



THE WORLD IN OUR CENTRE

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT US

The 519 is a City of Toronto agency and a registered charity with an innovative model of service, space and leadership. We are committed to the health, happiness and full participation of LGBTQ communities in Toronto and beyond through our programs, services, capacity-building initiatives and advocacy.

Service

We provide direct service to members of the LGBTQ community, from counselling services and refugee support to trans programming and seniors' support.

Space

We provide free, accommodating and non-judgmental space where individuals, organizations and non-profit groups can meet, organize and give back to the neighbourhood and communities we serve.

Leadership

We advocate for progress by sharing the knowledge and insights we gather on the ground through consulting and workshop services, research and public-engagement campaigns.

FOREWORD

Life is ever-changing. As a centre serving diverse LGBTQ communities, we try to be ready for those changes – whether an increase in demand for a program or the need for a new service created by the fluctuating geo-political situation. Our commitment as a community leader is to respond and deliver in a timely, flexible and impact-oriented manner.



This year we observed an increasing demand for trauma-informed direct services. In response, we continued to expand capacity in our newcomer refugee-support program, housing support and counselling services. We focused on making our programs even more integrated and holistic in their approach to address the diverse needs of our diverse communities.

There are many factors that contribute to a life that offers health, happiness and full participation – a job, home, social capital, medical care, access to socio-economic resources and so on. The barriers to accessing these resources are complex and wide-ranging for different individuals and communities. Our programs hold this fact in their core design, and evolve according to those needs. A refugee claimant who comes to The 519's Among Friends Refugee Support program to seek support with processing their claim can also access trauma-informed counselling and housing support. They can find opportunities to volunteer with us for work experience that can lead to stable employment. They can enjoy a free, healthy meal shared with other participants, and engage in sports and recreational activities organized by The 519 for their physical and emotional well-being.

To continue to be responsive, we listen to our communities. As we progressed into 2017, we also listened to the world and watched the unfolding global trends impacting LGBTQ communities. We brought important conversations to the table with local and international LGBTQ activists, with the vision to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ communities beyond geographical boundaries.

In June 2017, the Canadian Senate passed Bill C-16, an act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code to protect gender identity and expression. We celebrate each milestone, but we also become more motivated to continue advocating for progressive policies and legislations – in Canada and around the world.

As we continue our work, we look toward the coming year with strength and resolve to do even more, go even farther, and aim even higher. We have done it before, with support from our donors, volunteers, partners, neighbours, sponsors and friends. We can do it again, with all of you by our side once more.

Maura Lawless
Executive Director

David Morris
Board Chair

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

FOR
EVERY

\$1

OF CITY
FUNDING



THE 519 RAISED

\$4.44

THROUGH OUR
PHILANTHROPIC AND
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

520,934

ANNUAL VISITS MADE TO THE 519



90,229

VISITS TO PROGRAMS
LED BY THE 519



59,098

INFORMATION & REFERRAL
REQUESTS MADE THROUGH
OUR FRONT DESK



1,955

COMMUNITY
MEETINGS HELD
AT THE 519

INCLUSION TRAINING PROVIDED TO

314

ORGANIZATIONS



10,000+

INDIVIDUALS



YOU KNOW OUR ADDRESS

Community access

The first people you meet when you come into The 519 are the community-access team members at the front desk. In addition to providing administrative support, the team is a source of key information and referrals for the communities accessing our space or services.

"We meet hundreds of people every day – a lot of them facing multiple challenges in life. I have walked in the shoes of many of them, which makes me respect them openly and honestly."

– Albin, community-access team member



"I have seen the use of our space change over the years – not just in the number and scope of programs, but also in the diversity of community partnerships that we are developing."

– Luka, community-access team member

Community partnerships

The 519 encourages community partnerships and the social capital they build while serving important needs.

This year we hosted hundreds of community-led groups – from independent support groups and community kitchens to partnership-based arts and cultural programs – serving the neighbourhood and beyond. The 519 provided space, supplies and support to the independent groups and funding and facilitation to community partners throughout the year.

As part of our strategic priority for the year, we expanded our arts and cultural-engagement programs through various community partnerships:

130 independent community-led groups hosted

Makerspace

The 519 and Pelau Carnival Arts came together to facilitate a Makerspace where participants from the LGBTQ community engaged in a hands-on cultural arts experience. Other workshops in our Makerspace included candle-making, sewing lessons, and soap-making.



"Equal Rights" by Thea, program participant – Through The Lens workshop facilitated by CANVAS Arts for the Youth Action and Arts Space at The 519

Kids & Youth Action and Arts Space

In 2016, The 519 initiated new collaborations with community-based educators to facilitate a series of arts-based activities with queer, trans and gender-independent kids and the kids of queer and trans families in a safe and affirming environment. In 2017, we expanded the activities based on needs identified by our communities. Some of the projects that took place in 2016/17 include photography workshops, arts-based exploration of anxiety, movement and identity, storytelling through textiles, and youth improv.



"For me The 519 is an ideal home for Fay & Fluffy's Storytime. How the centre is working to support members of the community is inspiring, and I am a big supporter myself. So please support The 519 for Fay & Fluffy. Donate, in kind (books) or otherwise, and come out to join us when we resume our storytime series."

– Fay & Fluffy's Storytime: Reading Is FUNDamental has come to The 519 a number of times since November 2016 and recently concluded its summer session in July 2017.



COMMUNITY IN THE KITCHEN

When Arnaldo Alcayaga moved out of a shelter into his own apartment, he was excited. He couldn't wait to buy a computer and a television so he could reconnect with his life-long passion: politics.

It was his political activism against the military in Guatemala 20 years ago that changed the course of his life. He was taken in as a political prisoner, tortured for 45 days and kept in solitary confinement for three and a half years. He came to Canada as a convention refugee many years ago. Today he is all about giving back to the community that supported him when he was homeless himself.

Arnaldo loves to cook and believes in the healing power of cooking. He also knows that people living in shelters do not have the luxury of having access to a kitchen.

Once his paperwork was filed with the support of the Inner City Family Health Team and he was able to afford housing, he knew it was time to pay it forward. An idea for a community-kitchen group led to a search for facilities, bringing the group to The 519. The group known as Street Eats is community-led, giving all members the opportunity to take turns in sharing a recipe and cooking it together. The Inner City Family Health Team facilitates the group and brings together eight to ten participants each time.

"I thought this idea would never really materialize because we didn't have free access to a kitchen. But when The 519 offered us free space and food supplies, it was a kitchen dream come true."

The group focuses on cooking nutritious and healthy meals on a budget and provides the perfect opportunity for community engagement and peer learning. Every three weeks, the group gathers in our second-floor community kitchen to fill it with laughter, energy and appetizing food vibes.

Family Resource Centre (FRC)

The 519 Family Resource Centre is a supportive space for families of diverse identities and structures and their children (up to six years) to meet, play, talk, learn and grow with each other. The program provides exceptional early-learning activities, music and movement, creative experiences, nutritious snacks and parent education.

This year, the program focused on communities' access to information and services that support the healthy development of their families. We also encouraged community leadership within the program.

Event space

The 519 provides accessible and accepting space where individuals and organizations can gather, meet and work towards common goals.

In 2016/17, the centre provided space for 222 private and public events organized by external partners, including non-profit, government or corporate organizations, arts and cultural groups, and individuals. Most bookings by non-profit, government and community groups were free of charge.

Expanding our neighbourhood – More Moss Park

Over the last few years, the City of Toronto, in partnership with The 519, has been working on a proposed redevelopment of Moss Park recreational facilities, including the John Innes Community Centre, Moss Park Arena and surrounding sports fields and parklands. The planning of the new community centre is focused on serving the local community while building capacity for recreational inclusion for LGBTQ communities and sport equity more broadly.

The More Moss Park team continues to work on revising and refining architectural, financial and environmental plans in consultation with the communities, and is busy building relationships with community members and organizations in the area.

In 2016/17, The 519 expanded several community-engagement initiatives in Moss Park. One such included Math Mates, a 10-week free math program for children and youth held at John Innes Community Centre. We partnered with Ryerson University and the University of Toronto to engage volunteer tutors and mentors for program participants. We also partnered with John Innes Community Centre to host a youth basketball tournament.

More than
100 educational sessions
for parents held, and more than
20 queer and trans family
events hosted by FRC

7,037 children
and **7,233** adults
visited FRC



“The 519 serves many families in the neighbourhood and I hope they continue doing that.”

Jose and his partner live in the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood with their two beautiful children: Victoria (three years) and Veronica (pictured, six months).

A FAMILY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

When their first-born was only a couple of months old, Jose felt a strong need for social interaction with other LGBTQ families. He discovered The 519's Family Resource Centre (FRC) through a friend and has been a regular visitor ever since.

“For the first time I didn't feel like the only family with two dads. I discovered a whole new world for babies.”

Jose feels that through the program, he has been able to connect with other diverse families and has learned a lot by participating in the regular events, activities and workshops. His partner joins him and the kids every second Saturday of the month, when FRC hosts family events.

Jose has recently founded a parent-led group called Every Baby Counts at The 519 and is very excited about planning activities, including music, yoga and book readings, for babies up to 12 months old.

WHERE THERE IS A NEED

Anti-poverty and -homelessness

The LGBTQ communities are as diverse as the general Canadian population in their experiences of poverty and homelessness. However, due to additional social determinants and accessibility limitations, they remain over-represented in the population struggling with these issues. The 519 is committed to providing responsive direct services to address poverty and homelessness within the LGBTQ communities with a holistic approach based on access and empowerment.

Drop-in programs

1. Sunday Drop-in
2. Meal Trans
3. Older LGBTQ Drop-in

Our Sunday Drop-in, Meal Trans and Older LGBTQ Drop-in programs provide hundreds of meals and snacks each week for community members. The programs focus on providing a safe space for LGBTQ people who may be experiencing poverty, homelessness, under-housing or social isolation. Services provided for the drop-in participants include referrals, counselling, skill development, arts and recreation, housing support and volunteer opportunities.

16,098 free meals served in the Meal Trans and Sunday Drop-in food programs

957 visits from senior participants attending the Older LGBTQ Drop-in program



Lawrence

Lawrence turns on the radio and sits at the head of the table with his friends at the Sunday Drop-in each week. He has only one rule for his table: "No swearing, only queering."

A professional cook, Lawrence was diagnosed with schizophrenia and battled drug dependency; as a result he was unable to continue working. He had also not come out to friends and family and needed to find a supportive community to help him through such trying times. He came to The 519 Sunday Drop-in program 15 years ago and has been a regular attendee ever since. He also participates in our programs for older LGBTQ folks and is proud to have been drug-free for five years.

"There is one person on my table who cries every week. We offer each other comfort and share a healthy meal together, and it feels better."

Colleen

Love, safety and personal growth are the reasons Colleen comes to the Sunday Drop-in program. And for the delicious food, of course!

After struggling with abusive relationships and depression, Colleen found herself homeless. Today when she looks back at that time, she realizes how much the experience of living in a shelter changed her.

Colleen has access to housing now, but her connection to Toronto's streets and the people living there is stronger than ever. At the Sunday Drop-in program, she often spends her time socializing and offering support and advice to other participants. She proudly calls herself a street mom.

"I learned a lot about myself. I realized I used to look down on homeless people before. Now I know anyone could be in that situation. The experience taught me humility and acceptance."



Stephen

Stephen is very busy working in the kitchen during the weekly Sunday Drop-in program. A program participant and a volunteer, he wouldn't miss it for the world and commutes every weekend from Oshawa to attend.

When his best friend died by suicide two years ago, Stephen decided to make a donation to The 519 in his honour. He believes a place like The 519 could have saved his friend's life by providing direct services and community support. Stephen has also sought help for himself through our trauma-informed counselling services to cope with a newly discovered reality – that he is HIV positive.

His volunteer work at the Sunday Drop-in is his way of giving back to the community that provides him support. He is working with our new housing-support worker to find a home in Toronto so he can easily drop in every week.

"I don't want to identify as just someone who is HIV positive. I want to reintegrate as a person with strength, capabilities and dreams."



Trauma-informed services

LGBTQ Refugee Support

The 519's Among Friends LGBTQ Refugee Support program is designed to help newcomers access information and resources needed to advance their settlement claims. Claimants participate in a full range of programs, including weekly workshops and information sessions, and network with a diverse group of clients who share similar experiences. Individual settlement counselling helps LGBTQ refugee claimants navigate government services and immigration processes, and access relevant resources.

Another key outcome of the program is to create community connections that reduce social isolation and promote integration into Canadian society. In 2017, more than 150 program participants took part in our first Annual Sports Day. The event took place at Regent Park Athletic Grounds, where participants engaged in friendly sports competitions.

"I felt safe in the environment and comfortable participating. It reminded me of fun times back home."

— Program participant at
The 519 Annual Sports Day

Demand for this program has grown tremendously over the last year, and The 519 is focused on expanding capacity to be responsive to the increasing need.

5,076 visits by LGBTQ refugee claimants to settlement-related workshops and group sessions, reflecting an increase of more than **87%** over last year

1,238 refugee claimants provided one-on-one settlement support, **27%** higher than last year

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. Nigeria | 6. Ukraine |
| 2. Uganda | 7. Turkey |
| 3. Jamaica | 8. India |
| 4. Barbados | 9. Iran |
| 5. Bahamas | 10. Kenya |



“Every part of my identity may still not be fully accepted here, but I truly appreciate the protection I get under the law, as it gives me a choice to demand my rights as an equal. I also appreciate safe spaces like The 519 that allow people to find their chosen family.”

Deborah identifies as a black lesbian feminist with a resolve developed over a long journey of self-discovery — that led to her claiming refuge in Canada.

CLAIMING HER RIGHTS

Deborah came to Canada as a Phd student in public policy. She was always a strong feminist, but her evolving identity as a queer woman made it necessary for her to remain in Canada after her student visa expired. After years of searching for a way to stay as a resident, Deborah had reached an impasse. Going back to Barbados was not an option. Staying in Canada seemed impossible. Just when she had lost hope, she found the guidance she needed from our friends and partners at a human rights conference at The 519.

“My life changed the day I came to The 519 to attend that conference.”

It was the first time Deborah learned that she had the choice and all the reasons to claim refuge. She joined our Among Friends program and was supported by the program team throughout her process. She also attended A Place to Talk, a trauma-informed support group at The 519 for refugee claimants. Now Deborah is a permanent resident and is excelling in her career as a finance expert.



"The 519 supported our grassroots initiative and is providing us space, food, outreach opportunities, transportation and consultation. I am honoured to work for an organization that is responsive and supportive of community-led initiatives."

– Sebastian Commock – a previous participant in our refugee program, and now a staff member at The 519 – has initiated an advocacy and support group, Canadian Legacy Refugee Advocacy and Alliance (CLRAA), to provide help to legacy refugee claimants in Canada.

Counselling support

The 519's counselling services are trauma-informed, which means that our service providers and front-line staff understand the impacts of trauma and work with clients to promote safety.

The services include free short-term one-on-one counselling for individuals and couples and are driven by a team of supervised volunteer counsellors. In 2016/17, we also focused on expanding our group programs that promote wellness and mindfulness. Some of these groups were run by expert facilitators, while others were community-led.

This year, in partnership with the Centre for Mindfulness Studies, we launched two free eight-week mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) groups for our service users. Based on the concept of peer learning, these groups gave participants the opportunity to be "peer leaders." Participants were trained in mindfulness group facilitation, and were then able to lead an 11-week mindfulness drop-in group.

23 volunteer
counsellors

920 counselling
hours completed

Youth-focused programs

Spark: Trans Youth Sports

Spark is a free weekly drop-in program where trans, gender-non-conforming, non-binary and two-spirit youth, ages 16 to 29, can explore a range of sport and recreation activities while building community.

Lack of access to safe spaces and social isolation put trans youth at a significantly higher risk for suicide and depression. Through this program, we were able to reduce the barriers often faced in accessing recreation. Program activities included sailing, hiking, bike building and riding, winter retreats and many others. Community partnerships developed through the program resulted in greater access to sports and recreation facilities across Toronto. With support from our Education and Training team, eight facilities received trans-inclusion training to make those spaces inclusive for trans and gender-non-conforming youth.

Spark engaged
44 participants

80% reported a decrease in social isolation and an increase in confidence as a direct result of the Spark program

Trans Youth Mentorship Program (TYMP)

Launched as a pilot in 2016, TYMP is a skill development program focused on education and employment goals for trans youth, many of whom are in the early stages of coming out and/or transitioning. After the success of the pilot project, the program has been extended for two years.

LGBTQ youth housing support

LGBTQ youth remain largely over-represented in the homeless youth population in Toronto. It is estimated that as many as 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ2S. That is why our youth-focused Housing Services program has seen a steady flow of clients over the past year, including both youth experiencing homelessness and youth at risk of homelessness.

The program focuses on helping clients find safe, inclusive, affordable and sustainable housing. We also work with clients to co-create safety plans, connect them with relevant community services, and check in with them regularly to see if they are still interested in accessing emergency housing services. The program team works closely with the Education and Training department, facilitating Fostering Inclusive Shelter Environments for LGBTQ2S Youth training sessions for housing workers.

184 LGBTQ youth accessed our housing support services

"Because all the folks participating in Spark were non-binary, gender non-conforming or members of the trans communities, I instantly felt safe. I also learnt that I have the right to express my pronouns and expect to be addressed that way."



A newcomer, student and gender-non-conforming youth, Eli left their country of origin in search of safety – and found so much more.

EMBRACING THE WHOLE WORLD IN TORONTO

Eli's journey to Canada began three years ago when they came from El Salvador as a student. They studied hard and worked harder to find a job to help them stay.

Eli volunteered for their first Pride in 2015 and heard about The 519. They attended the Coming Out Being Out group sessions but wanted to learn more.

"My biggest challenge was how to express my gender identity in a new social setting. I was new to English and had no idea how the language has expanded to have words that can express who I am."

The 519's Spark: Trans Youth Sports program offered a safe space.

Spark allowed Eli to explore Ontario through various activities and experiences. A 24-kilometre bike ride through Toronto, sailing on the Great Lakes, a winter retreat – not only did Spark offer a safe space, it opened up safe spaces around the province.

As Eli was finding community and self-acceptance, their immigration situation became precarious. With the work permit expiring and its renewal uncertain, Eli felt stressed and anxious. A volunteer counsellor at The 519 encouraged them to explore our Mindful Meditation group. They also attended a leadership training session through the program and became a peer leader for the group.

Eli recently received permanent residence status and is thrilled about future possibilities. Their positive energy, openness to new experiences, and desire to embrace the world and be embraced by it ensures their success will continue.



"I am grateful that we are not on the streets. And I am hopeful that we will be able to find a home soon where my child can have her own space."

Marissa (pictured), Melinda and their three-year-old child arrived at The 519 with nowhere else to go. The family had been asked to leave their temporary residence without notice, and living in motels was not an option.

IN SEARCH OF A HOME TO CALL THEIR OWN

A young mom, Marissa arrived in Canada with her three-year-old in May 2017 to claim refuge after suffering many verbal, physical and emotional assaults targeting her sexual orientation. Her partner soon joined her, and the family settled temporarily with acquaintances in a small apartment. Marissa's first priority was getting their refugee claims processed, and she was referred to The 519 by her lawyer. She joined our Among Friends program for refugee claimants and soon started volunteering at the centre.

She had not anticipated being suddenly homeless. After seven hours of effort as the family waited in our offices, they were temporarily placed in the home of a past Among Friends participant – who had settled in well and wanted to help others whose shoes she had once walked in.

"I don't know how, but they found Fidel, and she accepted me and my family into her home. I will never forget the kindness of a stranger."

With support from our housing coordinator for youth, the family found space in a family immigration-reception centre soon after. The coordinator continues to work with the family to find them suitable housing.

The family's hearing was successful, and they are finally excited about the possibility of starting a new life.

"I want to work and study here. I had wanted to become a mortician before. But now, after my experience with The 519, I want to be a social worker."

FOR A BETTER WORLD

Leadership in the social, cultural, political and situational contexts – both locally and globally – remained a significant priority for us this year.

Our leadership work focused on creating widespread systemic change through education and training; raising our voices in support of global LGBTQ rights on various forums; and coming together in solidarity with the communities against marginalization and violence.

Education and Training

Education and Training at The 519 is an innovative department that works as a productive enterprise, a knowledge centre and an advocacy hub. On the one hand, the team provides consulting, training and education services that support LGBTQ inclusion and participation across the public, non-profit and corporate sectors. On the other, it works to create knowledge and tools that are shared broadly with the public to raise awareness about relevant issues and contribute to solutions.

Responding to a rising need for inclusion training, customized for each organization and sector, the department conducted more than 314 training sessions in 2016/17 – an increase of 34 percent over last year.

The training workshops focus on promoting trans and LGBTQ inclusion in educational institutions; the healthcare sector; sports and recreation facilities; community housing and shelters; and various workplaces.

“Working with families is key to childcare and child development. Even when people are supportive of diversity in spirit, it is important for them to continuously gain updated knowledge about how to effectively collaborate with parents.”

– Patricia Hunt, a childcare and family-support consultant with the City of Toronto, was one of the lead organizers of the **Affirming Families: Fostering LGBTQ-Inclusive Work in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Work** training developed by The 519 for the City’s Children’s Services.





Theatre-arts performance — Youth/Elders Project (Photo by Greg Wong)

Knowledge products

The department distributed more than 30 knowledge products over the year. One such product was Brazen 2.0 – a sexual-health and safer sex guide for trans women and their partners – launched in partnership with CATIE.



Tell It Like It Is

The team introduced Tell It Like It Is, a five-part speaker series called Lived Experiences of LGBTQ Elders, exploring topics such as chosen family, aging and disability, and aging as a person of colour. The project was launched in partnership with the Senior Pride Network (SPN) and has engaged over 400 people ranging from two to 96 years of age.

The Youth/Elders Project (YEP)

In an exciting partnership between The 519, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and the Senior Pride Network, our Youth/Elders Project brought together young and old to create a living document of our personal queer histories, integrating text, movement, music and design. After a series of creative workshops, the intergenerational project culminated in theatre-arts performances.

314 TRAININGS CONDUCTED IN 2016/17

34%	healthcare & care specific to older LGBTQ communities	7%	social services
17%	educational institutions	2%	recreation and athletics
9%	community housing & shelters	13%	community & advocacy groups
		7%	government
		9%	private & corporate



"Canada was not always a progressive place for LGBTQ rights. We know there was a process followed and countless lessons learned – lessons that can be shared with advocates in Jamaica."

– Latoya Nugent, a prominent Jamaican LGBTQ activist, participated in a panel discussion at The 519, **Until We Are Free: The Global Struggle for LGBTQ Human Rights.**

Dialogues

The 519, in partnership with Pride Toronto, organized and hosted a series of human rights panel discussions, inviting prominent activists from Canada and abroad. The objective of the panels was to highlight some of the grassroots initiatives taking place in Canada and around the world, and demonstrate how sharing knowledge can strengthen those initiatives. The key discussion topics included global LGBTQ human rights, transfeminism and the role of trans-women activism in front-line movements.

Still Estamos Aqui, We Are Still Here – Orlando Memorial

We commemorated the Orlando massacre on its one-year anniversary by launching a community-informed art piece and hosting a vigil. The Orlando Memorial installed on the exterior of our building serves as an important reminder for all of us to strive for justice and safety for LGBTQ2S community members here in Toronto and around the world. The piece was created by Janet Romero-Leiva, a queer feminist Latinx visual artist and writer.



Orlando Memorial by Janet Romero-Leiva



Life-Loss-Light, We Remember Orlando – June 12, 2017

Solidarity with the community

As leaders and advocates, it is important to affirm the bonds we share with the LGBTQ communities in Canada and abroad. This solidarity can lead to the creation of social conditions in which human rights can be respected and upheld.



(Photo by Eli Carmona)

Despite rain, hundreds of people gathered this year to mark the 33rd year of the AIDS Candlelight Vigil. The theme for this year's vigil was In the Spirit of Wellness & Healing.



We renewed our commitment as public servants to advancing conversations that address all forms of oppression on The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2017.



We celebrated marriage equality at The 519 with the launch event of Canada Post's new stamp commemorating the hard-fought right of equal marriage in Canada.



"Sadly, what inspired me to create this art was the shooting in Orlando last year, and the desire to see people of different colours represented in a positive light."

— janet romero-leiva; artist,
Orlando Memorial



FOOD FOR CHANGE

Our social enterprise – FABARNAK Community Cafe

From serving thousands of nutritious meals free of cost to the participants in our various programs, to catering for events on- and off-site; from offering a daily inventive menu serving the neighbourhood breakfast, brunch and lunch, to providing skills training and job opportunities to people facing barriers to employment; FABARNAK is a unique social enterprise of The 519.

Over the past few years, FABARNAK has grown under strong leadership focused on raising the level of customer service, maintaining quality and consistency, and controlling costs.

In line with The 519's leadership mandate, FABARNAK is a strong advocate for food justice – working to promote access, sustainability and waste reduction.

FABARNAK served
21,934 delicious,
nutritious and free
meals to our program
participants in 2016/17

FABARNAK's revenue
as a social enterprise
has grown by **15%**
in the last year



"The team at FABARNAK feels like family to me. I am also developing a social network through this job. Now I can confidently say that when the time is right, more doors will open for me. Just like this one did when I needed it the most."

Didi arrived in Canada less than two years ago from Turkey as a refugee claimant. With a master's degree in marketing and communications and seven years' experience as a flight attendant, she still struggled to find employment opportunities in her new home.

OPENING NEW DOORS

As Didi availed direct services at The 519 as a newcomer, she learned about our partnership with Dixon Hall Employment Services. She joined the skills-development program at FABARNAK in early 2017 to aid her entry into the workforce. Her background as a flight attendant and her love for interacting with people from all over the world came in handy.

At FABARNAK, Didi received hands-on training in front-of-house, back-of-house and catering over the course of four months. After her training program concluded, she applied for a job as a server and was hired. With the stress of being unemployed alleviated, and a flexible schedule, she is now able to focus on pursuing her dream of further studies.

The highlight of Didi's time at The 519 was working at Green Space Festival this year — an experience that made her feel part of something much bigger than just an organization where she was employed.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU

GREEN SPACE FESTIVAL 2017



35,000+
PEOPLE ATTENDED

ALMOST

\$500,000
RAISED TO SUPPORT THE 519

The Green Space Festival is a celebration of diversity and an essential fundraising activity.



THE ANNUAL 519 GALA

\$500,000+



We are extremely grateful to our honorary patron, Salah Bachir, for hosting one of our **biggest** fundraiser events of the year.



FIREFLY PUB RAISED

\$28,500

in 2017

THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISING 2016/17

\$65,000+

We are grateful to the individuals, corporations and community groups who raise funds for us.

VOLUNTEERS 2016/17



= \$541,190



FOR EVERY \$1 OF CITY FUNDING, WE RAISED \$4.44 THROUGH PHILANTHROPY AND FUNDRAISING



Lipstick Jungle 2017 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)



Starry Night 2017 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)

An Intimate Evening with Jason Alexander
The Annual 519 Gala, 2016
(Photo by George Pimentel)



Starry Night 2017 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)



Lipstick Jungle 2017 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)

"I love hanging out at The 519. That's why I am always here."



A newcomer, refugee claimant and volunteer at The 519, Justin has been keeping busy in his first year in Canada.

GIVING BACK THE SUPPORT

If Justin is not at The 519 to attend a weekly session of Among Friends, our program for refugee claimants, he is there doing volunteer work. He also spends time giving advice and emotional support to anyone who needs it.

Justin, 21, left Barbados and arrived in Canada in April 2017 to claim refuge as a member of the LGBTQ community. At such a young age, he was determined to live a life with love, acceptance and full participation – something he couldn't do in his country of origin. He decided to leave after being forced to go to "therapy" by his parents, who could not accept his sexual orientation.

During Green Space Festival 2017, Justin sold drink tokens as a volunteer with other team members – an experience he really enjoyed and learned from, as he wants to pursue banking as a career.

"It was very demanding but exhilarating to volunteer at the Green Space Festival."

What Justin loves most about coming to The 519 and the gay village is the freedom of expression – the freedom to be who you are.

Justin is eagerly waiting for his refugee claim hearing so he can pursue higher education. He is also trying to cope with the emotional trauma he experienced, and the rejection he continues to receive, from his loved ones. The social network he has gained by participating in our refugee program and volunteering at the centre is providing him the sense of community he needs.

Through his volunteer work at The 519, Justin is also giving back to the community – whether by helping new participants register for Among Friends, supporting the sales team during Green Space Festival, or sharing his positive energy.



Firefly Pub, 2017

You help us build an inclusive world

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Commemorating marriage equality with Canada Post – May 2017

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The 519 is pleased to acknowledge and celebrate the following individuals, organizations and corporations for helping to raise funds for The 519 through third-party events they hosted, or by encouraging directed donations to The 519 in celebration of special occasions.

#MayWeGiveBack (SNL Entertainment)

KPMG

Summerhill Optometry

6ix Cycle

Loblaws Maple Leaf Gardens

TAXI

Ace Bakery

Mary MacLeod's Shortbread

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School

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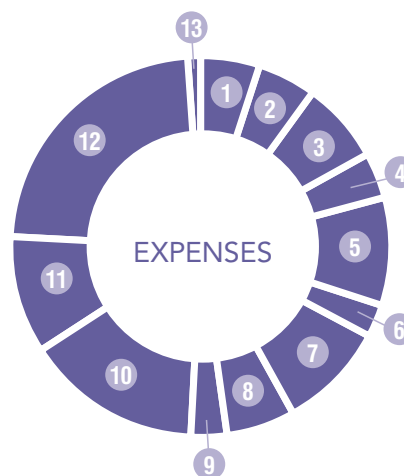
Queer & Trans Family Event, August 2017 (Photo by Eli Carmona)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Core City of Toronto Funding	\$ 1,352,701	\$ 1,289,319
Program Funding	5,587,396	4,597,070
Government Grants		
City of Toronto	327,912	378,998
Government of Ontario	86,921	382,259
Government of Canada	316,644	329,101
Philanthropy, Fundraising & Social Enterprise		
United Way	337,899	251,723
Foundation Grants	118,896	122,595
Philanthropy & Special Events	2,050,466	2,024,935
Special Projects	1,472,229	432,684
Social/Productive Enterprise	876,429	674,775
TOTAL REVENUE	6,940,097	5,886,389
EXPENSES		
Core Funded Expenses	1,352,701	1,289,319
Centre Administration	338,175	322,330
Information & Referral	324,648	309,437
Building Maintenance	459,918	438,368
Program Support	229,960	219,184
Program Expenses	5,162,555	4,569,380
Community Engagement	607,392	614,381
Children & Family Programs	169,456	168,812
Education & Training	574,832	515,817
Newcomer & Refugee Services	419,093	223,919
Counselling & Support	196,256	161,605
Philanthropy & Special Events	1,002,973	996,954
Social/Productive Enterprise	653,458	596,742
Special Projects	1,472,229	1,232,041
Depreciation	66,866	59,109
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,515,256	5,858,699
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	424,841	27,690



- 1 19% Core City of Toronto Funding
- 2 11% Government Grants
- 3 57% Philanthropy and Fundraising
- 4 13% Social/Productive Enterprise



Core Funded Expenses

- 1 5% Centre Administration
- 2 5% Information & Referral
- 3 7% Building Maintenance
- 4 4% Program Support

Program Expenses

- 5 9% Community Engagement
- 6 3% Children & Family Programs
- 7 9% Education & Training
- 8 6% Newcomer & Refugee Services
- 9 3% Counselling & Support
- 10 15% Philanthropy & Special Events
- 11 10% Social/Productive Enterprises
- 12 23% Special Projects
- 13 1% Depreciation

With the surplus from our operating activities (excluding grant funding and other defined contributions) this year, The 519 has established a programs reserve fund to set aside these funds for future program requirements or emergency needs.

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With many thanks to our 2016/17 Board of Management.



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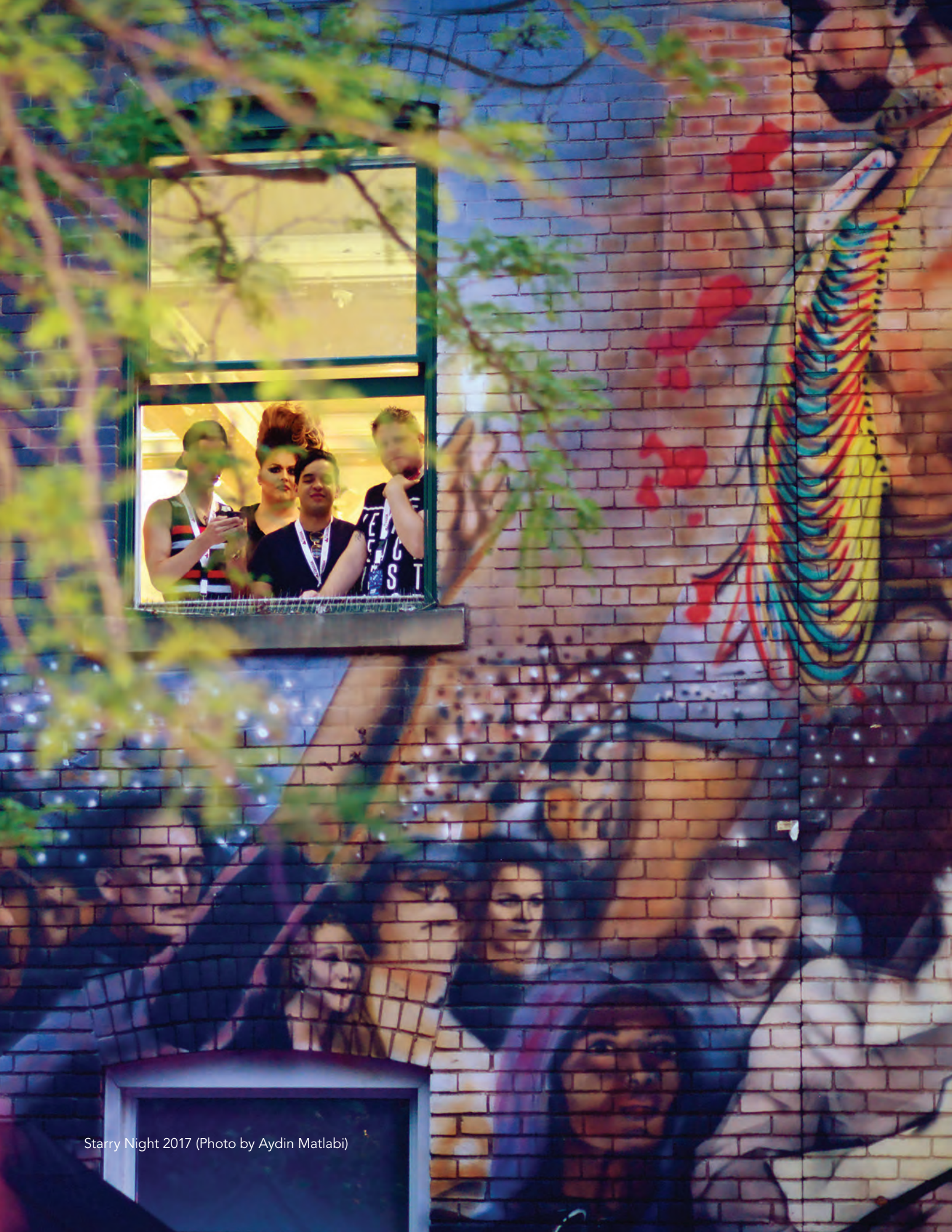
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Starry Night 2017 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)

The 519 is committed to the health, happiness and full participation of the LGBTQ communities in Toronto and beyond. We would love it if you would join us in this work.

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The519.org/support-the-519/join

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Raise funds for us as a third party

<http://www.the519.org/support-the-519/ways-to-give>



519 Church St
Toronto ON
M4Y 2C9

info@The519.org
416-392-6874

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