fest

Our East End Music Fest fundraising event was in its second year after debuting in 2024. The night featured amazing performances from east end artists Annika Zee, Marker Starling, and Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar, with the last-minute addition of the Blue Jays World Series game on the side! Art donated from Annika Zee, Ashley Snook, Carolina Reis, Heidi Burkhardt, Kylie Sandford, Lisa Herrera, Marnie Brunton and Susan Horley made for a great silent auction.

Over 2024 and 2025 this event has raised over \$25,000 for expanding the availability and accessibility of our programs. In 2025 it allowed us to increase afterschool and camp fee subsidies for local families, expand seniors programming, and create new food programming.

Special thanks to our event sponsors and supporters!

- Context Developments
- Curtain Call Creative Fabric Inc
- Honest Impact Initiative
- RioCan Living
- Westcourt Capital



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Staff

Sami Abdo
Aleen Abdoon
Aida Badillo Avila
Amitav Sharma
Amy Erving
Ayaa Ibrahim
Brad Ndbuga
Callum Jackson
Carlos Vasquez-Vela
Cathrina Michiele
Emma Labreche
Enedina Small
Ester Lee
Jake Chocorlan
Jakub Bros
Jay Smylie
Jennifer Arima
Jessica Labreche
Josh Grainger
Judy Quen Wong
Kala Neupane
Kiyanna Smith
Laurie Hutchison
Liliana Sanchez-Valdez

Louise Maynard
Mabel Mayhew
Maeve Faragher
Maryam Bhayat
May Seto
Monica Vela
Nanor Boghossian
Natnael Teguanets
Nawang Chouni
Noah Hiscock
Olivia Uslenghi
Patricia Petruaga
Percy Clark
Quinn Kelly
Raafah Ferhad
Shelley Manousos
Shernel Monlouis
Spencer Beckwith
Stephanie Ta
Susanne Burkhardt
Tammy-Lynn LeBlond
Ulina Mathurin
Vasilios Flegas
Zubeda Bhayat



Our Board

Tammy Rogers *Chair*
Kirstin Vanderpark *Vice-Chair*
Brian Buchan *Treasurer*
Pat Jordan *Secretary*
Brian Wood *Member*
David Hoang *Member*

Jean Lim O'Brien *Member*
Juanita Morris *Member*
Rachael Power *Member*
Paula Fletcher *Ex Officio Member*
Sara Ehrhardt *Ex Officio Member*

PARTNERS

Site Partners

- 🌀 Duke of Connaught Public School
- 🌀 East End United Regional Ministry
- 🌀 Leslieville Farmers' Market
- 🌀 S.H. Armstrong Community Rec Centre

- 🌀 Neighbourhood Food Project
- 🌀 Nourish East End
- 🌀 Pegasus Toronto

Program Partners

- 🌀 Canadian Opera Company
- 🌀 Camp Sunshine Centre Ward's Island
- 🌀 Club Sandwich
- 🌀 Context Development Inc.
- 🌀 Duke of Connaught Public School
- 🌀 East End Community Health Centre
- 🌀 East End United Regional Ministry
- 🌀 Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre
- 🌀 Foodshare Toronto
- 🌀 George Brown College
Social Service & Child & Youth Care Programs
- 🌀 Honest Impact Initiative
- 🌀 Kids Up Front!
- 🌀 Medical Assistance In Dying MAID
- 🌀 Leslieville Farmers' Market
- 🌀 Neighbourhood Food Project
- 🌀 Nourish East End
- 🌀 Queen's University – Concurrent Education
- 🌀 Ralph Thornton Community Centre
- 🌀 S.H. Armstrong Recreation Centre
- 🌀 South East Toronto Family Health Team
- 🌀 South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- 🌀 Spin Master Toys
- 🌀 The 519 Glitterbug
- 🌀 The Children's Book Bank of Canada
- 🌀 The Neighbourhood Group

- 🌀 The Neighbourhood Organization
- 🌀 Toronto Community Housing Corp.
- 🌀 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
- 🌀 Yonge & Eglinton Community
Centre - Bridging the Gap:
Pathways to Early Childhood
- 🌀 YMCA of Greater Toronto

THANK
YOU!

For 47 years, Applegrove has worked with local residents in the Queen-Greenwood area of Toronto. Services cover the age range with programs for infants, children, youth, adults and seniors.



416-461-8143



60 Woodfield Rd Toronto ON M4L 2W6



www.applegrovecc.ca



@applegrovecc

