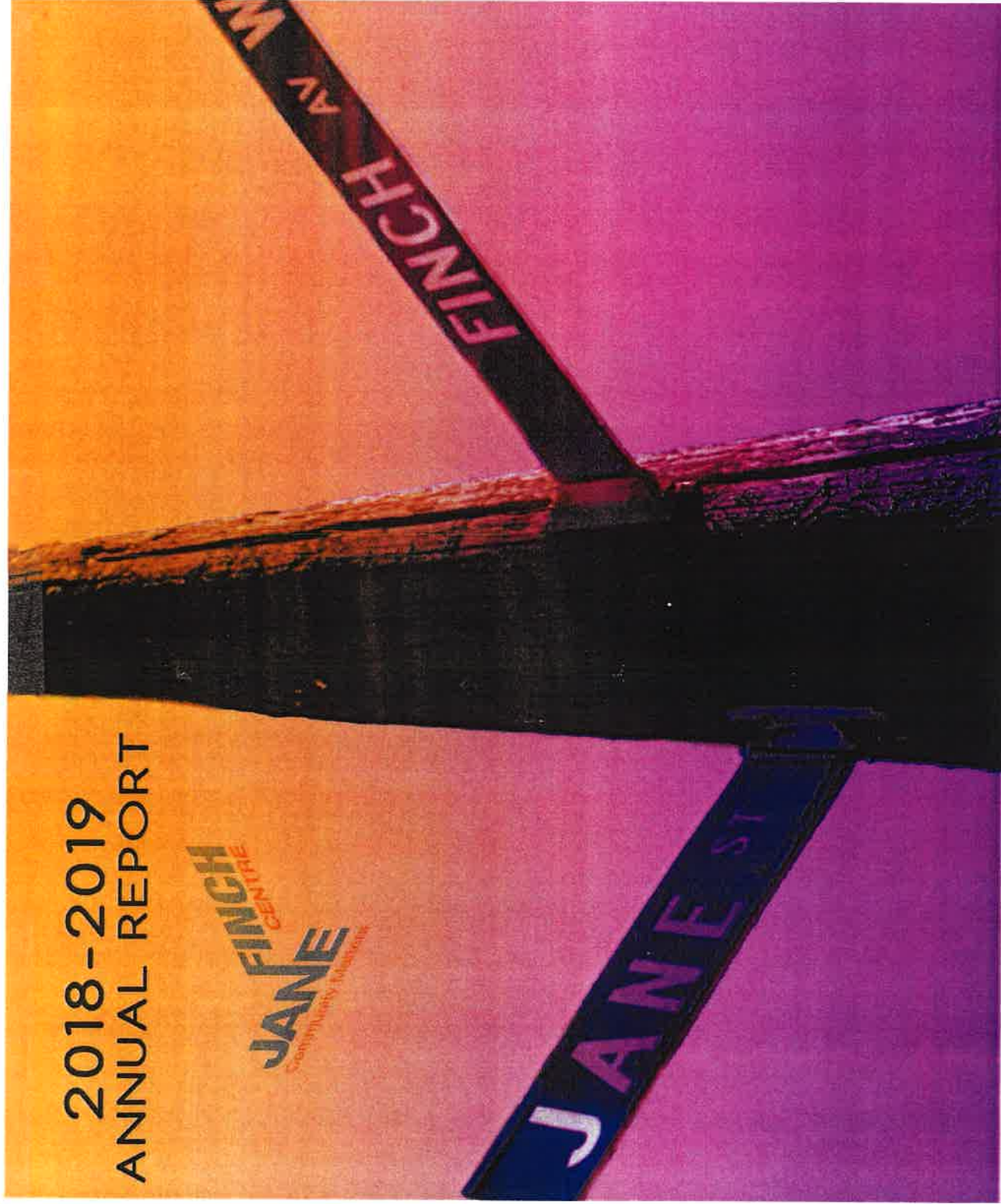


2018-2019
ANNUAL REPORT



Executive Director's Report



Michelle Dagnino

Our annual report is an opportunity to reflect on all of the Jane/Finch Centre's accomplishments in a year, and by extension the accomplishments of the neighbourhoods and community we are so privileged to serve. Our work, across all program areas, across all sites, and committed to by all our staff, is driven by a community development process. We believe that any gains in the social, environmental and economic lives of our residents will only come from collective actions. We believe that the solutions we need to the pressing problems of our neighbourhoods - income inequality, racism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, Reconciliation, worker exploitation, discrimination, lack of access and opportunities for young people - will come from our collective neighbourhood and capacity building efforts.

We are proud of the work happening in all of our programs to grow community strengths in order to address issues, find opportunities, and work towards common ground. Our staff, Board, volunteers, and most importantly, all our program participants and neighbourhood leaders, look forward to continuing to be role models of resilience, creativity, potential, and good neighbours, across the city.



Board Chair's Report

When I was a youngster I believed that society was riding along to a brighter future. There were always bumps in the road, but for the most part, things would continue to improve as we rolled along.

As I got older and somewhat more knowledgeable, I realized that the road had more bumps and was more crooked than I could have imagined.

Yet the road to a brighter future has never been a sprint. It's a marathon with the finish line far off in the distance. We don't make the journey for ourselves, but for those who follow. We need to strive for victories where we can get them, win over others to our ideas of a better world, and convince them by our actions.

This is why we should celebrate the Centre. Our community needs an organization that has withstood the difficult times faced by nonprofits, and continues to expand and refine its services. Speaking on behalf of the Board, we are honoured to have a role here. Thanks to everyone for their continued support.



Angelo Furlan



OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Our Mission

Jane/Finch Centre is a community based organization driven by passion, innovation and a strong commitment to social justice, community engagement and collaboration.

Our Vision

Our vision is a healthy Jane Finch community strong, inclusive, socially and politically active through diversity, opportunity and participation.

Community Development

Our Community Development team helps enhance the capacity of residents, grassroots groups, and organizations to advocate for, and collectively work towards social justice and systems change.

Green Change

Our team works with local residents, organizations, and agencies to build, grow, and sustain just neighbourhoods. We combine urban planning, participatory design, and community development to help develop place-based solutions that directly address local assets, needs, and priorities.

The Spot

The Spot is a satellite of the Jane/Finch Centre that serves youth 13-29 years of age. Our youth programs are committed to increasing and building on the assets of youth through, leadership and engagement activities that will allow youth to optimize their personal, social, and vocational competency in order to achieve their full potential, ultimately reducing the effects of poverty.

Settlement

The North/West Settlement Integration Services (SIS) provides information and support to help newcomers develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in society individually and as community members. Through one-to-one services and group activities, clients receive the necessary resources, information, and referrals to make informed decisions about their settlement in Canada.

GLOW - Giving Leaders Opportunity for Wonder

The GLOW program is an after school program that serves children ages 6-12 and encompass a broad range of focus areas including academic support, mentoring, youth development, arts, and sports and recreation.

EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Offers a wide range of free programming for families with children birth to 6 years old. We support healthy growth and improvement through early child development and parenting programs. Learn and play with your child, meet community members and get advice from early childhood professionals.

Community Mental Health

Community Mental Health also known as Getting In Touch is a social recreational program for individuals experiencing mental health issues. The program offers enjoyable activities to improve the participant's level of community engagement, physical activity and mental health.

Financial Empowerment and Problem Solving (FEPS)

This program provides guidance and support for residents experiencing financial difficulties. We look to elevate the financial literacy of the community while also helping residents with a range of issues, such as income tax, debt and savings, accessing benefits and avoiding fraud.

Seniors Program

The seniors program promotes ongoing involvement of seniors to actively engage in the community to reduce social isolation and marginalization.

Community Resource Centre

The Community Resource Centre works closely with the community as partners in their own development. We offer many services such as information on community resources, assistance with filling out forms and one on one computer basic computer orientation. We also offer photocopying, printing and faxing for a small fee.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY



Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to meet many residents who utilize our programs and are in need. We also have the opportunity to meet many people and companies who are looking for volunteer opportunities in the communities we serve. Our Adopt-A-Family program provides an opportunity for us to match our residents with volunteers who are able to donate gift cards, new toys and their time to families at Christmas.

Through donated gift cards, families can shop for gifts or buy ingredients to make a wonderful Christmas dinner. Donors can also buy gifts from a family's wish list or wrap presents. This program is a great way to reach people in need and is a good way to contribute at a time of year when people tend to feel isolated.

DECEMBER 2019

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22	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day	27	28	
29	30	31					

YOUTH



Our youth programs are designed to help youth explore and tap into their potential. Along the way, youth learn skills, share ideas, gain mentors, discover opportunities and have plenty of fun. This year we offered a variety of programming for young women, employment seekers, and youth interested in life skills training.

We also provided opportunities for youth to leave their community and try things that they might not normally have access to. We understand that these types of activities are a gateway to seeing and reaching for new opportunities. Bring them down to one of our youth activities—they'll have a blast and discover who they are at the same time. It's social networking on real time. Visit us on Instagram from

@TheSpotYouthCentre

FEBRUARY 2020

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16	17 Family Day	18	19	20	21	22
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



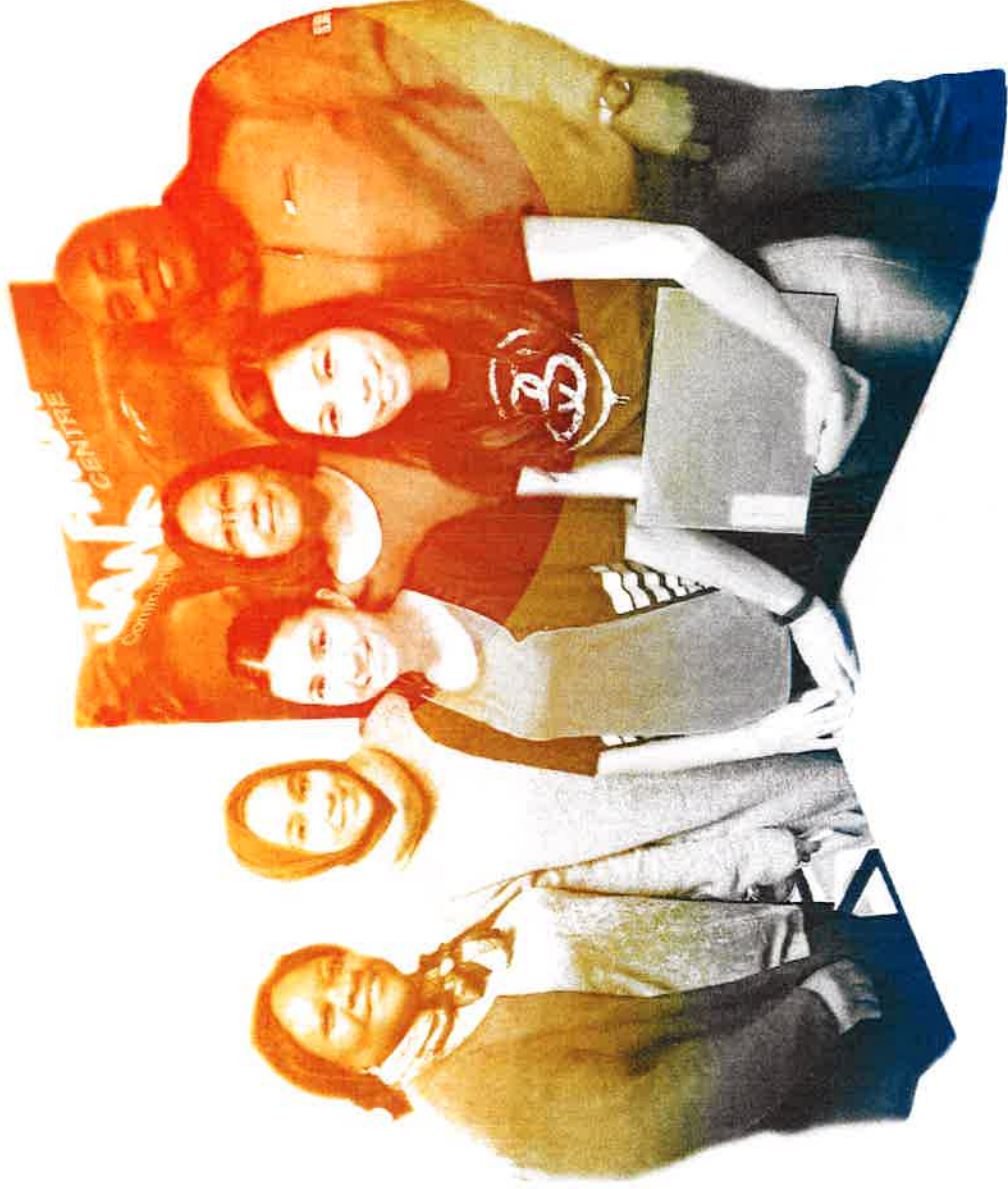
The elections were a major focus of our work. We produced educational materials on the roles and responsibilities of government and conducted outreach, workshops and Town Halls on key election issues in the neighbourhood. These events facilitated meaningful opportunities for hundreds of residents to share and exchange their concerns.

This past year, we also worked closely with resident groups on issues such as the City of Toronto's annual budget, transit-related issues like targeted fare inspections, changes to the Employment Standards Act, as well as the continued racism and stigmatization of the neighbourhood. Overall, our civic engagement activities highlighted many crucial issues in the neighbourhood and demonstrated a strong willingness among community members to get more involved in political processes.

MARCH 2020

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE



As part of our work to build capacity within our community we provide opportunities for students to learn and gain administrative skills in a social service setting. Our staff provides orientation, direct supervision and guidance to students, as well as experiential learning opportunities that benefit students, clients and our community.

We also recognize the importance of equipping residents with resources to fully participate in the digital economy. This year we partnered with Renewed Computer Technologies to offer affordable computers to low income residents; and we have begun offering one-on-one basic computer training for individuals with little or no experience using computers. Through our work residents are becoming better able to stay connected with family and community, and gain access to services and information online.

APRIL 2020

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COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH



MAY 2020

Our Community Mental Health teams provide social, recreational and educational programs for individuals who are experiencing or have experienced mental health issues. This year we introduced them to a variety of new outdoor adventures, as well as opportunities to engage in fitness activities.

In response to community articulated needs, we initiated our first Getting in Touch drop in program in a local mall, in partnership with Black Creek Community Health Centre. We believe that finding others to engage with is an essential element of health and wellness. We create these spaces for adults of varying needs and are committed to the inclusion of individuals with various disabilities. Our programming offers a place where people can feel connected to each other and the community around them.

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17	18 Victoria Day	19	20	21	22	23
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SENIORS



A core of the Unity and Diversity: Aging at Home Seniors Program is that seniors need a place to interact with people who can be a source of encouragement and support. We know that isolation and loneliness can have serious consequences for a person's mind and body at any age. Through our programs we introduce participants to new people and potential friendships.

This year, we also held a Seniors Health and Wellness Fair and invited a group of health teams to meet our members. Seniors were encouraged to take charge of their lives and learn about community programs. When seniors are able to access information and learn about opportunities available to them, they are able to make choices that improve their health and help them stay active and informed.

JUNE 2020

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GLOW



GLOW (Giving Leaders Opportunities for Wonder) expanded its after school program from one to two days per week, thanks to the generous donations of TD Canada Trust and RBC Foundation. More than 60 children, 6 to 12 years old, participated in high-quality and inclusive activities that promote fun through learning and adventure.

We were pleased to offer our first GLOW Summer Camp which ran out of Westview Centennial Secondary School. The curriculum was varied, but allowed time for exploration and discovery. The children were able to visit various parts of the city and have some instructional time indoors over the weeks of camp. We anticipate more years of fun, learning and engagement for families and children in the GTA.

JULY 2020

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

Our FEPS (Financial Empowerment & Problem-solving) team supports low-income residents with information and resources so they gain increased understanding and control of their finances, and access benefits that can boost their incomes. Through workshops and personalized one-to-one services, we assist people to identify solutions to financial challenges and make informed decisions around their circumstances.

In addition to providing free tax return filing, addressing debt challenges and promoting awareness to avoid scams, we also participated in advocacy efforts around banking and conducted research into the needs of people who have been incarcerated. This year, with help from close to two dozen volunteers, we served over 2000 residents in our 2019 tax clinic, securing close to \$11.4 million in returns for people in the community.

AUGUST 2020

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	Civic Holiday						
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EARLYON CENTRE



This year has had many wonderful highlights and successes! The multiple EarlyON special events and initiatives have united families and the community. Our Back-to-School Event and holiday celebrations provided families with much needed supplies and an opportunity to engage in a communal meal and conversations with other parents and caregivers.

We were happy this year to be able to partner with organizations like the Jane/Finch Mall, Pivotal Autism Community Services and Ojibiikoon Indigenous Cultural Network. Working with community partners is another way that we are able to actively engage children and their caregivers with new opportunities. These events bring them all together to gain important information and resources that will benefit their families. The EarlyON looks forward to welcoming you here.

SEPTEMBER 2020

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ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Participants play an active role in ensuring that programs and activities are successful and responsive to their needs. They provide input into programming and help to shape program policies, services and initiatives. Our community members have pushed forward to help identify the priority and build a plan for the Our Strong Neighbourhoods initiative.

From their advice we were able to offer several program enhancements, such as the launch of a new food bank and a shift in programming to provide a variety of cultural food offerings. We also offered skills building initiatives such as food handlers and First Aid training and supported the resident identified priority of working on education gaps to build economic opportunities for the community. Our partnerships with people who use our services are one of our greatest assets.

OCTOBER 2020

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SETTLEMENT



Our community is a place where many nationalities and cultures meet precisely because it is where so many newcomers choose to establish their roots in the country. Our staff have been providing supports and programming to newcomers to help them in their transition and adaptation into the community. We share information on what they have rights to and can access, while also organizing spaces for socializing, learning the language and adjusting to life in Canada.

From sports to outings for youth and their families, to math tutoring and language circles, to citizenship classes and individual support, we provide a range of services. This year we served over 1000 newcomers, and we look forward to continue serving people who call Jane and Finch home.

NOVEMBER 2020

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COMMUNITY



Photo Credit: Errol Young

DECEMBER 2020

The Jane and Finch community is one of the best known neighbourhoods in the country. At the same time, it is probably the most stigmatized. To anyone who knows the community, it is a vibrant place, teeming with life and activity. While there are undeniable challenges that the community faces - including the lowest equity statistics of any neighbourhood in the city - it is still a place where residents come together to build on the positive and tackle challenges head on.

As residents and groups continue to work to address issues like poverty and unemployment, new problems and opportunities like the major transit investments in the area are beginning to impact the community. There is no doubt that the people of Jane and Finch will come together to have a say in what happens in the neighbourhood, and look to

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Christmas Boxing Day

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Seniors

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Community Development**

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Phone: (416) 663-2733 ext. 235

LOCATIONS

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