Our Mission

Yorktown Family Services uniquely combines a children’s mental health centre and a women’s shelter to strengthen and support children, youth, individuals and families to make positive change.

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The Year in Review: 2012/13

Achievement Through Collaborative Innovation

In looking back at the activity within our organization and the environment in which Yorktown Family Services provided care over the past year, we noted that collaborative innovations that create value were a consistently recurring theme. At first glance it seems that a large measure of serendipity should be added to the formula “Collaboration + Innovation = Achievement”. But then again, as Louis Pasteur once said, “Luck favours the prepared mind”. We have provided numerous examples in our annual report of prepared minds recognizing the right place, the right time and the right partners.

In November 2012 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced a plan for the transformation of the community-based child and youth mental health system. Moving On Mental Health – A System That Makes Sense for Children and Youth, endeavors to positively impact the overall experience and outcomes of children and youth with mental health issues and their families in all communities of Ontario.

Over the past year Yorktown Child and Family Centre worked cohesively and collaboratively with other sector leaders to both assist and inform this transformative process. The change process continues to unfold and brings with it an element of uncertainty that provides opportunity for innovation and achievement.

Collaboration is not new to Yorktown Child and Family Centre and Yorktown Shelter for Women. Examples of successful partnerships and innovative collaborations that we are highlighting include:

- Ashton’s Story; Yorktown’s Youth Outreach Workers incorporate the philosophy of innovative collaboration in their day to day initiatives to help youth achieve life changing breakthroughs.

- Yorktown Shelter for Women volunteers; collaboration and innovation are at the heart of a successful new enterprise.

- An innovative new pilot project; collaboration between the Children’s Aid Society and Violence Against Women to provide holistic care to children and mothers.

- what’s up walk-in; through innovative collaboration with community partners our city-wide walk-in counselling service has successfully responded to long wait lists for service.
The opportunity for groundbreaking achievement comes through collaborative innovation. “It can revolutionize not only the way we work, but how we live, learn, create and care for each other,” says Don Tapscott, one of our recipients of the 2012 Humanitarian Award for Community Service and one of the world’s leading authorities on innovation and technology.

We would like to thank all the individuals and organizations that have collaborated with Yorktown Family Services in 2012/13, and in the past, to achieve innovations that bring success to our clients and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Diane Brooks
President

Suzette Arruda-Santos
Executive Director

Don Tapscott and Ana P. Lopes, Recipients of the 2012 Yorktown Family Services Humanitarian Award for Community Service.
2012/13 at a Glance...

YORKTOWN CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

- 2864 individuals and 756 families received services.
- 55% of clients were living in single parent families.
- 65% of clients came from countries other than Canada.
- 55% of clients spoke a language other than English in their homes.
- 100% of clients receiving or participating in treatment achieved positive outcomes from their service at Yorktown.
- 1376 youth were contacted by Yorktown Youth Outreach Workers, 968 of those youth were referred to community resources for support.
- 3000 visits to Yorktown Youth Space since opening in November 2010.

YORKTOWN SHELTER FOR WOMEN

- 64 women and 59 children received shelter and services.
- 35% of residents remained in the shelter for less than 90 days.
- 39% of residents remained in the shelter for more than 7 months waiting for subsidized housing to become available.
- 77.5% of the residents spoke or identified themselves as speaking a language other than English.
- An additional 304 women and 90 children received support from Yorktown’s Women and Communities Against Violence (WACAV), Transitional Housing and Support, and the Here To Help Programs

YORKTOWN EVENTS

- Yorktown’s fundraising activities included two key events – The 13th Annual Yorktown Tribute Dinner in honor of Don Tapscott and Ana P. Lopes and the 2012 Silver Linings Event. These two events generated over $240,000 in revenues for Yorktown Family Services.
Ashton’s Story

This past summer was not a good summer for 26 year-old Ashton Ward. Everything seemed hopeless – like being trapped in a room with wall-to-wall doors, all of them locked. He had lost his job months ago and didn’t have a place to live.

“There weren’t job opportunities or even job fairs to go to”, says Ashton. He was living here-and-there, staying with friends, many of whom were in the same position he was.

Ashton found his way to Yorktown’s Youth Space at the Jane Street Hub through a friend he met at a shelter. His friend was participating in “Supporting Young Families”, a program for youth who are parents. He told Ashton that he had received valuable guidance that helped him tremendously. “He said the people at the Yorktown Youth Space were really cool and can connect young people to services. They’re great to talk to and give good suggestions that help with your problems.”

Ashton visited the Yorktown Youth Space and found that the more he connected with the staff, the more he got out of it. He began to go more often and got to know other young people who visited the Yorktown Youth Space. He found that building a rapport with the staff was quite easy. He was comfortable sharing his concerns about not having a job or a place to live.

“Many of my friends were in the same position as me. Some had given up. This guy from my old neighbourhood in Rexdale said ‘Hey, Ashton, it must be tough not working. I’m looking for someone to sell some stuff for me, are you in?’ There are times when you feel like you’ll fall off the rails onto the wrong side of the tracks and get stuck there.” Ashton recalls feeling really down and frustrated; he credits the Yorktown Youth Space staff for not letting him give up. “They reminded me to learn from other people’s mistakes; giving up and taking what seems to be an easy way out just leads to a pack of trouble”.

Robyn Howlett, the Team Lead for the Youth Outreach Workers (YOWs), Yorktown’s award winning team that helps connect young people to the support they require, put Ashton in touch with Yorktown’s partners at the Jane St. Hub. He used the computer and got help with his resume. She connected him to other resources; staffing agencies and job fairs. “Robyn’s encouragement meant so much to me; it means the world to me. Without Robyn and the other YOWs I know I would still be where I was, maybe even down and out….” Ashton says pensively.

Finally at the end of the summer Ashton found an excellent job opportunity. Having been out of work for a number of months what stood between him and this opportunity was simply a bus token to get to the interview. “Robyn invested in me. She gave me a token and when I got nervous about the interview she encouraged me. She really wanted to see me succeed.”

“Thanks to the YOWs at the Yorktown Youth Space, I got to the interview and I got the job. They told me not to give up when I needed to hear it the most. They helped me make a difference in my own life by hanging in there. They invested in me and made me realize that I should invest in myself. Because of them I was able to bring stability to my life. And now it is my time to shine.”

Ashton’s goal is to grow with the company that he is currently working for and a year from now to have his own place – and maybe a steady girlfriend. He would also like to be a role model for his friends; provide them with the kind of encouragement that he received from the Yorktown staff and help them find their time to shine as well.
A Friend of a Friend of a Friend:
The Power of Third Party Supporters

How many people does it take to provide hope for women and children beginning a new life? Well, let’s start with three women in particular and take it from there. The story of Judy Huyer, Tracy Martin and Jane MacFarlane is a unique example of harnessing creativity and talent to provide a personal touch and capitalize on six degrees of separation to channel philanthropic outcomes.

The three women met as a result of their talents which include painting, theatre production, stage management, and set dressing. Their goal was to find a way to use their collective talents and creativity to contribute in a hands-on way to under-resourced communities in north-west Toronto.

They learned from Fatima Valentim, the Director of Yorktown Shelter for Women, that there is a dire need for help for women and their children transitioning out of the Shelter into Community Housing. They often have very little with which to start new households and futures. Judy, Tracy and Jane put a plan in place to provide the much needed help and since January they have been involved in moving seven families to new homes.

They quickly identified that beds were the most needed item. “I called every mattress supplier I could find until I reached Sleep Inn Mattress; they provided me with the best rate for frames, box springs and mattresses. Once he heard my story, Avi, my contact, generously agreed to deliver them for free”, explains Judy.

Their first move was for a mother from Ethiopia and her three children. Jane met with her in advance to understand her needs; their standard practice prior to each move. They secured household necessities through numerous sources and provided beds – bedding and all. “The client had no expectations that she would have entire beds. When she saw them, she was jumping up and down. She cried when she saw that there were sheets provided as well. Jane sewed duvet covers, and curtains to match,” says Judy. Judy helped the client’s five year old son paint a picture using his little hands and feet to hang on the wall. His mother was overjoyed!

The three women have since found a connection to Pat Butler whose company, Handled with Care, helps seniors downsize their homes. “A woman that I curl with gave me her number after hearing what we were doing. I called Pat and we had a great chat and realized it was an excellent fit. Her clients have an easier time giving away their precious things when they hear they will be going to someone that will truly appreciate them,” says Judy.
Support, large and small, comes from numerous sources; these women leave no stone unturned in an effort to gain awareness and support for their enterprise. The generous members of St. George’s Golf and Country Club fundraised over $16,000 for their project! They have arranged for Innovative Rhythm Dance School to hold fundraising initiatives and drives for household items; they have received donations of toys, paint, and various household items through other contacts. “We are beginning to face a challenge in storing it all!” say Tracy, “Judy’s basement is now packed to the rafters!” she laughs.

“We see ourselves as matching those who are looking to give with those who are in need. And it’s environmentally friendly too! We are at the right time in our lives to be able to do this and are enjoying it immensely,” says Jane, “We are always looking out for opportunities through our friends and networks, and their friends and networks, as well.”

In the end we lost count of how many people it takes to bring hope to women and children beginning their new lives but the important thing is it started with a plan that evolved into a reality. And who knows? Perhaps a philanthropic legacy is born. Stay tuned....

“We draw on our talents and do what we enjoy to help those in need. It’s a very satisfying way to help provide hope for women and children beginning new lives.”

—TRACY MARTIN, JUDY HUYER, JANE MACFARLANE
Reducing Violence in the Community Through Holistic Care

In October 2012, the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) and the Violence Against Women (VAW) sector launched a pilot project with the goal to enhance the safety of women and children experiencing domestic violence by improving collaboration between the two sectors. For the first time, VAW Shelter Workers are housed out of the CAS Toronto (CAST) office and involved in client care from the beginning (point of intake) as part of the Children’s Aid’s Domestic Violence Team. The VAW Shelter Workers provide support to the mother enabling CAST Workers to focus their efforts on the child and the perpetrator of the abuse. CAST and VAW Shelter Workers who are participating in the pilot feel that this holistic approach is helping to reduce violence in the community.

Joint visits by CAST and VAW sends a positive message to the mother, helping to alleviate her fears that CAST’s primary goal is to confront her and take her children away from her. The VAW Shelter Worker continues support of the mother on an on-going and as-required basis, providing an essential in-depth level of service resulting in positive outcomes for the mother and her children.

The Final Evaluation Report of the Pilot Project (Nayar Consulting, May 2013) indicates that it is extremely successful! Funded by the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services it was initially scheduled to run from October 2012 to March 2013 but was extended to run until June of 2013. It has again been extended to run until March 2014. A strong positive foundation has been established by the Pilot Project and both VAW and CAS would like to see 1) VAW Workers housed permanently at child welfare offices and become involved beyond the intake stage, and 2) The collaborative model established at all child welfare agencies across Ontario.

Helping Clients Achieve Success Through a City-Wide Five Day a Week Walk-In

In the face of increased fiscal pressure, Children’s Mental Health Organizations are required to become more innovative in service delivery. In response, Yorktown Child and Family Centre (YCFC) formed a partnership last year with East Metro Youth Services and Oolagen to provide a city-wide five day a week walk-in service. Clients receive immediate service when they need it most through one of the three partner’s what’s up walk-ins. YCFC managed to eliminate the waiting list for service within the first 6 months of the launch of the five day a week walk-in. And now, one year later, YCFC has kept the wait-list to zero in the face of increasing demand!

The partnership between the three organizations has continued to gel and each has made the commitment to take the lead in different areas to ensure continued success. Yorktown has taken the lead in the on-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the collaboration, East Metro Youth Services provides the promotion and marketing and Oolagen has taken the lead with training. Through knowledge-share of each organization’s areas of expertise, the walk-in service has been expanded to provide service to a broader range of clients at each of the locations.
This successful innovative collaboration to provide increased quality service to under resourced high risk communities has caught the attention of a number of agencies throughout the city, including Hospital for Sick Children (HSC). HSC is Toronto's world-renowned health care institution known for excellence in education, research and provision of care for children and youth. Together with the three community partners, HSC is exploring opportunities to refine and enhance the transition of client care from the larger downtown hospital to the local community-based agencies, and vice versa. This initiative will result in a seamless continuum of care for clients.

**Yorktown Youth Space at the Hub**

Since opening its doors to the community in January 2011, Yorktown's Youth Space located at the Jane St. Hub, has been delivering programs and providing opportunities to address the needs of high risk, disadvantaged, vulnerable young people in the priority Weston Mount-Dennis neighbourhood. YCFC and the five anchoring partners of the Jane Street Hub provide a range of social services including health care, newcomer support, an employment resource centre, an early years centre and women's programming. The partners collaborate on community events such as Black History Month in February and the Annual Jane St. Hub BBQ. YCFC’s award winning Youth Outreach Workers, a community-based extremely responsive team of advocates, mentors, and brokers of information helped to connect almost 1000 marginalized and disengaged youth to the Yorktown Youth Space, the Jane St. Hub and numerous other community resources in 2012/13.
Early Years Drop-in at Toronto Public Library
Dufferin/St. Clair Branch

The Early Years Drop-in Program for children ages 0 – 6 had become a staple and high-demand program in the Dufferin St. and St. Clair Ave. area, the former home to YCFC for over 10 years. When the Centre was relocated to new space at Eglinton and Dufferin a win/win partnership was struck with the local library to run the program on Wednesday mornings. “Dufferin/St. Clair Branch has found our partnership with Yorktown to be mutually beneficial: bringing the library closer to our community and our community closer to us. There has been a significant increase in the use of our KidsStop by families and more activity in the Children’s Room during the Drop-in and throughout the week. Community participants frequently and enthusiastically express their appreciation for the Yorktown Drop-in and especially for the library storytime presented by staff as an integral part of the program”, says Caroline Invaldsen, Branch Head of the Dufferin/St. Clair Branch Toronto Public Library.

Children’s Mental Health Week: Strength in Partnerships

Children’s Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) runs Children’s Mental Health week during the first week of May every year. Yorktown Child and Family Centre (YCFC) staff took the opportunity to bring awareness to children’s mental health issues by partnering with the school board and visiting 13 schools as mental health ambassadors. The innovative team created a paper mâché tree, “The Tree of Strength” and provided paper leaves for students to write their messages on. Each leaf was hung on the tree that was placed in the foyer of Hudson College School displaying hundreds of messages of hope and inspiration.
Carrie Donnet: Connecting the Dots to Achieve the Big Picture

Many people become volunteers to discover things about themselves; where their talents lie and how they can bring benefit to their charity of choice. This was not the case for Carrie Donnet. When she joined the Boards of Yorktown Family Services’ (YFS) two charities, Yorktown Child and Family Centre and Yorktown Shelter for Women, she knew very well what she would bring to the table: Her network.

Certainly, Carrie has evolved as a board member over the past four years, this year stepping up to take on the role of Vice-President for both of Yorktown’s boards. But as a self-described ‘take charge person’, Carrie knew from the beginning how to make the most of her talents to help Yorktown’s charities bring positive change to under-resourced communities in north-west Toronto.

Involved in volunteering to various degrees for many years, Carrie was introduced to Yorktown through a friend of a friend. While she had a successful career and a happy family, she felt that something was missing and that she could invest more to help those in need. Yorktown’s focus on supporting at-risk women, children, youth and their families resonated with Carrie, having witnessed first hand the good that can come from the services the two charities offer. “I suffered from an eating disorder as a teenager as well as postpartum depression later on,” says Carrie. “I was very lucky to have resources and a support system to ensure that I got through it all. I cannot imagine what it would have been like to go through it on my own.” Carrie knew she wanted to be a part of an organization dedicated to bringing the chance at a happy future to individuals who otherwise have nowhere to turn.

“One of the things that I consider critically important for any volunteer is to always be prepared to recognize opportunities to connect the charity to individuals, corporations and organizations that can help them achieve their mission.”

Those who have had the pleasure of working with Carrie as a volunteer for Yorktown describe her as “fearless, resourceful, passionate, the quintessential people person and an outstanding connector”; all this, to the benefit of YFS and the clients we serve.

Carrie has been instrumental in connecting YFS to resources that have helped with printing and design work. “Saving these costs means funds can be allocated to other important things. I work in the advertising business and think about who I know in my work-world that can provide services and resources.” Carrie was also instrumental in putting YFS on the radar of Don Tapscott and Ana Lopes, the very deserving recipients of the Yorktown Humanitarian Award for Community Service in May of 2012. The Tribute Dinner honouring Don and Ana is one of Yorktown’s most successful fundraisers to date!

“I capitalize on the strength of my network; who I know and who they know. I am also not afraid to ask. This can go a long way in broadening support and I am very happy to connect the dots between all of these people to bring awareness, resources, and donations to the charities that I love. I truly believe that it is far better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all.” Luckily for the Yorktown community, Carrie keeps trying and far more often than not, succeeding!
# Financial Statement Summary

Statement of Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2013

## YORKTOWN CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

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**EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR**

**$29,324**  **$13,950**

## YORKTOWN SHELTER FOR WOMEN

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**EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR**

**$10,185**  **$19,148**

*See Audited Financial Statements dated June 11, 2013 (Available upon request)*
Thank You!

Yorktown is very grateful for the significant contributions provided by our funding partners and the generous donations from government, businesses, corporations, foundations, community organizations, individuals, families, staff. On behalf of the children, youth, women and families we serve, we thank all of those generous individuals and organizations for their support during the period from April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013.

Funding Partners
- City of Toronto
- Ministry of Health Promotion
- The Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- United Way Peel
- United Way Toronto

Community and Foundation Donors and Partners
- Bennett Family Foundation • Caledon Commonwealth • CAW Social Justice • Canadian Union
- Canadian Women’s Foundation • Catholic Children’s Aid Society
- Catholic Family Services of Toronto • Central Toronto Youth Services • Central United Church
- Central United Weston Outreach • Children’s Aid Society • CHUM Charitable Foundation
- CUPE Local 416 • CUPE Local 3878 • Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
- East Metro Youth Services • Etobicoke Children’s Centre • Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter
- Friends in High Places • Gerrard Scheff and Shantitha Kachan Charitable Foundation
- Harbord Collegiate • Hedge Funds Care Canada • Humbercrest United Church Women
- Humbercrest Quilters Group • JP Bickell Foundation • Lanark Community Health Services
- Macaulay Child Development Centre • Ministry of the Attorney General • Norman Black Foundation
- Oolagen • The Etobicoke Children [ECC] • The George Hull Centre • The Haynes Connell Foundation
- TR Meighen Family Foundation • Toronto Transit Commission
- Unison Health and Community Services • United Steelworkers of America Women’s Committee
- Universal Workers Union, Local 183 • Urban Arts • Westmount Army and Navy Club
- Yorktown Family Services Staff • Youthlink

Business and Corporate Donors
- BMO Financial Group • Bridgewater Insurance and Wealth Management
- Canadian Social Justice/Bombardier • CANTECH Associates Ltd.
- Diamond Estates Wines and Spirits Ltd • Direct Computer Supplies • Graham Scott Strategies
- Interlink Consulting Services • Iron Mountain Shredding Company • JC Clark Ltd.
- JP Morgan Chase & Company • KPMG LLP • Lifford Wine Agency • Manulife Financial
- Price Waterhouse Coopers • Quaternion • RBC Financial Group • Saralex Group • Scotiabank
- Shields O’Donnell Mackillop LLP • Stepp Three Holdings • Tapscott Group
- TD Bank Financial Group • TD Securities Underwriting Hope Fund
- Toronto West Quadrant Preschool Speech and Language • Weston+
Thank You!

**Individual Donors**
- Darren Ablett  •  Dr. Ciro Adamo  •  Marni Anglin  •  Ajantha Anandakumar  •  Ruth Armstrong
- Marlene Armstrong-Keith  •  Suzette Aruña-Santos  •  Ronald Atkey  •  Desta Ayenew  •  Nancy Barkin
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- Liane Greenberg  •  Charles and Bertha Gregory  •  Melanie Guilote  •  Nicholas Hames
- Richard and Nancy Hamm  •  Ann Hannah  •  Marion Hart  •  Heather Hartt  •  Gwen Harvey
- Andrea Holmes  •  John Honderich  •  Robert and Sandi Horwitz
- Elizabeth Howson and Gregory Marlatt  •  Mark Hundert  •  Norma Hundert  •  John Hunkin
- Susan Hunter  •  Paul Huyer  •  Richard and Donna Ivey  •  Ann Jackson  •  Donald K. Johnson
- Juhaina Kabir  •  Lisa Kahn  •  Charles and Nancy Kennedy  •  David and Sheryl Kerr  •  Jennifer Kirner
- Jennifer Knox  •  Lisa Kueter  •  Ronald Lalonde  •  Paul and Mary Lou Little  •  Lynne Lucas
- Stephen Lurie  •  John Lynch  •  Donald MacLean  •  Claudia Martinez  •  Vince Mazza
- Margaret Norrie McCain  •  Michael McCain  •  Cheryl & Rob McEwen  •  John and Nancy McFadyen
- Virginia McLaughlin  •  Roy and Ria Jean McMurtry  •  Bill and Brenda McNeil
- Kelly and Michael Meighen  •  Eduardo Meija  •  Roslyn Mendelson  •  Joe Mihevic  •  Sonia Millar
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