



ANNUAL REPORT

2010–2011



Since The 519 fully re-opened our doors in early 2010, we have welcomed over 50,000 people, many who have visited for the first time. Visitors and members alike have found a centre transformed; full of energy and renewed passion for our work together. Our commitment to being a place where communities meet, participate and celebrate has truly come to life.

Through our special events, community programs and services, civic engagement projects and our new restaurant and social enterprise initiative FABARNAK, The 519 has increased its relevancy within the community and has more than doubled its membership in the past 2 years.

The 519 is committed to continuing our 35-year tradition of serving Toronto's LGBT and downtown communities, but we can't do it without you – our members and community are what makes The Centre so special.

As a public-private partnership of the City of Toronto, The 519 and the Community, everything we do depends on our donors', volunteers' and corporate partners' continued efforts to invest and champion community programs and services at The 519. The City of Toronto helps to ensure our building is maintained and open to the public, and this year our community and funding partners will match each dollar of that investment with \$1.79 in additional funding to provide programs and services for our communities. Facing increased pressure on government budgets, the community's investment in The Centre will be essential to our continued success.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year to build a healthy, liveable, welcoming community in downtown Toronto.

Your membership matters.


Maura Lawless
Executive Director





APOL
photo: Richard Rhyme

“FABARNAK has spoiled me. I’ve learned a lot about food, about what I like, how it’s made. FABARNAK is a gathering place for the community. I’ve become more outgoing and more comfortable having conversations with community members that meet there. Working at FABARNAK I’m able to be myself.”

Apol was a member of our Trans Youth Toronto program before joining the team at FABARNAK, The 519’s social enterprise food program.

The 519 has a decades-long history of building community around the table. What began as a community meal prepared in a neighbour’s kitchen grew into meal programs that served 20,000 meals last year. In our Sunday Drop-In, Meal Trans, Older LGBT, and Among Friends Refuge Peer Support Programs, the nourishment and fellowship of a shared meal lay the foundation for skill-building, resource sharing and personal transformation.

The relationships built while breaking bread together make it possible to address the larger issues of housing, harm-reduction, social isolation, settlement, health and wellness in a safe and personal way.

In October 2010, we made room at the table for the entire community with the launch of FABARNAK, an initiative that has changed the way people think about The 519. People who had never before heard of The 519 have become champions for our social enterprise food program.

Over the last year, three members of our community participated in an individualized training and employment program at FABARNAK. We have seen what is possible when people are given the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe, welcoming and supportive employment environment.

By serving healthy, local food in our programs and at

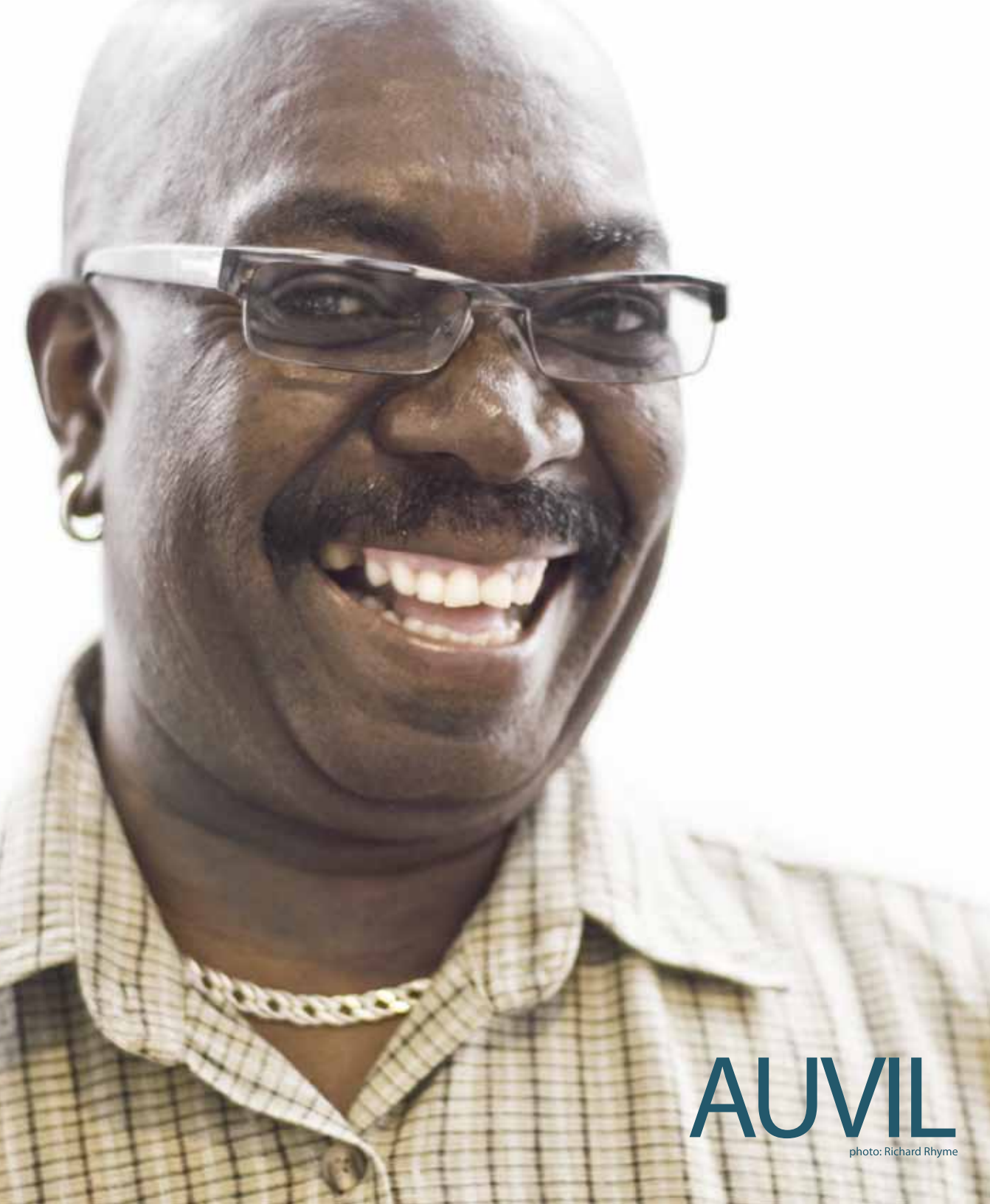
FABARNAK, providing catering for events and groups in our building, and by advising programs and community groups on healthy food policy, The 519 is changing the way our community engages with food and each other.



photo: Richard Rhyme



photo: Richard Rhyme



AUVIL
photo: Richard Rhyme

“I’m very comfortable here at The 519. The Centre fits so well in the downtown community; there is a warmth here that I haven’t found anywhere else. I have broadened my horizon volunteering and participating in the Among Friends Program; I have learned so many new things and met many new friends. Coming here is like a home away from home.”

Auvil came to Canada from Jamaica in 2008. He has been a member and volunteer in Among Friends since 2009.

The 519 is a home and a place of safety for many members of our community. Over 250 LGBT refugees come to The 519 every year to get support in the refugee process and to build a life in Canada.

With the support of Canada’s Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, The 519 has begun to provide comprehensive settlement services to LGBT newcomers and newcomer families. Over the next year, more than 175 individuals and families will rely on The 519 in their journey to build a home for themselves in Toronto.

For families raising children in Toronto’s downtown core, spaces like our Family Resource Centre and our Queer Parenting Drop-ins become a second home and an extended backyard. Over 740 families met in these programs last year, visiting our children’s programs more than 4,800 times.

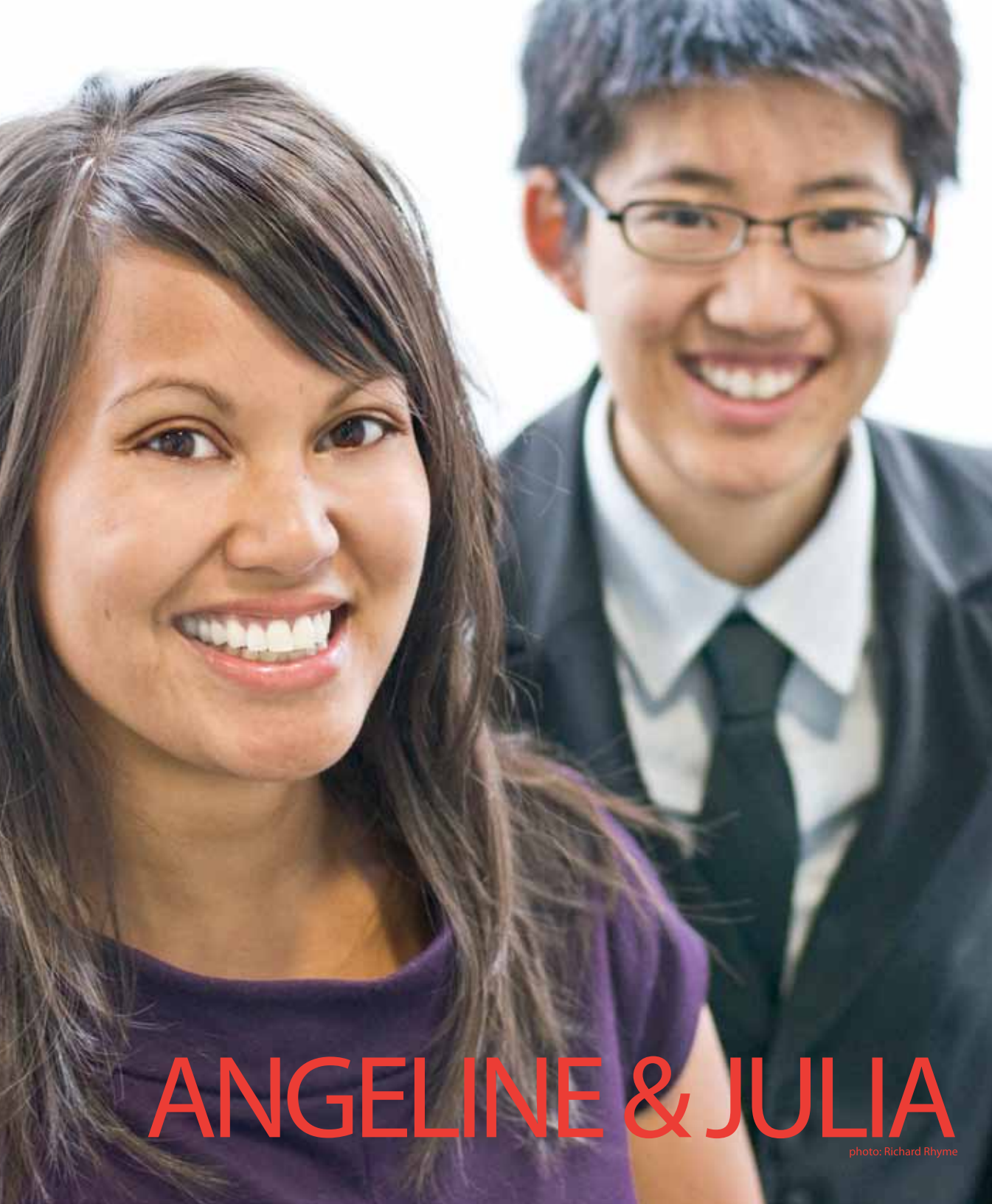
With the support of The 519’s programs, children and youth in our communities realize their full potential and their parents and caregivers find support, resources and a community of people to help them on their journey.

The Centre is committed to creating a safe and welcoming community beyond our walls, as well as within. Our Healthy TransActions program has led the way this year

by helping to create more trans-friendly spaces at boxing clubs, rock climbing gyms, swimming pools and other athletic facilities, and by introducing young trans people to fitness, nutrition, health and wellness.

The 519 is also the first place people turn for information and education relating to the communities we serve. Every year we provide information and referral services to over 17,000 people who contact our front desk looking for help in navigating our City and its services.

All of our programs are involved in providing subject-specific training opportunities relating LGBT parenting and family planning, developing trans-friendly policies and services, eradicating homophobia and addressing same-sex partner abuse. Over the past year we’ve delivered over 90 workshops to more than 1,500 individuals.



“The 519 is open and inclusive and it’s so easy to get involved and to engage in the life of The Centre.”

Angeline joined The 519 as a volunteer on our Member Relations team. She and her dog Major can often be found in Cawthra Square Park where Angeline coordinated yoga programming this summer.

“The 519 was the gateway to the LGBT community for me. It’s an incredible community hub with innovative programming and fantastic events.”

Julia first stepped into The 519 to attend a youth writing group. She led arts programming in Cawthra Square Park this summer as part of the Green Space on Church Initiative.

The 519’s governance model is central to ensuring our programs are community-responsive and that new programs and initiatives are developed in response to emerging trends in our neighbourhood and the broader LGBT communities. Over the past year, four new initiatives engaged our community in new and interesting ways to deliver activities that enhanced The Centre and the experience of its members.

Our Green Space on Church initiative successfully utilized Cawthra Square Park in a more creative way throughout the summer. Neighbours met for the first time during concerts and performances, movie screenings, fitness classes and yoga. Our community engaged with public space in new ways and built a stronger connection to its neighbourhood.

The Centre Host program welcomed a dozen volunteers to new roles in the Lobby and Information Centre of The 519. They assisted building visitors and introduced first-time members to the services and activities available at The Centre.

Our Community Contributors captured daily life at The Centre and documented the stories of the people who use our space and make up our diverse community. These volunteers helped to contribute to newsletters, social media, website content and took fantastic photos of our special events.

Breakthrough, a peer-led social group for newcomers, welcomed over 200 community members to a variety of monthly events including a cabaret, a masquerade, ‘speed friending’ and a games night.

The creative ideas of our community, coupled with the energy and commitment of our members and volunteers, continues to redefine The 519 and its role in the community.

ANGELINE & JULIA
photo: Richard Rhyme



SANGITA

photo: Richard Rhyme

“If you are part of our community, this is your centre. Volunteering in many programs, I hear the stories of people who appreciate The 519 so much. There are children, parents, seniors, LGBT and straight people, and they all feel so comfortable here. I’ve seen the building and the organization evolve, but I’ve also changed. I’m a more empathetic and empowered person thanks to The 519.”

Sangita joined The 519 when she was coming out, attending the Women’s Group and ‘Coming Out, Being Out.’ She currently volunteers in the Green Space on Church during Pride and in our Sunday Drop-In.

The 519’s community-led model has helped our communities to grow and thrive. Over 250 community groups meet at The 519 and rely on our accessible space to deliver programming and to administer their organizations.

On an evening’s visit to The Centre, one might hear Toronto’s Counterpoint Orchestra rehearsing in the Ballroom or jazz music playing as Swingin’ Out dances the night away. Behind a closed door one might find a 12-step meeting, a coming out peer support group or the board meeting of community organizations such as the LGBT Youth Line, Community One Foundation and Toronto Leather Pride. LGBT sport organizations such as the Toronto Lesbian and Gay Tennis Association and Toronto Gay Hockey Association meet at The 519 and hold their league banquets in our Ballroom. Our corporate and government partners rent our space to hold meetings, training events and celebrations. Each of these organizations are a part of The 519 family and contribute to the identity and life of our communities’ centre.

More than 1,100 volunteers contribute nearly 15,000 hours of volunteer time to The 519 and our community

every year. That includes more than 275 community group facilitators that lead and support groups that offer programming in our space and nearly 500 volunteers who actively volunteer in centre programs on a day-to-day basis.

There isn’t a single program, event or activity at The Centre in which volunteers are not involved. In some cases volunteers lead and deliver entire initiatives. Last year, our volunteer-run tax clinic provided tax filing services to hundreds of low income individuals who depend on their tax rebate to make ends meet. Our volunteer-run legal clinic continues to provide free legal advice, once a week, to anyone who needs it. Volunteer lawyers provide advice on topics ranging from tenant and family law to employment and human rights. Our volunteer-led Counselling Program continues to rely on professional counsellors who last year volunteered 530 free sessions of counselling on issues ranging from addiction, depression and anxiety to couple’s counselling.



Board Chair Natasha Garda and Honorary Patron Salah Bachir // Photo by Spencer Xiong

CHAIR'S REPORT

In 2007 when I joined The 519 team, I understood The Centre to be just a place to go if you needed support for an issue. Four years have passed and my definition of The 519 has grown and flourished from my earlier naïve impression. This unique community centre is the hub of Toronto's LGBTQ life, a place to volunteer, a neighbourhood friend, a nourishing stop during a hectic day, and a place to belong and feel included.

The 519 has a reputation for progressive thinking and advocacy and it was important to take the physical and virtual existence of the centre and reinforce its walls – both literally and symbolically – that's why the capital campaign and renovations were so important.

Because of the amazing efforts of our Honourary Patron

Salah J. Bachir and the support of the City of Toronto and hundreds of capital donors we were able to build our future together.

We have rebranded The Centre and renewed our presence in the community. We have witnessed greater community involvement with an increase in membership and participation as a result. We also made sure that as a Board we kept pace and continued to listen to the community. We now have four active sub-committees focused on the strategic planning, resource development, financial management, human resources, and community advocacy priorities. The Board has ensured that the Centre has policies and systems in place to effectively manage the centre including introducing formal budget

planning cycles, financial reporting mechanisms, annual Board evaluation process and a Board recruitment strategy focused on diversifying the Board.

The Board of Directors is comprised of an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers and I am proud of what we have accomplished together with our amazing staff, members and partners. Volunteers make up the bulk of the muscle that runs The Centre – from greeters, to community groups leaders, lawyers and professional counsellors, there isn't a program or service that isn't touched by our generous and skilled volunteers. On behalf of the Board I want to thank all the volunteers past and present who allow us to open the doors daily and be the light at night – the friend you can rely on.

As I step away from my role as Board Chair, I am certain that The 519 will continue to play a central role as the Church and Wellesley community hub. As we witness a shift in the funding climate, it is important that we advocate for the value of community services and the benefits they bring to this City. Become a member. Volunteer. Grab your next lunch at FABARNAK. Donate. Hold your next community meeting at The 519. Keep informed and engaged in civic affairs and rally public support for The 519 and community-run community centres. Finally, when you're around Church and Wellesley, meet me at The 519.

Natasha Garda
Board Chair



photo: Richard Rhyme

Board of Management

- Natasha Garda** *Chair*
- Pascal Dessureault** *Vice-Chair*
- Anthony Partipilo** *Treasurer*
- Rudy Ticzon** *Secretary*
- Don Middleton**
- Jeff Zoeller**
- Kira Vallen**
- Lee Mark Schofield**
- Michael von Teichman**
- Scott Bomhof**
- Tyler Fleming**
- Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam** *Ex Officio*



photo: Richard Rhyme



**“I’ve always loved
this place; it’s such a great
service to the community.”**
Ms. Andrea Martin

Ms. Andrea Martin ~ photo: James Kachan



Pascal Desserault, Michael von Teichman and Mathieu Chantelois ~ photo: Spencer Xiong

Special events at The 519 provide a great opportunity for building community and help to raise money for The Centre’s programs and services.

With the support and leadership of our Honorary Patron Salah Bachir, The 519 presented ‘An Evening with Andrea Martin’. This fabulous gala event brought over 400 donors and guests to The 519 for cocktails, comedy and great food prepared by FABARNAK over two nights in June. The event also served as a homecoming for capital campaign donors who returned to see the benefit and impact of their investments.

Our Green Space on Church fundraising events during Pride saw unprecedented growth this year as we welcomed over 38,000 people to Cawthra Square Park. With the co-leadership of Mathieu Chantelois and Natasha Garda, this year’s planning process introduced community advisory groups that engaged community event professionals in the development and promotion of the events. In 2010 we raised more than \$85,000 through our Pride events and that number more than doubled in 2011.

Our Centrepiece Dinners launched this year, providing friends and potential donors an opportunity to spend an evening at The Centre, tour our building, learn more about our work, and share a fabulous meal prepared by FABARNAK.

We were honoured this year to be the beneficiary of Toronto Leather Pride, an organization which meets and holds its educational programming at The 519. We have also received generous donations from individuals celebrating weddings, birthdays and anniversaries of members, and from the proceeds of third-party fundraising events like Cabaret for a Cause and Queer Beer Fest.

These fundraising efforts ensure we are able to continue delivering award-winning programs and services.



FUNDRAISING

Tree House Party in the Green Space On Church ~ photo: Spencer Xiong

Advocates (\$250+)

Ailsa Craig
Daniel Stapleton
David Hughes
Deb Parent
Dora and Marcel Dediu
N. Donald E. Altman
Filomeno Jose
Gratitude
Helga Wyler
Jack Brannigan
Jason Van Tassel
Jeff Duford
Jim Vibert
Dr. John Jordan
Judith Skinner
Keith Hambly
Kristin Weckworth
Libby and Pat Barnicke
Marc Emond
Margot Keith
Matt Kenny
Michael Cobb
Olga Lacosta
Pearse Murray
Peter Lam
Peter Marchand
Rainbow Ballroom Dancing
Rob Alexander
Rob McMurtrie
Robert Lees
Robert Preston
Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous
Vicki Borenstein
~ and over 900 supporters under \$250

Benefactors (\$500+)

Bob Dorrance and Gail Drummond
Brendan Row
Brian Beattie
Brian Cartwright
Brian Wilding
Cherie Werhun and Christine Pearson
CUPE Local 79
David Emond
Debtors Anonymous
Doug Kerr and Michael Went
Evan Young
Gay Fathers of Toronto
Glenn Whittall
IATSE Local 8822
James Grace
Karim Eid
Kyle Scanlon
Lee Mark Schofield
Linda Plumpton
Living in Today
Lee Sneddon and Kris Fortomaris
Loblaws
Maureen Phillips
Mustafa Nazarali
Out In Recovery
Perry Orestes
Pink Triangle Press
Promises Group
Richard F. Glaze
R. M. Lang Foundation
Sara Newman
Spencer Xiong
Triangle Squares
Tyler Fleming

Leadership Council (\$1000+)

à la Carte Kitchen
Bell Canada
Hon. Bill Graham QC
Brad Schmale
Brian Provini and Ron Harris
Brian Terry
Brown-Forman
Cabaret For A Cause
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Chum Charitable Foundation
Church and Wellesley Village BIA
The Church Street Group
David Daniels
David DesLauriers
Dean Carlson
Deluxe Postproduction
Don and Clayton
Downtown Subaru
Dundee Wealth Management
El-Farouk Khaki and Troy Jackson
Endeavour Marketing
The Frum Foundation
Geoffrey H. Wood Foundation
GuySpy
Jaime Watt
John Stephens CD
Martha McCain
Mary Beth Bourke
Mathieu Chantelois
Matthew Cutler and Avery Miller
Maura Lawless and Fiona Murray
Michael von Teichman
Mijo

Leadership Council (\$1000+)

Mill Street Brewery
Mohammad Al Zaibak
Paul Austin
Peter Proszanski and David Himelfarb
Prime Timers Toronto
Redbull Canada
RBC Financial Group
Richard Durk and Steve Weiss
Rick McCarty
Robert Archer and Richard C. Pond
Scott Bomhof
Senator Nancy Ruth
Swinging Out
TELUS Communications
Thornmark Asset Management
The Estate of Timothy Ross Wilson
Toronto Leather Pride
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
VISA Canada

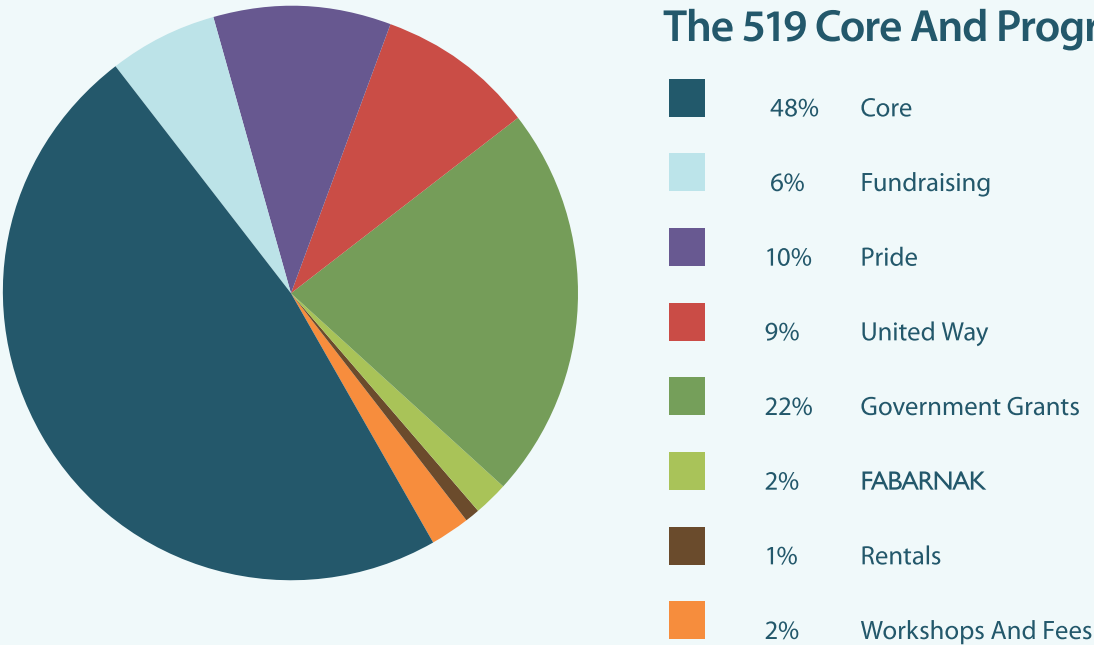
Patron’s Circle (\$10,000+))

Andrew and Valerie Pringle
BMO Bank of Montreal Financial Group
Cineplex Media
Estate of Dr. James Howard Goudie
Frank Toskan and Darren Zakreski
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
Joe Brennan and Daniel Greenglass
B. Kate Amesbury and M. Joan Chalmers CC OOnt
Labatt Breweries of Ontario
Rogers Communications
St. Joseph Communications
Scotiabank
TD Bank Group

Honorary Patron Salah Bachir



OUR FABULOUS DONORS



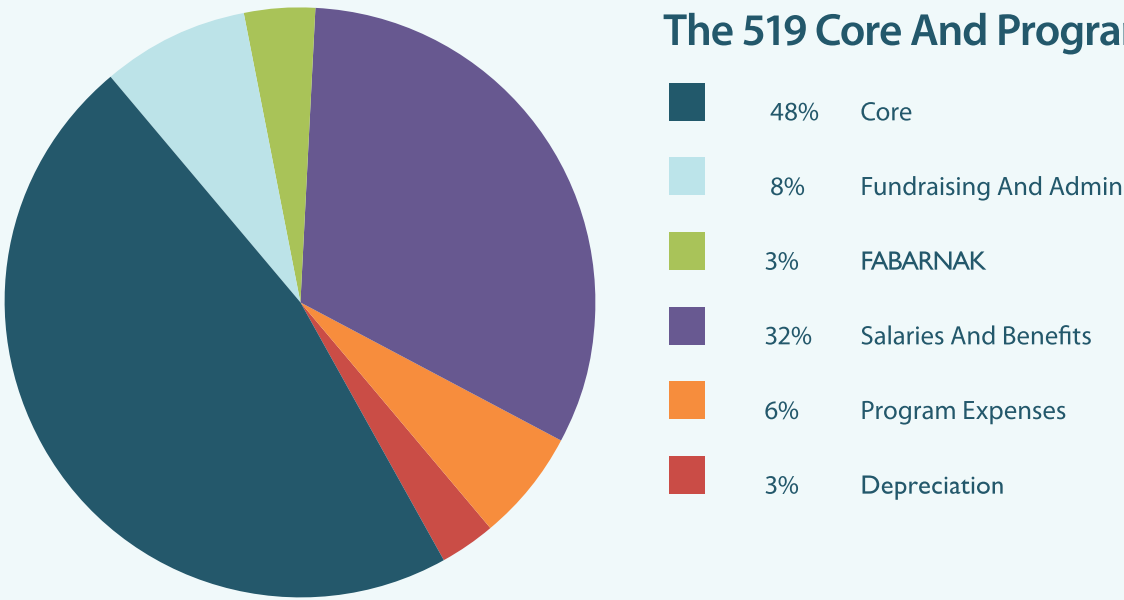
The City of Toronto helps to ensure our building is maintained and open to the public, and in 2011 our community and funding partners will match each dollar of that investment with \$1.79 in additional funding to provide programs and services for our communities.

Through this unique model, The 519 and its partners are able to leverage government, corporate and community resources which ensure our communities have access to affordable public space where they can meet, play, develop and cultivate as a community.

The community investment partnerships created through community centres like The 519 allow for multi-sectoral collaboration and investment in our neighbourhoods and vital community programming.

Statement Of Operations For The Periods Ending December 31

REVENUE	2010	2009
City Of Toronto – Core Funding	1,227,870	1,240,246
Government Grants	805,903	758,896
Fundraising And Donations	409,233	344,517
Membership, Rentals, And Other Income	127,544	55,752
TOTAL REVENUE	2,570,550	2,399,411
EXPENDITURE		
Core–Funded Salary And Benefits	1,002,803	957,001
Other Salary And Benefits	859,057	806,987
Program Materials, Supplies, Services	467,408	297,838
Materials, Supplies, Services	120,125	164,065
Building Occupancy Costs	117,827	119,180
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,567,220	2,345,071
(Deficiency) / Excess Of Revenue Over Expenditures	3,330	54,340
Program Asset Depreciation Expense	(74,745)	(37,527)
Audited (Deficiency) / Excess Of Revenue Over Expenditures	(71,415)	16,813



The 519 is a meeting place and focal point for the creative enhancement of a vibrant healthy downtown community. We respond creatively and passionately to the needs of the local neighbourhood and the broader LGBT communities by providing resources and opportunities to foster self-determination, civic engagement, and community enrichment through social recreation, volunteerism, arts and culture, and community participation.



your membership matters.

Over the past 35 years The 519 has journeyed together with our community to become what it is today – and our members have been by our side at each step in our journey. Now, more than ever, we need members like you to help ensure our success.

The 519's model of community partnership is uniquely valuable to our City. Our ability to deliver community-engaged programs through partnerships with volunteers, donors and corporations helps to ensure a vibrant, healthy community in Downtown Toronto.

By becoming a member you are making a statement – you're joining a community of people who have stood up to tell their community, their City and their friends that The 519 is an important part of our community – one that's worth investing in and being part of.

Become a member of The 519.
Make a donation online.
The519.org/my519

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