

NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

Our work in  
2021 & beyond

THE 519



# ABOUT THE 519

The 519 has been built by Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ communities as a space where people come together to celebrate, organize, and create community. A City of Toronto agency and registered charity located in the Church and Wellesley Village, The 519 responds to the needs of local and 2SLGBTQ+ communities across Toronto and beyond.

For decades, The 519 has imagined, and reimaged, itself, always remaining focused on how we can make a real difference in the lives of our communities. From essential on-the-ground supports and programming to virtual services, what has always stayed the same is our commitment to making sure that no one is left behind.

**Learn more at [The519.org](https://The519.org)**



## Land Acknowledgment

The 519 is located on the traditional territories of many First Peoples, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat. Tkaronto is now called home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples who experience ongoing colonization and displacement.

We also acknowledge this territory as part of 'the Dish with One Spoon' wampum, a Treaty made between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas, and Haudenosaunee, where nations entered into an agreement to protect the land and responsibly care for its resources in harmony together.

As Indigenous peoples, settlers, and newcomers to this land, we have been invited into this Treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. We are also mindful of broken treaties that persist across Turtle Island today and recognize our responsibilities as Treaty people to engage in a meaningful, continuous process of truth and reconciliation with all our relations.

# NOBODY LEFT BEHIND NOBODY LEFT BEHIND NOBODY LEFT BEHIND NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

## A message from our leadership



It is difficult to work in the community sector without a sense of urgency. The needs of community members are as varied as they are pressing. Funding deadlines loom. Public health guidelines change abruptly, leaving carefully planned programs to be adjusted and tweaked yet again. Amidst it all, it can be difficult to find the time to ask the big question of **Why** when days are filled with finding answers to the questions of **How**.

Reflecting on the past year, as The 519 continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the disproportionate impact it has on 2SLGBTQ+ and other equity-deserving communities, the answer to **Why** is clear. We do this work because we believe in a world where no one is left behind.

We're a long way from that world. 2SLGBTQ+ folks are facing increasing food and economic insecurity. The dual housing and drug poisoning crises have hit tragic milestones that seemed unimaginable just a few short years ago. Barriers to accessing timely and affirming legal, settlement, health, and mental health services have not diminished. The need for creating spaces for youth and families to be celebrated in all their diversity continues. Finding free, accessible space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities to come together to learn, build, and grow with one another is as difficult as ever.

Addressing these big, structural issues means working with our communities in ways that strive to make sure no one is left behind. It means developing programs and services that meet the evolving and emerging needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities. It means understanding the impact of COVID-19 on our communities' primary and mental health and developing interventions that ensure better health outcomes. And it means building The 519's internal capacities to ensure that Indigenous reconciliation, anti-Black racism, and anti-racism underpin and inform all aspects of our work.

Investing in our internal understanding of and capacity to take up our work in ways that meaningfully advance anti-racism and decolonization, while centering 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary identities, continued to be a key priority of The 519 over the past year and is reflected in the pages that follow. We are aware that while this work is underway, it is never over. It requires a mindful dedication to our internal processes, our program development, how we partner and with whom, and our philanthropic strategy. We are grateful to the strong internal leadership of The 519's Black Collective, Trans Engagement Strategy, and Indigenous and 2 Spirit partners who are helping guide this work through their leadership.

The past years have taught us that a community centre is not found within four walls and a roof. It is found in the hard communal work of countless people who believe in the importance of showing up for, supporting, and celebrating each other. The 519 is a community because of the volunteers who generously share their strengths. We're a centre because of our Board of Management, who lend their expertise and time to building a stronger organization. We're a community centre because of the enduring support from donors and funders who believe in our work and make it possible, and the partner organizations we and our communities rely on. We are The 519 because of the dedication of staff and peer teams, who show up for each other and community every day, unwaveringly focused on working with 2 Spirit, queer, and trans people to build the equitable, just world we know is possible.

We are forever grateful for your ongoing support of the work we do and the communities we serve.

**MAURA LAWLESS**  
Executive Director

**PAM HRICK**  
Chair, Board of  
Management



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## Volunteers

418



volunteers donated their time to supporting  
The 519's programs and services

8883



hours were volunteered

## Tax Clinic

\$3.2M+

in tax returns received  
by participants

2422

tax returns filed

## Vaccine Engagement

7019



COVID-19 vaccines provided through  
DTE partnership initiatives

## Food Security



70,276

meals were served onsite

139,485

meals were distributed through our  
Second Harvest partnership

## Essential Services

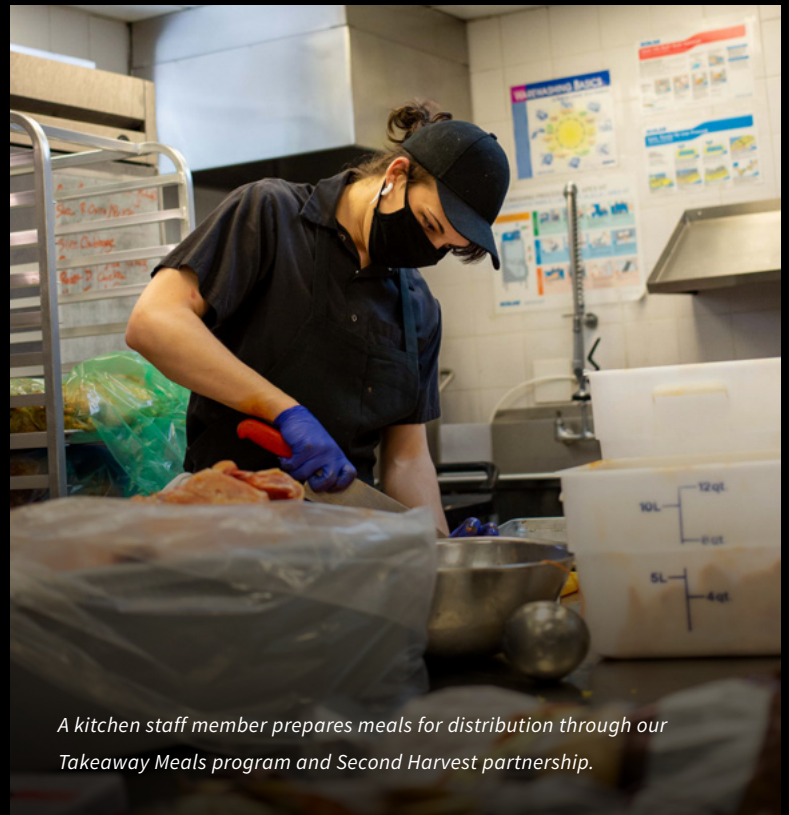


4651

harm reduction kits  
distributed

15,000+

personal care items were  
distributed in 2021



*A kitchen staff member prepares meals for distribution through our  
Takeaway Meals program and Second Harvest partnership.*

Flags on the front facade of The 519 serve as a reminder of our commitment to service, every day, every way.

## Access to Justice

772 

clients served through The 519's Legal programs

195 

people participated in our Mock Hearing Program

## Anti-Violence Initiatives



106 

people received counselling supports

230

people participated in AVI workshops

93

youth received housing support

## New to Canada

530

refugee claimants received one-on-one settlement supports

1043

people participated in our New to Canada programs





*In keeping with public health measures, our EarlyON team engaging our families in children through a variety of outdoor programming.*

## EarlyON Child & Family Centre



# 1295 ✂

craft kits distributed

# 2400

children's books and toys distributed

# 1691

on-site visits from July to December 2021

## Older Adult Programming



# 808

program visits

## Trans People of Colour Project



# 415

program visits

# 48

workshops hosted

## Education & Training

# 120



organizations trained

Visit our website to learn more about or participate in our programs.

[The519.org/programs](https://The519.org/programs)





All our work - from our clothing bank to our Tax Clinic - is dependent on the dedication of our volunteers. A staff member and volunteer working at our Back to School Bash clothing kiosk.

# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heartbeat of The 519. Their generosity, expertise, and dedication are crucial to making our work possible.

In our food programs, our volunteers are present every step of the way, from cooking and packaging to labeling and distributing meals. In our EarlyON programs, legal clinics, and New to Canada programming, our volunteers make magic happen.

Our **Virtual Tax Clinic** program brought together 20 volunteers who contributed their efforts to filing over 2400 tax returns for neighbours and families. Their work not only made life easier for community members by helping them navigate the inaccessible tax process, but also ensured that over \$3.2 million was put back in the pockets of low-income 2SLGBTQ+ community members and local residents.

“

**"By providing the guidance, space and leadership, The 519 has been successful in empowering volunteers from the community to try new ideas with the aim of improving the reach, scope and quality of services we are able to provide to the community... Since joining The 519's Tax Clinic, the one constant I've noticed is the ability for a passionate organization to help organize and facilitate passionate volunteers to help fulfill our mission."**

- Graham Mackay, Tax Clinic volunteer since 2014

**41**

**volunteers provided 3573 hours to our Food Security programs**

**20**

**volunteers provided 1596 hours to our Tax Clinic**

**16** 

**volunteers provided 3573 hours to our EarlyON programs**



# ANTI-RACISM & EQUITY

## ANTI-RACISM & EQUITY

*Our Trans Day of Remembrance ceremony recognized the pervasive impacts of colonization and significant inequities faced by 2 Spirit, Black, Indigenous, and racialized trans communities.*

In our commitment to building genuine anti-racism and equity practices within our staff, our organization, and our communities, we maintained our steadfast focus on building strong partnerships with and uplifting the leadership and strength of trans and BIPOC communities.

We were deeply moved by the tragic confirmation of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at the Kamloops Residential School. In dedication to all Indigenous children who lost their lives, and in solidarity with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, we marked National Indigenous History Month by contributing 25% of funds raised during Pride Month to Indigenous-led organizations, distributing a total of \$40,000. We grieve alongside Indigenous communities who continue to live the trauma of genocide.

Giving ourselves an opportunity to look inwards, we closed The 519 on September 30, the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, for all our staff members to pursue self-directed learning activities related to Indigenous peoples, their histories, and experiences. These opportunities to reflect and embed actions that further the [Truth and Reconciliation Report's Calls to Action](#) within our daily work are part of our steadfast and ongoing commitment to the essential work of honouring truth and reconciliation.

**The 519 Black Collective** has actively worked on a number of projects, including supporting [Black-owned 2SLGBTQ+ local businesses](#), developing a [statement](#) on health inequity for Black History month and leading a [video project](#) affirming the diverse expressions of Blackness by staff and community members. The Black Collective also provided key supports and presence within our community vaccine engagement efforts. The collective continues to develop their long-term strategy while stewarding vital discussions and projects that advance anti-racism and equity work.

The 519's **Trans Engagement Strategy (TES)** continued to expand its work, meeting throughout the year to develop internal working groups focused on how best to serve our trans communities and employees through fostering leadership, examining how The 519 communicates with and about gender-diverse communities, and undertaking research and environmental scans of leading practice across Canada and the world.





# FOOD SECURITY & ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Essential Services

Food is essential. Clothing is essential.  
Community is essential.

Our Front Desk team is the first point of contact for many at The 519. From helping community members navigate referrals and providing harm reduction and emergency supplies, to supporting the work of every staff member at The 519, the **Front Desk** team works hard to connect community with supports and each other.

At a time of increasing need and limited services, the growth in visits from new and existing clients for essential goods was enormous. Creating a simple and affirming process for people to access clothing, hygiene, harm reduction and food supplies, our Trans People of Colour Project (TPOC) peers, Breaking the Ice (BTI) peers, volunteers, and staff worked tirelessly to increase access to these necessities.

Our [emergency clothing program](#) is testimony to the strength that comes from creating opportunities for community members to access multiple supports at once. From receiving, storing, sorting, to steaming, folding, and labelling clothing donations are cared for by so many loving hands before they are offered to communities in need.

Supported by students from George Brown College, staff, volunteers, and peers, our **Friendly Check-in Program** continued to connect with community members experiencing isolation, providing wellness checks and access to supports they needed.

*Access to clothing is a basic human right. Our clothing program has been a key essential service and relied on the support of our volunteers.*



# 5478

referrals by the  
front desk

# 47%

people accessed  
the friendly  
phone program

# 12,000+

clothing items distributed  
through our clothing window





Food insecurity goes beyond our neighbourhood and our communities. We partnered with Second Harvest and cooked 139,485 meals for organizations across Toronto.

## Food Security

Food has always been at the centre of what we do.

As the pandemic continues to deepen the financial strain on our communities, we've adapted our food security programs to better meet their needs. Through our partnership with Second Harvest, we are preparing and distributing frozen meals to local community members and partner agencies throughout Toronto.

As we've increased capacity to meet ever-growing demand, we've never lost sight of the fact that food security is about so much more than food. It is about human dignity, self-determination, and building community. The **41** volunteers who have supported our food programming over the past year, donating over **3500** hours of support, are where we see these values most in action.

Every day, we heard from community members who were grateful to have been able to maintain their relationship with The 519 and our staff when other programs were on pause due to COVID-19.

Following public health guidelines, we resumed our in-person drop-in programs in August. Between our longstanding **Meal Trans** and **Sunday Drop-ins**, we broke bread and fostered community with **796** people.

**50K+**  
pounds of  
food rescued



**125K+**  
grocery/  
pantry items  
distributed

**1304**  
unique sign-ups  
for weekly meal  
pick-ups



**96** families  
and **328** family  
members signed  
up for meal  
pick-up under  
EarlyON support

“

**"A staggering 11 million tonnes of food is wasted in our country per year. We are so lucky to have wonderful Harvest Kitchens partners such as The 519, who understand this issue and work tirelessly with us to encompass our vision of No Waste, No Hunger."**

- Norberto Cáceres, Harvest Kitchen Program Manager, Second Harvest

# TRANS PROGRAMMING



*Peers for our Trans People of Colour Project (TPOC) during a media interview*

With the leadership of The 519's internal Trans Engagement Strategy (TES) committee and our broader community, our trans-specific programming evolved throughout the year.

When meeting virtually or in-person, or supporting the work of other organizations, our core commitment to celebrating, defending, and honouring the identities and experiences of 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary community members remained central to all our work.

As the cornerstone of our trans-specific programs, **Meal Trans** brought together many new and longtime participants, developing new and engaging programs while navigating ever-changing public health guidelines.

Through our **Trans Youth Mentorship Program (TYMP)**, we deepened relationships with youth and supported them on their journey of building essential life, employment, and community building skills. We used online tools to build skills in new ways of connection, like our Trans Youth and Dragons tabletop fantasy game program, and panels such as Trans Futures Now, a conversation between community and youth leaders that explored trans pride as not being about a single day, but as a daily practice.

For the 22nd annual Trans Day of Remembrance, we honoured our 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary community members who lost their lives to interpersonal and structural violence. We came together both in person and virtually to grieve, heal, and hear from 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary community leaders and artists reflecting on the theme of 'A Circle of Healing and Regenerating'.

Trans-specific funding was crucial in supporting individuals and trans programs across Ontario. The **Kyle Scanlon Memorial Fund** award of \$10,000 went towards three organizations. One organization, Sarnia Lambton Rebound used the funds to expand 2SLGBTQ+ youth programming to include hot meals, guest speakers, and gender-affirming gear for 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary youth.

Over 50 people were able to access funding through our **Pay It No Mind Fund**, an emergency funding program designed to get financial supports in the hands of racialized 2 Spirit, trans, and non-binary people as quickly as possible through a low-barrier referral process.

Our **Trans People of Colour Project (TPOC)** peers supported essential services and programs throughout the centre, all the while building-community based supports for trans people of colour through weekly discussions about the intersections of identity and sexual health promotion, community cooking, and friendly phone check-ins.



**"Coming in to a TPOC session was my first time participating in a non-White group where I could share my experiences as a newcomer to Canada and hear other people's stories."**

- Participant, Trans People of Colour Project

## 248

**visits to Meal Trans from August to December 2021**

## 40



**TPOC-specific Friendly Check-in Program calls**



# NEW TO CANADA PROGRAMS

Reflecting the ever changing, vibrant, and diverse newcomer and refugee communities we work with, we created new programs spanning supports around health and language competency, financial literacy, and fostering spaces for friendships to build and community to flourish.

We have been hosting a free monthly **Black Youth Gathering** for Black 2SLGBTQ+ youth to come together and talk candidly while building solutions to the issues that affect them. We also created new digital spaces that provide affirming and non-judgmental ways for Black community members to discuss mental health issues affecting themselves and their communities.

We built new programs to meet the language and economic literacy needs of our newcomer and refugee clients. **Emerge**, an English language discussion group, was developed to mindfully create space for LGBTQ+ folks to practice their language skills and learn about 2SLGBTQ+ communities in a safe and affirming way.

Our **Economic Resilience Project for LGBTQ+ Newcomers** included career readiness and financial literacy workshops, designed to assist newcomers in learning personal financing basics, improving resume writing and interview skills, while learning about careers in the financial sector.

Community support groups like the **Queer Arab Mixer** and **Queer Muslim Community Circle** provide spaces within which participants can grow together, find each other and community, and celebrate shared heritage and language. Our long-standing program, **FUEL**, continued to create access to sport and recreation activities and spaces that are often inaccessible to newcomers.

As we grew our programming and events, individualized supports for newcomers and refugees remained central to our work. At every step of the process, our dedicated staff worked with our newcomer and refugee community members, helping them navigate endless paperwork, hearings, and adjustment to life in Canada.

“

**“Through various forms of support including holding a mock hearing, The 519 prepared me both for my work permit and permanent residency application process. They helped me build my confidence which enables me to live out as an LGBTQ+ person. They are indeed my chosen family.”**

- Mock Hearing Program participant

32

participants in  
our Queer Muslim  
Community Circle

70 

participants in our  
Queer Arab Mixer

126

participants in  
our Black Mental  
Health webinars

75 

participants in  
our FUEL Physical  
Activity Program

# CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The hard work of our EarlyON Child and Family Centre was plain to see, as our staff navigated online, hybrid, and in-person programming for children, parents, and caregivers.

Throughout the year, we kept up our signature seasonal events for 2SLGBTQ+ families, while expanding programs through our Family Wellness series, which saw over **200** participants engage in programs developed in partnership with experts from yoga, tai chi, dance, and nutrition. Free clothing markets, field trips, and distribution of frozen meals, and arts and crafts kept our families connected and supported throughout the year.

From Scarborough to Etobicoke, and everywhere in between, we broadened

our network of EarlyON and community agency partners through our **Glitterbug** programming, providing virtual sessions and in-person visits across the city that recognize and affirm gender and sexual diversity among children and their families through play and conversation.

We were thrilled to expand and relaunch, our **Kids Action and Arts Space (KAAS)** and **Youth Action and Arts Space (YAAS)** programs in June. Our kickoff event featured renowned queen Tynomi Banks and welcomed **26** youth.

Our youth programs are enriched by collaboration, helping us launch new programs focused on the social and economic upliftment of youth, and continue long-standing partnerships, such as our work with Gallery 44 and their OUTREACH program, which works with youth artists interested in photography to develop their artistic production, printing, and exhibition skills.

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**“The indoor and outdoor programs at The 519 are very important for our child. My son started attending two years ago, and he can't wait to go back and participate in play and activities with other kids.”**

- Biniam, EarlyON parent

**630**

virtual sessions

**103**

Glitterbug sessions

**322**

special family events participants

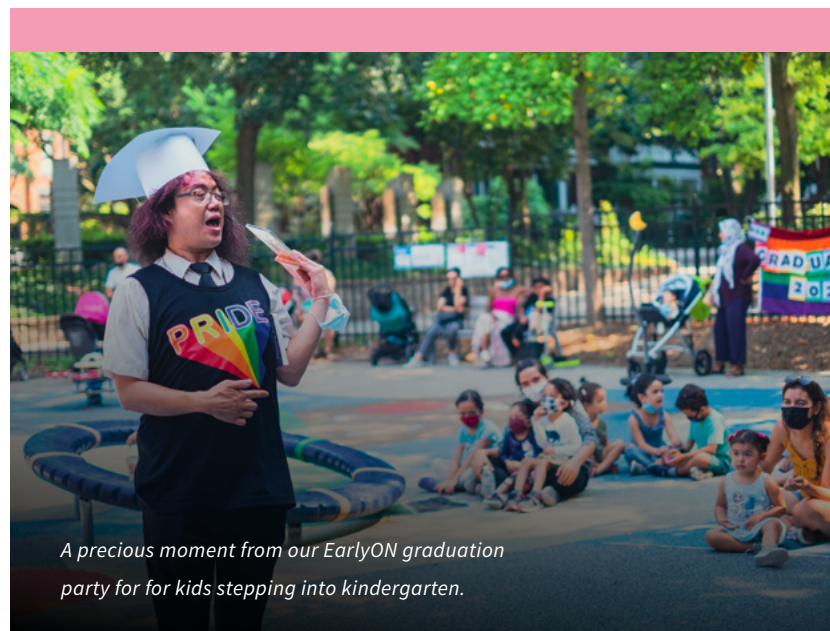


**1691**

in-person visits by families, children & caregivers

**127**

KASS and YASS participants



*A precious moment from our EarlyON graduation party for kids stepping into kindergarten.*





## Back to School Bash

Our Back to School Bash in August went down in The 519 history as the biggest one yet! Over 800 families, neighbours, and community members showed up for the fun in Barbara Hall Park. We distributed over **600** backpacks loaded with school supplies. In partnership with The Children's Book Bank, we gave away more than **400** books. From free meals to free haircuts and loads of music, activities and games, we ensured that our communities felt supported while preparing for the new school year.

*Moments from the Back to School bash. It's success would not have been possible without the efforts of our staff, volunteers, Ambassadors and youth, from Moss Park and St. Jamestown, and our donors.*

“

**“The turnout at the Back-to-School Bash speaks to the need families have been feeling for community, support and a place to come together.”**

-Kimi, Back to School Bash attendee





# OLDER ADULTS PROGRAMMING



Jan, a longtime program participant and volunteer, helps out at the Back to School Bash.

2SLGBTQ+ elders fought to get us to where we are today, and we are proud to celebrate their ongoing contributions to our communities.

Through our existing **drop-in** and new multi-generational programs like our reading series **QueeReading Together** and **Encore**, an arts program for 2SLGBTQ+ older adults, we celebrated the continued leadership of our older community members.

Programming is best when it's built by and for community. This year, we developed a Community Advisory Panel to make sure our drop-in and other older adult programming stays relevant and meets the needs of our community. These volunteers regularly evaluate, plan and refine our program activities.

# 16

in-person events

# 73

online events

# 11

hybrid events



# 490

one on one supports and referrals provided

# BACKSIDE TO THE DRAWING BOARD



We honour the leadership of our Indigenous communities and the gifts of strength, vibrancy, and healing shared by Indigenous artists.

We partnered with Iyiniwok First Nation illustrator and comic book artist **Callum (Cal) Badger** to offer [Backside to the Drawing Board](#), a series of publicly-available free drawing workshops for all regardless of age, identity, or prior experience. Cal's brilliant and inspiring art technique and storytelling was accompanied by music from the **Circle of Cedar Singers** and **Danny Beaton**, a flutist and Elder of the Mohawk Nation.



Callum (Cal) Badger (inset) sketching.

# BREAKING THE ICE BREAKING THE ICE BREAKING THE ICE

The drug poisoning crisis has torn through 2SLGBTQ+ and local communities.

The 519's catchment area has some of the highest overdose rates in the City of Toronto, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities face specific barriers in accessing appropriate health, mental health, and addictions care.

Our **Breaking the Ice (BTI)** outreach and engagement team of staff and peers support people throughout the downtown East, with a specific focus on people who use crystal methamphetamine. Through in-person outreach and harm reduction supports, programming in our drop-in programs, and creative arts-based programs for community members, approximately **150** people have received one-on-one support over the past year.

Encompassing everything from housing referrals and support with navigating legal systems, harm reduction supply distribution and overdose response, to confliction de-escalation and meaningful relationship-building, our BTI team has been meeting people where they are at, rain, shine, or snow, and working with them to get the supports they are looking for.

3💡

new resources  
developed

4🤝

drop-in Breakout  
Programs facilitated

150+

one-on-one  
supports provided



This insert is a part of the unique Crystal Self-Care Kit developed by our Breaking the Ice team and shared with community members. Click [here](#) to see other [BTI resources](#).



Access to justice is about responding to the current and emerging needs of our communities. A staff member talks about our offerings to our Back to School bash attendees.

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Receiving timely and affirming legal supports is core to our human rights, our housing rights, our workers' rights, our health, and so much more.

We know that legal expertise can be difficult to access or outright denied to members of the communities we serve. Over the past year, our Access to Justice programs continued to find new ways to put our community's legal needs at the forefront.

**Three new specialty clinics** were launched this year: Employment, Family, and Wills & Estates Law. Participation in our Legal Clinic increased by **60%** from 2020 – demonstrating the continued need for affirming legal services for and by 2SLGBTQ+ communities. We saw this growth in our community, across new clients throughout Ontario we were able to reach through virtual programming.

Our **Trans ID Clinic** continued to grow, working to remove the financial and **bureaucratic burdens and stigma** that trans and non-binary people face in making changes to their ID. The Trans ID Clinic has assisted over **70** people with name change services.

Individual legal support is vital, but so is general legal information. We launched new **Public Legal Education workshops**, including one that spoke to knowing one's rights and finding supports when personal and intimate photos have been shared non-consensually on online dating and other platforms.

“

**"It has been an incredible opportunity to serve as a Volunteer Lawyer at the The 519's Legal Clinic. This experience has enabled me to be a better advocate and support to Black 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, in particular, requiring workplace-related legal services. Black Femme Legal is deeply appreciative of the ways in which The 519 has amplified and supported our work. We are also grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate and partner with The 519 on advocacy work that is important to Black Femme Legal and to the communities that we work alongside, including sex workers."**

– Samantha Peters, Volunteer Lawyer and Founder, Black Femme Legal, community partner of The 519

44 

**volunteer lawyers served 370+ clients through our summary legal advice clinics**



# ANTI-VIOLENCE INITIATIVES

Whether it be the violence we face in the streets, in personal interactions, or the violence inherent in the housing crisis that treats the right to a home as a luxury, confronting the violence our communities face requires a multi-pronged approach.

In collaboration with folks with lived experience and professional expertise, we organized trauma-informed workshops on issues ranging from grief and loss, to self-defense and self-care that built shared understanding and healing. These workshops created important spaces for community to come together in their grief, their resilience, and their power in a collective and nurturing environment.

Alongside building community resilience, we provided individual counselling and case management support for needs ranging from obtaining Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to filing police reports and court support, working with people as they navigated some of the most difficult moments of their life.

Being equipped with skills and know-how is critical in a city where the housing market is focused on profits instead of people. With this reality in mind, we worked with our community members to learn the ins and outs of budgeting, communicating with property owners, applying for rent-geared-to-income housing, and navigating relationships with roommates.

Toronto's housing crisis leaves many queer and trans youth with few options. Housing support work for youth, assisting in the transition from homelessness to being housed, and raising housing literacy are key parts of how we are facing this crisis together.

“

**“These spaces bring therapeutic processes to communities that have a difficult time accessing conventional talk therapy. The group format is key: a significant driver of self-compassion is learning that you are not the only one struggling.”**

– Ronnie Ali, Trauma-Informed Workshop Facilitator

**41** 

**hours of court support provided**

**93**

**youth received housing support**

**32**

**AVI workshops**

**85**

**people attended Self-Defense workshops**

**33** 

**youth secured housing**

*(35.48% of applicants were placed into shelter, transition, supporting, RGI, permanent, and market rent housing)*



Some of our Anti-Violence Community Facilitators

# COMMUNITY VACCINE ENGAGEMENT



*We've worked closely with community partners to provide vaccinations in safe and affirming spaces.*

Our communities know what it means to come together in the face of a health crisis. We are honoured to have worked with outstanding health and social service leaders across Toronto's Downtown East and to act as the lead agency for the City of Toronto's Vaccine Engagement team in the area. We celebrate our partners for demonstrating an unwavering drive to meet the challenges of vaccination and broader health access in our communities.

Through community town halls, mobile vaccinations, family programming, and pop-up clinics, we worked with our partners and team of vaccine ambassadors to build vaccine confidence as well as deliver low-barrier access to vaccines to newcomers, those experiencing precarious housing or homelessness, isolated community members, BIPOC communities, and 2SLGBTQ+ community members.

Some of our collaborative efforts include the Regent Park and Moss Park Sprint Strategy, a three-day pop-up clinic hosted at the Regent Park Community Centre in May. Building on this momentum, we partnered with Sherbourne Health, Regent Park Community Health Centre and many other stellar community agencies to celebrate the collective roots of Pride through our Pride Pop Up Clinic. The space came alive with food, music, and of course, vaccines.



“

**"Working as a vaccine ambassador with The 519 team has been a wonderful experience. Being part of a disadvantaged and vulnerable group myself, I can understand the struggles that marginalized groups may experience when accessing information about vaccines and health services. Having the opportunity to support these populations while helping increase vaccination rates has had a very positive impact on my life and hopefully, on vulnerable communities."**

-Anne, The 519 Vaccine Ambassador

*DJ Blackcatt performing at our Pride pop-up clinic.*

# EDUCATION & TRAINING EDUCATION & TRAINING EDUCATION & TRAINING

# 262

workshops  
delivered by



E&T to **120**  
organizations

Our Education and Training team provided workshops, consultations, and policy review to organizations ranging from small non-profits to global corporations.

We worked with thousands of leaders, employees, and members of the public across Ontario, equipping participants with the tools they need to make their workplaces, organizations, and communities affirming spaces where 2SLGBTQ+ people feel safer being their authentic selves.

# 593



hours of facilitation  
delivered by E&T  
Facilitation Team

*The pandemic inspired our education and training specialists to find innovative ways to expand and continue affecting change through diversity, equity, and inclusion training through virtual courses, speaker series, and more.*





**Paid sick days directly impact the communities we serve.**

**We need safer workplaces, and a safer Ontario.**

ARMY OF LOVERS



# ADVOCACY

We know the change we work so hard to create in the lives of individuals must be supported by big, bold structural change that moves 2SLGBTQ+ rights towards the future we all deserve.

Over the past year, we've supported over a dozen advocacy campaigns, calls to action, and coalitions on diverse issues ranging from defending housing as a human right to demanding police accountability and standing firm in solidarity with Indigenous communities.

We joined efforts to put pressure on the provincial government against granting accreditation to Canada Christian College. This was a [successful fight](#) that protects our people from the homophobia, transphobia, and Islamophobia of bigoted public figures and institutions.

We mobilized our forces with urgency to provide supports to the residents of encampments facing eviction and arrest at Trinity Bellwoods, Alexandra Park, and Lamport Stadium Park throughout 2021.

With the tragedies that unfolded over the past number of years regarding the disappearance and death of members of our own communities, we welcomed the Independent Civilian Review led by retired judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario Gloria J. Epstein, and serve on the ongoing Missing and Missed Implementation Team. We joined together to mourn and grieve our losses while continuing our calls for accountability in how investigations of missing persons from marginalized communities are conducted.

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**“Indigenous communities across Canada continue to live the traumatic intergenerational impacts of residential school systems, and genocide. No formal apology, investigation, reform, or recommendation will return these lives to their families and communities.”**

- Excerpt from the 519's statement in solidarity with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation

“

**“At the hands of Charles McVety, [Premier Ford's] friend and a vocal bigot, this Government is inviting homophobia, transphobia, and Islamophobia into our province.”**

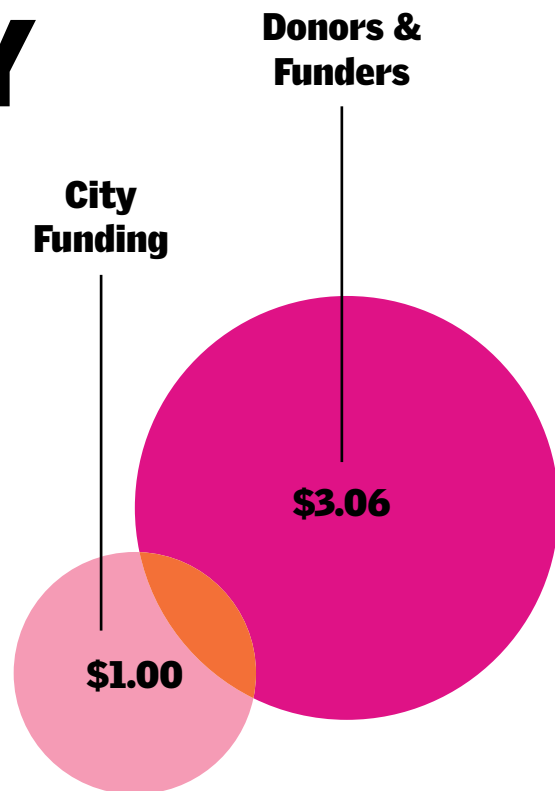
- Excerpt from The 519's statement on Bill 213 and the accreditation of Canada Christian College

# PHILANTHROPY

In 2021, for every **\$1** of core City funding, The 519 received **\$3.06** from donors and funders. This support is vital to our ability to provide our essential programs and services.

Whether it be a monthly gift, a fundraising event, or a legacy gift, we are thankful for your support in building a world where no one is left behind.

We are grateful to our Honourary Patron Salah J. Bachir for his continued support, and for raising over **\$200,000** through his 17th Annual Gala in support of the work of The 519.



*Our donors and funders' giving are critical to supporting our year-round programs for our communities, including children, youth, families, 2Spirit and trans communities, seniors, and refugees and newcomers.*

# 2021 RECOGNITION DONOR 2021 RECOGNITION 2021

## RECOGNITION 2021

### Supporting Our Communities Until No One Is Left Behind.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and community groups who supported our work in 2021. Their thoughtful donations and involvement made a major difference in the lives of the hundreds of people who rely on The 519 every day to provide services and support. This donor list reflects donations received from January 1 to December 31, 2021. The 519 makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. For any inquiries, please email [Giving@The519.org](mailto:Giving@The519.org).

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A giant thank-you to the **3,097** Supporter-level donors who collectively donated **\$266,134** to The 519! The full donor list is available at [The519.org/support-the-519/supporters](https://The519.org/support-the-519/supporters).

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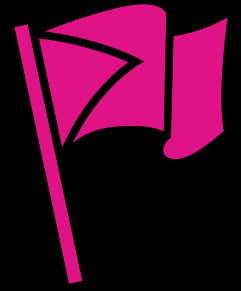
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If you would like to learn more about giving to The 519, including making bequests, gifts of securities, or other directed gifts, or to get your organization involved please contact [Giving@The519.org](mailto:Giving@The519.org).

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE			2021	2020
Grants	City of Toronto	Core	\$1,646,178	\$1,588,148
		Grants	969,516	682,311
	United Way		423,599	378,285
	Government of Canada		1,059,704	941,663
	Others		259,949	185,940
	Province of Ontario		180,571	90,936
			<b>4,539,517</b>	<b>3,867,283</b>
Donations			1,249,062	1,479,757
Fundraising			623,209	883,375
Café			-	96,044
Education & Training			235,252	89,645
Rental fees			4,285	9,111
Other revenue			7,674	5,248
Interest			15,347	7,025
Amortization of deferred capital contributions			9,805	9,053
TOTAL REVENUE			<b>6,684,151</b>	<b>6,446,541</b>
EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages			3,378,367	3,450,630
Employee benefits			871,512	894,359
Purchase of services			1,177,202	1,040,551
Materials, supplies, and services			551,487	634,350
Amortization of capital assets			29,842	24,323
TOTAL EXPENSES			<b>6,008,410</b>	<b>6,044,213</b>
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			<b>\$675,741</b>	<b>\$402,328</b>

# LEADERSHIP SHIP OUR P OUR LEADERSHIP LEADERSHIP



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Vice-Chair of the Board



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NOBODY  
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NOBODY  
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