

2021 Annual Report



Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry

2021 Annual Report

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021

2021 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 that 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, support (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 to 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

Our volunteers, donors and partner churches once again proved to be the heart of our ministry as their incredible work and support carried us through yet another year of the pandemic. In a situation where we were coping without the presence of Great Finds for the entire year, without the support of those cited above, people in need in our neighbourhood would also have suffered the loss of other key programs which provided food security, companionship to ward off the effects of isolation, assistance with online learning, activities for children and young people, as well as mental and spiritual sustenance.

Half of our revenue disappeared with the required closing of our thrift store, Great Finds. Having made the decision to maintain our staff, both for their own sakes and because we clearly could not maintain our services without their skills and leadership, the Stonegate Board of Directors worked continuously to keep alive our services to those in need as the new waves of infection had threatened to close down our programs to those most marginalized.

Fortunately, we were able to continue to qualify for the government Wage Subsidy program. This allowed us to continue the operation of the CCSJ Food Pantry, supplying food and supplies to families most in need. Continuing the food bank meant regularly pivoting from one approach to another to keep our volunteers and our clients safe, as the nature of the pandemic kept changing. On top of this, we arranged for deliveries from Daily Bread (and purchased our own supplies when that was necessary to meet the needs of even more client families.) Also necessary was regularly obtaining PPE equipment for staff, purchasing cleansing and disinfecting supplies, and often delivering the food to needy families waiting outside the building.

After our Program Director, Samantha Coelho, left the Ministry for work closer to her home in Brampton, through facilitators like Bruce Smith, Sue Hill, Kathleen Mahaffey, etc., we were still able to continue programs online through Zoom which countered isolation and loneliness, allowing people, many of whom are elderly, to continue to meet virtually, rather than in person. They were offered companionship, support, and hope for the future through these regular community gatherings. We are also grateful for our faithful 'Prayer for You' team led wonderfully by Phyllis Ortiz (and now very capably by her successor, Carol-Anne Foty), which has continued to pray for both the governance issues of the Ministry and the needful communities that we serve.

After many years of service, including as Chair of the Ministry, Horace Knight resigned to work in other important community roles. One of his last actions was his leadership in the hiring of Natalie Sharpe. The addition of Natalie Sharpe in September as our new Program Director breathed new life into that ministry, and indeed into the whole organisation, as her fresh

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energy and creative thinking reinvigorated programs that were running, and those that were planned for when the pandemic eased.

We held our second virtual fundraiser dinner on November 18 2021 and the quality of the video output was even better than the previous year. We still had none of the usual fine food and stimulating conversation of course, but our donor community was so generous that our online event attracted a 30% increase in attendance and was even more financially successful than the previous year.

Despite their own financial challenges after two very difficult years with little opportunity for in-person attendance, our member churches did not waiver in their financial support of the Ministry. Many individuals and organizations stepped up their support, both to the Ministry and to the food bank, so that there was no break in our service to the community. Without this generosity, given the loss of revenue from our thrift store, we would not have been able to enter the third year of the pandemic in good shape and certain of our ability to continue our service to those most vulnerable.

As we go forward into an upcoming year of further uncertainty, we pray for guidance in finding and selecting a site for Great Finds. We thank God for His blessings on His Ministry over the past twelve months and pray for His direction and guidance in 2022.

With gratitude,
Peter Patterson, Chair

Treasurer's Report

The Board tried very hard but was unsuccessful in finding a new location for the Ministry's Great Finds thrift store. So, as in 2020, we were without any store revenue.

This should have resulted in a substantial loss for the year. However, as in 2020, financial support from our partner churches remained steady as did donations and fundraising. The biggest mitigating factor was over \$45,000 that we received in government support. We also received \$10,000 from the CCSJ food bank since one of our staff, Jeannie Martinez, was doing the organizing for the food bank.

The net result of all this is that the Ministry had a small surplus of almost \$1,000. The cash position is strong with \$167,000 in the bank (allowing for loan repayment) as of December 31st, 2021 and another \$20,000 in investments.

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I would like to thank the Board for their support and guidance during the year. I also would especially like to thank the Ministry's supporters and donors for their prayers and financial support during the year.

Pete Pynenburg, Treasurer

Human Resources Report

Jeannie Martinez has faithfully managed our Great Finds thrift store since 2014 as well as providing part-time management for the Christ Church St. James Food Pantry. Some volunteer staff were unable to serve due to the pandemic health risk and the need for food assistance increased significantly during Covid. We were therefore grateful that Jeannie was available to take on the full-time management of the food bank as Great Finds did not operate for the entire year. As a result, the food bank was not able not only to remain open to serve needy families, but also to meet the 50% increase in demand.

We were pleased to welcome Natalie Sharpe to the position of Director of Ministry Programs in September. She is a seasoned counselor with achievements in providing spiritual leadership to individuals of diverse backgrounds, and an ordained minister in her church where she serves as a part time pastor. Natalie was keen to develop and start the fall programs but had to alter her plans due to the extended period of Covid restrictions. However, she was able to run many of the planned programs using Zoom as well as some outdoor programs.

We would also like to acknowledge the faithful service and professional guidance of Horace Knight who chaired the HR committee for a number of years. Horace stepped down recently to undertake other volunteer service.

Graeme Quigley, HR committee member

Ministry Program Report

Stonegate Ministry has been holding the torch of charity in the community for over 30 years as a group of likeminded compassionate people decided to “work together to build a stronger, kinder and more just community” by serving the needs of the whole person - mind, body and spirit.

We have 8 programs in full operation with 10 programs that will be actively running by the end of 2022. With COVID-19 there were some changes to some of the ways in which we were able to operate our programs. Programs like the Food Pantry experienced a demand increase by more than 40% due to many life circumstances changing for a lot of people and families.

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Overall, we have found that the necessity for our programs and the need for more resources have greatly increased due to the effects of the pandemic on our local community. This has prompted some new programs that cater to the rising need for prayer support, mental health support and youth interaction.

That being said, we are glad to report that there were many programs still in operation during this time even with the challenges of the pandemic. To make this possible a few programs had to change their method of delivery such as meeting virtually instead of in person. Meeting virtually allowed consistent participation with programs such as Circle of Friends, God Coffee and Me?, and Prayer For You. Our clients are appreciative of the efforts that the staff and volunteers have made to keep things up and running during these periods of lockdown.

We are now in a new season and glad to be able to keep the momentum growing. As the city has lifted many of the gathering restrictions, most programs have been able to return to their original functions and intents.

Program Updates

- **Circle of Friends** has resumed our in-person meetings. We are providing a light lunch for the ladies. We are delighted that attendance has been maintained with a weekly average of 15+ ladies in attendance. Each week brings the opportunity for participants to share life experiences, reminisce about their past and gain encouragement for a positive outlook for the days ahead. The ladies enjoy participating in a variety of activities like quizzes, body stretches, vacation slideshow tours and the various topics explored with our guest speakers.
- **God, Coffee, and Me?** has returned to gathering at Nimmans Thai restaurant at 2:45 p.m. for their Bible study with Bruce. This program continues to be a staple by lending the opportunity to share the gospel through a relaxed and approachable setting in a community restaurant. Attendance has remained consistent even with the changes of the lockdown policies for the past year. However, this challenge created a great opportunity for innovation to ensure that as many people as possible have access to this program whether or not they were able to physically be at the restaurant. As a result, we have added a virtual option for those who are not able to meet in person, on Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
- **Get Reading** is still a weekly book program at the Food Bank designed to encourage a love of reading by children and youth. As the number of clients attending the foodbank has increased, so has the demand for the books for kids. This program gives away approximately 30-40 books each month. We have been able to create more opportunities for interaction with the children who are receiving books regularly. One of these events was our “Teddy Bear Picnic” where we invited all the children in the community to participate. It was a fun time as they heard stories read by local authors, interacted with other kids, shared lunch, snacks and received a goodie bag with a book and other helpful materials to encourage their interest in literacy.

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- Many changes have happened to **Prayer For You** this past year. We have placed a prayer box at the Food Pantry Registration where clients will be able to write out their prayer needs and place the slip in the box for the prayer team to intercede. Phyllis has faithfully served as the head facilitator for this program, and we want to thank her for her time dedicated to the noble cause of this mission. She has gracefully declared her resignation as the leader for the program and Carol-Anne has kindly stepped up as the leader for the program moving forward. Carol-Anne has returned in-house at the CCSJ Food Pantry on the second Saturday of each month to encourage the clients to interact with the Prayer For You team by filing out a prayer slip, reading our prayer guides and booking an appointment for a private prayer session.
- **The Prayer Course** is an online program that is offered weekly for 8 sessions via Zoom. It is a journey through the Lord's Prayer. Conversation, testimony and teaching help the community to grow and deepen their prayer life, one session at a time. Our goals for the prayer course include reaching out to the next generation who will be able to assist and strengthen the team that is in place and to gain much needed wisdom and knowledge in prayer and intercession to keep this great legacy progressing. This program has completed its first round. We have extended the course with a Part 2: Unanswered Prayers, which is 5 sessions long. There has been positive feedback and requests for a second round of The Prayer Course which would be available on Thursdays at a later time for those who are going to work during the daytime.
- **Life Coach Counselling** is one of our answers to the growing need for mental health support in our community. This program is a person-to person counselling session offered weekly or as needed. It helps people to navigate the tough patches in their life. It offers access to a listening ear and helpful guidance to realign their daily patterns and get them back on course to a healthier journey in their life. Multiple community members have taken advantage of this opportunity and have expressed their gratitude for its availability at Stonegate Ministry. For those who are comfortable in a group setting, the WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) will be offered in our **Wellness Recovery Group Support**. This will be a 2-day program that is conducted by a certified WRAP Counsellor.
- **Amplified Program** The aim of this program is to empower young women to acknowledge their ability to amplify their voice and share their stories through the powerful channel of media. They will have an opportunity to gain beginner technical and theoretical skills with media equipment and software for photography, videography, audio, graphic design and web/social media. This program is offered in partnership with the Jean Augustine Centre for Empowering Young Women. It currently has girls participating ages 12-15 years of age. The girls have learned about the history of media and how to develop a character and a story. They have also explored new tips and advice on how to create a quality photograph using their mobile phones. We are currently working on creating their original story project to be presented at the end of the program at a Stonegate/JAC Oscar award Ceremony. There is interest in extending

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the Amplified Program available in the summer for an older group ages 13-17+. We will be promoting this program in the community as soon as possible.

To everyone who has helped to facilitate, volunteer, contribute, donate and propel the movement and growth of this organization we would like to say a heartfelt thank you. We look forward to partnering with you as we continue to push forward to do great and wonderful things.

Natalie Sharpe, Ministry Program Director

Christ Church St. James Food Bank Report

OVERVIEW

Christ Church St. James Food Pantry is one of three agencies under the auspices of the [Daily Bread Food Bank](#) serving southern Etobicoke. It is part of the South Etobicoke Food Network. Located at 194 Park Lawn Rd., CCSJ Food Pantry is open three times a month – the second Saturday and the last two Wednesdays.

Depending on the family size, we provide approximately 3-5 days' worth of food each food bank day. The more donations of food and money we are given, the more generous we can be in order to extend that period.

CCSJ Food Pantry Hours of Operation

The second Saturday of the month: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The last two Wednesdays of the month: 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Toy Mountain

Every year, CCSJ Food Pantry provides a Toy Mountain on the second Saturday food bank in December. Food bank clients with children ages 14 and under are able to choose a toy, game, puzzle, or activity set for their children for Christmas.

We were blessed with an overwhelming amount of donations from our regular donors, partner churches and new donors such as Alderwood United Church who donated over 700 toys, games, puzzles and activity sets. Alderwood United Church had heard about CCSJ Food Pantry and was so impressed with the amount of work our food bank was doing in servicing our community that they immediately wanted to be involved.

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Due to the high number of donations, we were able to share many toys with other churches that had refugee families and/or families in need. We were also able to partner with organizations such as Women's Habitat that needed toys for their clients. For the first time ever, we were able to provide each child with an extra toy, book and a mini toy-this year. A big THANK YOU to all the donors!

Stonegate Ministry Christmas Cards/Turkey & Chickens & Roasts & Sides

On the food bank Wednesday before Christmas, we were able to provide our food bank clients with the Stonegate Ministry Christmas card that included grocery gift cards inside. Families of one to two members received \$30 and families of 3+ received \$60. On this day, we also provided our food bank clients with turkeys, chickens, roasts and loins with choices of stuffing, gravies and cranberry sauce in addition to their usual food supplies. Many were appreciative and grateful to receive such blessings especially the blessing of receiving the grocery gift cards. Some clients were so happy and relieved to have received the gift cards that they broke down in tears.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued into another year bringing variants like Delta and Omicron that forced the city to issue restrictions in the Spring and again at the end of the year. The strain of another year dealing with the pandemic continues to affect families' financial, mental, and emotional health and well-being.

Prior to COVID-19, CCSJ Food Pantry served six to eight hundred individuals each month, providing a value of over \$250,000 of food annually. In 2021, the number of clients attending our food bank increased over 40% and we continue to see more families needing the services of our food bank more than ever.

The increase in families attending has caused us to experience shortages in our food supplies and has put a burden and stress on our food bank. Even with grant support, we continue to experience donation shortages from our regular donors such as Toronto Daily Bread, Second Harvest and various corporations and restaurants, due to the elevated quantity of families needing the food bank. The result is that we ended up spending over \$60,000 for additional food, supplies and honorariums to volunteers working during the pandemic. This is three times the amount we normally spent annually prior to Covid.

Since the onset of Covid-19, our policies and procedures have changed several times in order to adhere to the constantly changing health and government regulations and restrictions. We will continue to change and adapt for the health and safety of our clients, volunteers and staff in order to serve our community and families in need.

We give thanks to all our generous donors for their continuous support of CCSJ Food Pantry. We give special thanks to the volunteers who come out of the safety of their homes to serve

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during this pandemic, especially to our team from Royal York United Church who provides home deliveries to families unable to pick up their food during the pandemic due to medical and physical ailments and restrictions. Their dedication, service and hard work are to be commended!

Jeannie Martinez, CCSJ Food Pantry Co-Director

Prayer for You Report

The Prayer for You team of volunteer persons of prayer has continued to be available to intercede for all concerns coming to our attention regarding Stonegate Ministry and beyond. Due to the Covid pandemic and other family health issues, some changes have been made. We have curtailed offering prayer time one-on-one at the CCSJ Food Bank. Carol-Anne Foty attends the once/month Saturday Food Bank to represent the 'Prayer for You' prayer ministry for the food bank clients.

Although we could not meet personally to pray with each other, the team of volunteers have made telephone prayer times together and meet on Zoom monthly for our "Impact Stonegate" intercessions and updates. Natalie Sharpe has been to some of our monthly Zoom meetings and has shared her vision of how the Ministry has been impacted by the foundation of prayer. We are encouraged to hear about specific answers to prayer that God has accomplished, in response to our prayer for Stonegate Ministry. Even though there are many challenges due to the pandemic, we remain steadfast in our hope for God's faithfulness in every situation we bring to Him on behalf of the Ministry.

The members of the prayer team committed to the privilege of praying for Stonegate Ministry are: Eleanor Cawthorne (CCSJ), Karin Disselkoen (CCSJ), Rev. Nancy Webb (KBC), Shirley Ingram (KBC), Cathie Cade and Carol-Anne Foty (CCSJ).

Carol-Anne Foty, Coordinator

Facilities Report

There is not much to report for our facilities due to the fact that our store has been closed for some time now. We have been actively looking for a new location for over two years. Our first choice of a location is in the Mimico area where we have strong roots. Our second choice would be Lakeshore at Royal York Road followed by Royal York Road itself.

We came close to finding a spot and actually put in offers on two locations. The first was turned down because another offer was accepted. Our prime spot was a closed Beer Store. It was the

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perfect location but unfortunately it was twice the space we wanted and, here too, the owner would not accept the offer for the maximum we could handle.

In the meantime, all our fixtures and stock are in a storage unit on Kipling Ave. During the summer of 2021 we received a grant to cover the cost of hiring a student for the summer months. It was at that time Aya Kinsey was hired with the intention of giving her some marketing experience. We then asked for clothing donations to be delivered to Christ Church St. James on an appointment basis. This clothing was then sorted and priced with any unsuitable clothing being given to Oasis. This gave us a jump start for when we will eventually find a new location. Aya also helped out at our food bank doing various tasks.

Your prayers will be greatly appreciated as we desperately want to be in a position to serve our clients as we have done in the past.

Gord Glandfield, Facilities Chair

Publicity Report

The Stonegate Ministry Newsletter is published quarterly with regular contributions from our staff and board members. We are indebted to Jeannie, our Great Finds and CCSJ Food Pantry manager, Natalie Sharpe, our Director of Ministry Programs and Bruce Smith, who leads the *God Coffee and Me* Bible study in a local Thai restaurant for their articles providing stories of how God is working through the many ministry programs. Priscilla Knight has again done a superb job of laying out the articles and adding colour and graphics providing artistic eye appeal.

The website *stonegateministry.ca* provides information about the Ministry and our Mission as well as details of current and planned ministry programs. It also provides the prime means for the Ministry's supporters to donate online. With a dynamic list of programs and events, it is important to keep site information up to date and we are grateful for the constant attention given by Jeannie Martinez and Moira Grant keeping our site current.

Special events require posters, flyers and mailings to publicize the events. During Covid many events like the Sizzler and our annual fundraiser have been curtailed but we hope to be back to in-person events as our community returns to normal.

Moira Grant, Jeannie Martinez and Graeme Quigley (Chair)

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2021 Board of Directors

BARNES, Angela

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angelabarnes@hotmail.com
Mimico Baptist Church

GILMOUR, John

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Royal York Road United Church

GLANDFIELD, Gordon

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Co-Director CCSJ Food Pantry
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Royal York Road United Church

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Christ Church St. James' Anglican Church

PYNENBURG, Pete

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Christ Church St. James' Anglican Church

QUIGLEY, Graeme

Publicity Chair, HR Chair
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Kingsway Baptist Church

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Stonegate Ministry

Balance Sheet - Consolidated – 2021

Audit Reviewed

ASSETS

Bank accounts	\$ 166,794
Investments	\$ 20,000
Other assets	\$ 2,782

TOTAL ASSETS **\$ 189,576**

LIABILITIES

Food vouchers	\$3,132
Other current liabilities	\$ 14,636
Bank loan	\$ 40,000

Sub-total current liabilities **\$ 57,768**

EQUITY

Reserve – Development Fund	\$ 40,000
Retained earnings	\$ 91,808

TOTAL EQUITY **\$ 131,808**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY **\$ 189,576**

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2021 Income and Expense Summary

Audit Reviewed

INCOME

Support from local churches	\$ 50,019
Individual donations	\$ 79,798
Great Finds store sales	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 131,384

EXPENSES

MINISTRY EXPENSES

Great Finds	\$ 11,916
Ministry staff	\$ 100,492
Program expense	<u>\$ 9,024</u>
Total Ministry Expense	\$ 121,432

ADMINISTRATION

Administration	<u>\$ 8,963</u>
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 130,395
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EXCESS (Deficiency) REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$989
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