

2019 Annual Report



Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry

2019 Annual Report

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019

2019 Annual Report

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Stonegate Ministry

Vision

Working together to build a stronger, kinder and more just community

Mission

Stonegate Ministry is an alliance of local Christian churches working in partnership with the community through shared resources, offering programs and opportunities to build healthy relationships, strong families, a sense of belonging and a deeper relationship with God. We endeavour to address the needs of the whole person and families to bridge toward a better life and to be a faithful voice to ensure everyone in the community is treated with justice and Christian compassion.

Core Values

Stonegate Ministry is committed to:

The wellbeing of the individual: We will endeavor at all times to treat each person with kindness and respect while giving special attention to those who find themselves marginalized. To the best of our ability we will provide aid to ensure the basics to those in need: safety, food, shelter, economic, social, spiritual and emotional while engaging in skill-building in order to develop people.

Building healthy community: We will actively work to reduce isolation and loneliness and provide opportunities to build healthy relationships.

Christian witness: We will endeavor at all times to be a visible and articulate Christian witness to those around us.

Stewardship: We are committed to effective use of our resources at every level of the organization while striving for excellence. We consider the resources we are given to be God's gifts of time, money and talent.

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Report of the Chair

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our volunteers, donors and partner churches who support us as we do God's work in the Lake Shore and Stonegate communities. Together, we fed, clothed and prayed for the residents of these communities to let them know that we are with them as they journey through life; something we have done for 27 years.

Stonegate Ministry is an ecumenical ministry that partners with six local churches: All Saints Kingsway Anglican, Christ Church St. James Anglican, Kingsway Baptist, Kingsway-Lambton United, Mimico Baptist and Royal York Road United. The Stonegate Community is populated by a high proportion of new immigrant families who live in a neighbourhood consisting of 70 low-rise apartment buildings in the Berry Road/Park Lawn Road area. It is a lovely well cared for community, but the residents have limited incomes. In the case of the Lake Shore community, apart from poverty, there is a high number of singles, seniors and people with disabilities. The needs are actually greater here than in Stonegate.

The highlight of the year was welcoming Samantha Coelho, our new Ministry Program Director on October 1, 2019. Throughout 2019, Stonegate Ministry has continued to run programs to help these residents. Please refer to the program section of this report for further details.

Our thrift store, Great Finds located at 2358 Lake Shore Blvd. W. sells gently used clothing and household items. The store also acts as a drop-in centre for residents of the community. It is a place where people can share their joys and sorrows. There is always a supportive person around.

We partner with Christ Church St. James to operate a food bank that is a lifeline for a number of singles and families in these communities. One of the programs offered was the Victoria Day Summer Sizzler celebration for our two communities. There were games, music, activities and yes, an array of tasty treats. Thanks to our partner Christ Church St. James for being part of this celebration.

We held our sixth fundraising dinner on November 2, 2019 raising \$13,639 after expenses. As has been the case in the past, our Ministry had the broad financial support of the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada, our partner churches and 94 generous donors. Despite being successful at raising these funds, as you will see from our Treasurer's Report, we had a difficult year financially. Fortunately, we had reserves from previous years to draw on. Finally, the Board would like to thank Helen Skippon and Nancye Farkas for their contributions to the board. Their wise counsel and support will be missed.

Note: As of the writing of this report the world has become ensnared by the COVID-19 virus. Not only has it interrupted commerce and much human interaction, it has disproportionately hurt the disadvantaged in our communities. Please note that in accordance with our mission statement, Stonegate Ministry has stepped forward to support our most vulnerable. We will be reporting on these activities in our quarterly Newsletters.

Horace Knight,
Chair

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Treasurer's Report

Financially, the Ministry had a difficult year in 2019. It suffered a loss of \$26,000 versus a surplus of \$3,000 in 2018. The loss is mostly due to large increases in staff costs- 1) the Ministry had a Program Director for all of 2019 versus only part of 2018, 2) extra salary costs incurred in 2019, 3) vacation and replacement costs due to sick leave at the store.

While staff costs were up, donations remained flat in 2019 when compared to 2018.

The Ministry sees another difficult year ahead since the pandemic has closed the store and affected program delivery. It aims to take full advantage of all the programs the various levels of government have offered to assist charities and non-profits. *In order to continue to provide essential services that are so necessary right now during the pandemic, such as the food bank, materials for use by children at home, online care for the isolated, etc.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our store staff and volunteers for a fantastic job in 2019. Thank you to our partner churches and individual donors for the support they bring so that the Ministry can do God's work in Stonegate and Mimico. Finally, I ask for your prayers for the Ministry during these difficult times.

Peace and health,

Pete Pynenburg,
Treasurer

Human Resources Report

There were three noteworthy HR events that occurred during 2019:

- We said goodbye to Emily Slotegraaf after she had served as Director of Ministry Program for 4 years.
- We welcomed Samantha Coelho as our new Ministry Program Director. Samantha is a graduate of the University of Waterloo's Master of Theological Studies Program. Prior to joining the Ministry Samantha was the Program Assistant at Regeneration Outreach Community, a community hub for the homeless.
- Iryna Skoropadsky became the part-time Assistant Store Manager at Great Finds.

The HR Committee would like to thank the staff for helping to make 2019 a very productive year.

Horace Knight,
Chair, HR Committee

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Ministry Program Report

Having joined the ministry in early October, I had worked only three months in 2019. During this time I was focused on learning and observing, while maintaining the current programs. It was a wonderful experience to meet and get to know the ministry's many dedicated volunteers and supporters. I feel privileged to work alongside such a caring team who taught me many new things about our community and its members.

The programs run in 2019 were the following:

Circle of Friends and Ladies Circle by the Lake: Our two women's community groups continue to flourish. The groups meet weekly, and begin with lunch and move on to activities and workshops ranging from salsa dance classes to having guest speakers on safety and local art. Our Circle of Friends group had a couple of new additions, and we reached our maximum capacity at 25 women. Our Ladies Circle group is gradually growing, with a size of 8-10 women, as we are seeing more newcomers to Canada demonstrate interest in the group. Beautiful friendships have been formed and the women continue to support and encourage one another.

God, Coffee, and Me: Bruce Smith facilitates this bible study each Tuesday at Nimmans Thai Restaurant, with a group of about 8-10 people. The participants gather faithfully each week to learn, to ask questions, and to pray together around scripture. We have a beautiful little community of people who are seeking to know God better, together, and it brings all of us much joy. The restaurant is a quiet and safe space whose friendly staff and great coffee made it very easy for us to gather together to share and to study the Gospel of John.

English Conversation Class: Jean Zajac, a professional English teacher, ran English conversation classes at Stonegate Health Centre from January to June. She saw an average of 6-8 students each week and was supported by the previous Program Director and four other volunteers.

Toolboxes (Anxiety Toolbox, Depression Toolbox, Emotionally Healthy Toolbox):

These groups, led by the previous Program Director, were psychotherapy groups aimed at providing participants with the tools to manage anxiety and depression. The groups taught a 'tool' approach with the intent that participants can use different tools for different situations. Topics covered include Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, behaviour experiments, self-esteem, belief system, and emotional expression.

Fresh Start: This program was developed by Christians Against Poverty (CAP). The goal behind Fresh Start is to "help people break free from life controlling habits like drinking, smoking, gambling, or internet addictions. The release groups provide a place of trust and security, where people are offered emotional and practical support."¹ Explored by the previous Program Director, this program follows some of the same principles of "Twelve Steps" with Christian integration. The addiction cycle, dealing

¹ <https://capuk.org/get-involved/your-church/partner-with-cap/cap-release-groups>

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with emotions, and the process of setting realistic goals were taught in an encouraging, supportive, and non-judgemental setting.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our community partners who shared their time, resources, and space with our ministry, especially Christ Church St. James, Martin Luther Church, and Stonegate Community Health Centre. Thank you to our incredible program facilitators who spend countless hours serving our community and loving our neighbors. Stonegate Ministry is grateful for all its supporting partners who make this ministry possible, and we look forward to strengthening our community in 2020.

Samantha Coelho,
Director of Ministry Programs

Great Finds Report

2019 was the year that marked Great Finds Thrift Store's 5th year anniversary. Since opening in December of 2014, the Lakeshore/Mimico community has opened its arms in welcoming Great Finds as its regular store for quality and affordable clothing and housewares. In 2019, Great Finds had served nearly 12,000 transactions for a total of \$94,330.00 in sales. This number does not include the number of customers that come in just to browse and chat with volunteers and other customers.

Great Finds has been blessed to have a supportive donation base from the community, volunteers, partner churches and organizations. In addition to operating as a thrift store, Great Finds also gives back to the community. In 2019, the store provided a total of almost \$12,000 value of goods to the homeless and the families in need that are on our Benevolent program. Part of these goods also went to other organizations such as shelters, social services and recyclers.

With almost 30 volunteers, ranging from students to seniors, volunteering over 4,400 hours in 2019, Great Finds has become more than just a thrift store. Not only has it become a meeting place for friends and family to get together to shop, it has also grown to become a place for those seeking comfort, refuge, solace and acceptance.

Volunteers and staff of Great Finds see people who have experienced isolation and rejection. Those who come in feeling sad and alone when they have suffered a loss or a tragedy in their family are comforted. Each of these times, volunteers and staff take the time to sit with them at the store's community corner or speak with them in a quiet section of the store.

Great Finds has become part of the family in the neighbourhood. Volunteers and staff have become like mothers and fathers to those who need sheltering and guidance; sisters for those who need to share their issues with, and brothers for those who need to hang out and joke around with. But most of all they have become friends for those who want to share their laughter and joy with.

Though Great Finds is a little thrift store, the people that work within it have made a big difference to many lives in the community beyond the obvious ministry of providing much needed clothing and

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housewares. The volunteers and staff make efforts to provide a caring environment that surrounds Great Finds, and are always humbled to see how God works in the lives of the people that are served.

Jeannie Martinez,
Great Finds Store Manager & CCSJ Food Bank Co-Director

'Prayer for You' Program Report

The "Prayer for You" Ministry has been meeting to pray for almost ten years. The following women (from different ecumenical churches) have been a part of the ministry since its beginning:

Coordinator: Phyllis Ortiz

Members: Carol-Anne Foty, Eleanor Cawthorne, Helen Skippon, Nancy Webb, Juliet Davy, Cathie Cade, Shirley Ingram

The purpose of the group has always been to meet and pray for Stonegate Ministry, focusing on individuals and our partner churches' prayer requests.

The program originally took place at Great Finds, the Ministry's thrift store, where we met with clients and customers. In 2019 we needed to find a larger space near the store for our growing prayer ministry.

After an exhaustive search, we decided in early 2019 to focus our ministry at the Stonegate/CCSJ Food Bank. Since then the team has gone, when able, to pray for clients who want prayer, and we have also continued meeting once a month to pray together and discuss the Stonegate programs. It has been encouraging and heart-warming to see clients at the Food Bank who are so eager to receive prayer. Often, they offer words of gratitude for the interest and concern shown to them. Also, we pray for the Stonegate Ministry by daily emails that specifically mention the prayer needs. In May 2019, the Prayer Team met for a Retreat to pray, plan, study God's Word and enjoy fellowship. When we re-convened in September 2019, we rejoiced as we awaited and prayed for the arrival of the new Stonegate Program Director, Samantha Coelho.

The "Prayer for You" Stonegate Ministry team would readily welcome any member of our partner churches who senses a calling to volunteer with us in this prayer ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Prayer for You Team Coordinator,
Phyllis Ortiz

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Facilities Report

Our facilities did not have any major changes done to its structure this year. Our lift was not operational for a period of time due to the cable developing some structural weaknesses. It was decided rather than replace some of the damaged areas it would be safer to replace the whole cable. A plan to refigure the office (kitchen area) by moving the radiator closer to the wall was put on hold until the landlord gives the final word to go ahead. The stairs going downstairs to the basement were recovered because they were starting to split apart. It is a very high traffic area.

Jeannie Martinez , our store manager, is constantly thinking of ways to fully utilize what space we have we have to maximize sales. Every inch of wall space is used for display. A chain was installed to run across the front window so that clothing could be hung and seen quite readily from the street. A sandwich board was purchased to be put on the sidewalk in front of the store. On it daily and weekly specials were displayed.

Having a larger location is still our number one priority. Some of the criteria we are looking for are as follows:

1. It must be larger, space wise. Unfortunately, most stores in the neighbourhood fall in the 750-1000 sq.ft. range.
2. There has to be parking spaces.
3. There should be a place for our drop bins
4. There should be a basement
5. It would be good if there was enough room for our own office space.

In the meantime, our Ministry Program Director has found office space at Christ Church St. James, one of our partnering churches who also provides space for our board meetings. With God's grace someday we will be able to house all our programs in one location.

Gord Glandfield,
Facilities Chair

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Publicity Report

The primary media to keep our supporters informed and connected are the website and the quarterly newsletter. The website, **stonegateministry.ca**, is kept current with changes and notices of upcoming events, and is increasingly being used to discover the many outreach programs and services being run and what our thrift store, Great Finds, has to offer.

We recently changed our overhead store sign adding “Thrift Store” after realizing that the name *Great Finds*, while aptly describing the affordable quality of clothing and small housewares that are offered, did not convey the idea that it was indeed a thrift store. Increasingly, new customers and clients are finding the truly great finds always available.

Our Stonegate Ministry Newsletter is mailed at the beginning of each quarter and reaches three hundred of our donors and supporters. As many have not been aware of the many programs offered in both the Lake Shore and Stonegate communities, each issue of the Newsletter features articles and stories of God’s love being shown to the needy and lonely through the store, the CCSJ Food Bank and the ministry programs, all telling of lives changed and friendships made. We are thankful for the interest of our many supporters and would welcome any who would like to begin receiving our Newsletter.

Graeme Quigley,
Publicity Chair

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Stonegate Ministry Board – 2019

GILMOUR, John
Board Secretary
chris.john.gilmour@rogers.com
Royal York Road United Church

QUIGLEY, Graeme
Board Vice-Chair, Facilities, Publicity
glquig@outlook.com
Kingsway Baptist Church

GLANDFIELD, Gordon
Chair Facilities, Co-Director Christ Church
St. James Food Pantry
gglandfield@sympatico.ca
*Christ Church St. James'
Anglican Church*

PYNENBURG, Pete
Treasurer
p.pynenburg@gmail.com
*Christ Church St. James' Anglican
Church*

KNIGHT, Horace
Board Chair, Co-Chair Human Resources
knight.associates@rogers.com
Kingsway-Lambton United Church

GRANT, Moira
Meeting Secretary
moira.grant@sympatico.ca
Kingsway-Lambton United Church

PATTERSON, Peter
Vice-Treasurer
pbpatterson@rogers.com
*Christ Church St. James'
Anglican Church*

BARNES, Angela
Community Member
angelabarnes@hotmail.com
Mimico Baptist Church

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Stonegate Ministry
Balance Sheet
Consolidated - 2019

Current Year

ASSETS

BANK ACCOUNTS

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

BMO CHEQUING

\$134,163.08

OTHER ASSETS

HST REBATES

\$2,802.91

TOTAL ASSETS

\$136,965.99

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Anglican Pension

\$ 1,217.47

Food Vouchers

\$ 5,439.83

Sub-total

Current Liabilities

\$ 6,657.30

EQUITY

Reserve-Development Fund

\$40,000.00

Retained Earnings

\$90,308.69

TOTAL EQUITY

\$130,308.69

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$136,965.99

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2019 Income and Expense Summary

Audit Reviewed

INCOME

Support from Local Churches	\$52,783
Individual Donations	\$41,514
Great Finds Store Sales	\$94,330
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$188,627</u>

EXPENSES

MINISTRY EXPENSES

Great Finds	\$41,028
Ministry Staff	\$139,394
Program Costs	\$26,519
Total Ministry Expense	<u>\$206,941</u>

ADMINISTRATION

Administration	\$7,783
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$214,724</u>

EXCESS (Deficiency) REVENUE OVER EXPENSES **-\$26,097**