



WOMEN'S HEALTH
IN WOMEN'S HANDS
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
INCREASE • INNOVATE • IGNITE



Annual Report 2010

The image features a large, bright yellow sun with numerous rays extending across the upper half of the frame. Below the sun, a green plant with a curved stem and three leaves grows upwards. The leaves are decorated with horizontal stripes in various shades of green. The plant emerges from a dark, solid-colored ground area at the bottom. The overall composition is simple and graphic.

The MANDATE

The mandate of Women's Health in Women's Hands (WHIWH) Community Health Centre is to provide primary healthcare to Black Women and Women of Color from the Caribbean, African, Latin American and South Asian communities in Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding municipalities. We are committed to working from an inclusive feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppression, and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to healthcare for our mandated priority populations encompassing gender, race, class, violence, sexual orientation, religion, culture, language, disability, immigration status and socio-economic circumstances.



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Ontario's Community
Health Centres
Every One Matters.



Message From the Board Chair: Dr. Natasha Browne

Each year that I serve as Chair of Women's Health in Women's Hands-Community Health Centre, I am amazed by the amount of work that is accomplished. From the centre's advocacy work, to its research, to its development of new and innovative programs, WHIWH-CHC continues to create inclusive and responsive strategies in the delivery of health care for Black Women and Women of Colour.

When WHIWH-CHC began 20 years ago, there was a great challenge in accessing culturally competent health care. A void existed in the Greater Toronto Area and the health needs of Black Women and Women of Colour often went unanswered.

From the beginning, WHIWH-CHC had the vision of developing a health centre that met the social, linguistic and cultural needs of our clients. As such, the centre continues to involve itself in a number of collaborative research initiatives as a way to effectively address the particular needs of our priority population. It remains steadfast in its advocacy for women at the local, national and international level to ensure that the issues of racialized women are part of the agenda on women's rights and gender equity.

Presently, WHIWH-CHC, is heralded as an unique example of service that understands that women are the experts on their own lives and their own health. It is this comprehension and tireless commitment from the staff, volunteers and board members that has made WHIWH-CHC what it is today.

While great progress has been made in bringing the health needs of Black women and Women of Colour to the forefront of mainstream health initiatives, we know

that the demand for our community health centre is as great today as it was when we began.

But none the less, there is an immense amount of work to be proud of, whether it is our Diabetes Education Centre, our work in the area of HIV/ AIDS, mental health service provision, our prenatal programs, or our internationally published clinical research findings, there are just too many initiatives to name in this brief address.

As always, it continues to be a great pleasure to work with all of the staff, volunteers, and partners at WHIWH-CHC and of course special thanks to our Executive Director, Notisha Massaquoi for her tireless dedication and commitment.

I look forward to what tomorrow brings for WHIWH-CHC and to celebrating our 20th anniversary with all of you.

Dr. Natasha Browne
Chair, WHIWH-CHC



Message From the Executive Director: Notisha Massaquoi

It is once again a time to reflect on our past year's work, share our successes as well as illuminate our vision for the future of our organization. Next

year will proudly mark WHIWH's 20th year of providing exemplary healthcare to racialized women. We succeed in being leaders in the care of our priority population because we strive to make a difference in the success of the communities we serve and come from. I continue to be impressed with the amount of organizational activity that has taken place since our last report. This year alone we hosted Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario and David Caplan, Minister of Health for their announcement of proposed legislation that will expand the role of many health care providers. We were a presence at national and international conferences as well as expert guest speakers at several UN forums and our groundbreaking research continues to be published in a number of respected academic journals and stands alone as definitive statements on the lives of racialized women in Canada.

With the increasing amount of underserved racialized women experiencing barriers to accessing primary healthcare services and their increasing prevalence rates for chronic diseases, community health centre's such as WHIWH remain the backbone of primary healthcare for our communities. Health equity remains a priority for all of us at WHIWH and the need to improve quality services for racialized women reminds us that the work that we do has never been more important as we enter our 20th year.

With a renewed focus generated through our strategic plan, we will continue to build on our legacy of success and significantly expand our outreach to and programs

for the communities we serve. We will accomplish our strategic objectives set for the next three years through leveraging our significant expertise, partnerships and experience. All of our initiatives will continue to be supported by our highly skilled and engaged Board of Directors, our expertly trained and motivated professional staff, and a growing number of health care placement students and volunteers.

Providing exemplary care for our priority population is what we do. Through our collaborate efforts, we will continue to make strides towards reducing barriers to accessing healthcare for women from our priority groups. It is our mission. We will not waiver. And I'm thankful that all of you are here to support us each step of the way.

A NEW LOOK FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH IN WOMEN'S HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE



This September, Women's Health in Women's Hands celebrated the official unveiling of our newly renovated centre.

The Centre's fresh new look, marks another step forward towards improving health services for women in our priority populations.

Our centre will continue to serve as a testament to our dedication to meet and exceed the health care needs of Black Women and Women of Colour. We believe our space, which exudes comfort and beauty will benefit women for generations to come.

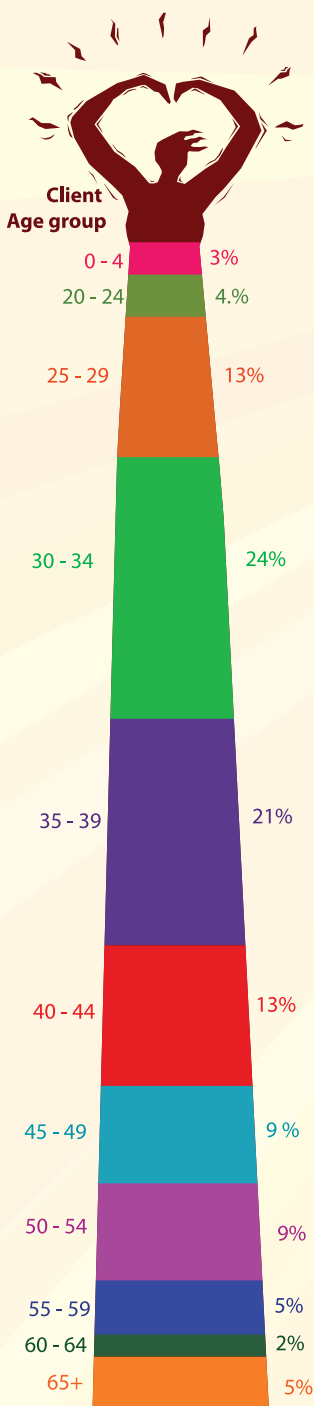


Along with the hard work of the Board and staff at WHIWH, we would like to thank our Project Manager and Designer, Gurnack Singh of Streamline Interiors, Maria Ghafoori, President and CEO of Streamline Interiors and Husein Rashid, Vice President of Right & Square Construction Ltd. for the efforts they put forth in making the dream of our renovated Centre become a reality.

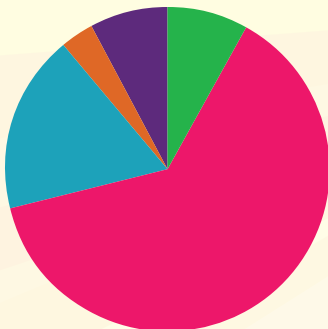


L-R: Husein Rashid, Maria Ghafoori, Gurnack Singh

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CLIENT VISITS IN 2009/10 4696



Client Ethnicity



Africa - 8.10%

Caribbean - 63.21%

Latin America - 17.83%

South Asian - 3.13%

Other - 7.72%

Top 10 Reasons for Visiting WHIWH

1. Anxiety
2. Depression
3. Stress
4. Pap Smear
5. Diabetes Melitus Type 2
6. Foot Care
7. Hypertension
8. Abuse
9. Annual Health Examination
10. Menopause

NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE:



Diabetes is a growing epidemic. The economic cost of this disease in Ontario is expected to reach \$4.9 billion this year. It is a disease that is affecting a disproportionate number of individuals from Caribbean, African, Latin American and South Asian communities. Diabetes also remains a pervasive chronic illness for the clients of WHIWH-CHC.

With support from the Ministry of Health Promotion, Women's Health in Women's Hands-Community Health Centre, developed an inclusive community engagement program in 2010, which aimed to address the needs of four of Ontario's identified diabetes prevention priority populations (African, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian).

A diverse mixture of community leaders from each community were gathered to discuss how the issue of diabetes is presently addressed in their communities. A total of 165 participants took part in eight focus groups conducted across the GTA.

Through this initiative WHIWH was able to develop culturally and linguistically specific diabetes education tools and resources to work with our priority populations. We were able to develop a comprehensive outreach

strategy which will reach and provide necessary diabetes education to our priority populations and we have clearly identified both barriers as well as facilitators in ensuring access to diabetes education and services for the priority populations. An understanding that this disease is preventable and manageable was achieved by the project participants and approximately three quarters of the participants stated that they had learned more about the disease from this project, than they had previously known.

WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH

Optimizing Prenatal HIV Testing for African & Caribbean Women Forum



This summer, WHIWH-CHC released the results of our 4 year study entitled Optimizing Prenatal HIV Testing for African and Caribbean Women in Ontario. Presentation of the results took place during our forum on Prenatal HIV testing for African & Caribbean Women. The highly successful full day event brought together academics, service providers from the medical community, as well as community advocates. Guest speakers included; Dr. Robert Remis, Wangari Tharao, Uitsile Ndlovu, Dr. Stan Read, Jay Macgillivray, Dr. Megan Saunders, and Dr. Frank McGee.

The morning comprised of presentations by our speakers, followed by an afternoon of facilitated small group workshops, where participants exchanged information on the Ontario Prenatal HIV Testing program. Participants worked together to discuss the barriers facing African and Caribbean women with regards to prenatal HIV testing and formulated potential strategies to improve HIV testing among African, Caribbean and Black Women.

Toronto's Black Women's HIV Prevention & Vaccine Research Summit

Women's Health and Women's Hands Community Health Centre in partnership with the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO), held a research summit based on the findings of Sisters, Mothers, Daughters and Aunties Study (SMDA).

SMDA explored perceptions, opinions and thoughts of African and Caribbean women regarding HIV/AIDS vaccines and aimed to start the developmental work required to prepare for the availability of HIV vaccines, and to ensure equity in access to possible vaccine products in the future. The research was funded by CIHR and led by Dr. Peter A. Newman, Dr. Charmaine Williams, Ms. Notisha Massaquoi, Dr. Izumi Sakamoto and a Community Advisory Board.

Infectious disease specialist and HIV researcher, Dr. Mona Loutfy was the key note speaker along with presentations from LLana James and Marvelous Muchenje. The summit brought together researchers, policy makers, service providers and community members to share and discuss the results of the research study and develop action plans based on issues and challenges identified.



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE , VIENNA 2010



WHIWH actively participated in the XVIII International AIDS Conference held in Vienna, Austria, July 18-23rd 2010, and made significant contributions to the overall conference program. WHIWH staff delivered 7 oral and poster presentations highlighting diverse experiences of African and Caribbean women on topics including disclosure, stigma/discrimination, HIV clinic development and mandatory prenatal HIV testing, showcasing the high quality community based research WHIWH generates. Further, WHIWH materials, including over 500 copies of our film "The Woman I Have Become" were distributed at the conference. The African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS (ABDGN), which WHIWH is the trustee of, also had a comprehensive programme for the conference including: development of conference

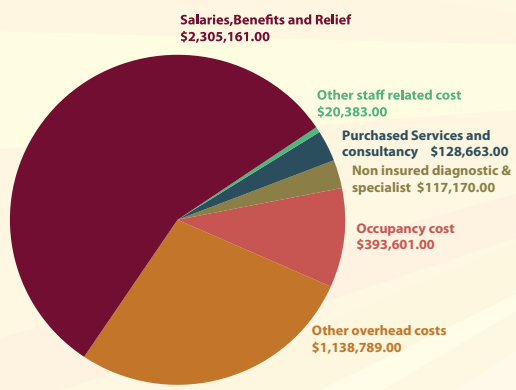


roadmap on Diaspora related activities and sessions; hosting a panel session at the Global Forum on MSM; a high-level meeting (co-hosted with Health Canada, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-CDC, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control-ECDC); 2 satellite sessions; facilitation of a networking zone in the Global Village; organization of a media press conference; and launch of the ABDGN website and global policy paper. Additional details, downloadable presentations, and the conference Diaspora roadmap can be accessed at www.abdgn.org. All levels of WHIWH staff present in Vienna supported the ABDGN conference programme as speakers, participants and volunteers and were committed to the success of the programme. Their contributions resulted in increased credibility, visibility, and respect internationally for the innovative research, programming and advocacy work WHIWH is involved in.



SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenditure 2009 at a glance



Expenditure
Salaries,Benefits and Relief
Other staff related cost
Purchased Services and consultancy
Non insured diagnostic & specialist
Occupancy cost
Other overhead cost
Total Expenditure

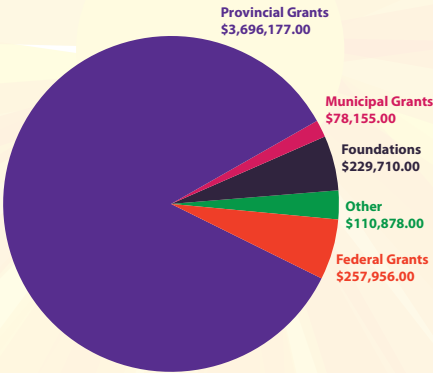
Revenue
Federal Grants
Provincial Grants
Municipal Grants
Foundations
Other
Total Revenue

Adjustments
Transfer to Special Project Funds
Due to Central Local Health Integration Network
Due to Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Total Revenue minus adjustments

Complete audited financial statements available upon request from the office of the Executive Director

Women’s Health in Women’s Hands summarized stament of Revenue and Expenses for the year ended March 31st, 2010
 (With Comparative Figures for 2009)

Revenue 2009 at a glance



	2010	2009
	\$2,305,161.00	\$2,069,503.77
	\$20,383.00	\$27,656.00
	\$128,663.00	\$124,547.00
	\$117,170.00	\$198,720.00
	\$393,601.00	\$390,825.00
	\$1,138,789.00	\$980,572.23
	\$4,103,767.00	\$3,791,824.00
	\$257,956.00	\$231,410.00
	\$3,696,177.00	\$3,542,569.00
	\$78,155.00	\$65,800.00
	\$229,710.00	\$37,400.00
	\$110,878.00	\$63,788.00
	\$4,372,876.00	\$3,940,967.00
	\$212,393.00	\$120,241.00
	\$51,010.00	\$12,915.00
	\$5,706.00	\$15,987.00
	\$4,103,767.00	\$3,791,824.00

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We truly appreciate the contributions of our student placements and value their commitment, energy and insight. In turn, we hope that the students placed with us have an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the health care and social issues that impact Black women and women of Colour from our priority populations. It is our hope that the Centre's continued commitment and investment in the future of students will produce practitioners with a clear understanding of the issues that we promote and will increase access to health care for women from our priority population.

Muna Aden, University of Waterloo, Department of Health Studies and Gerontology, Master of Public Health Program

Aman Ahluwalia, University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, Master of Social Work

Ashna Bowry, University of Toronto, Dept of Family and Community Medicine, Medical Elective

Amina Dualeh, York University, Master of Social Work

Anna Hack, University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, Ambulatory Community Experience

Dorian King, York University, Master of Social Work

Anca Matei, University of Toronto, Family Medicine Longitudinal Experience

Mandana Amir Shaghaghi, Ryerson University. Internationally Educated Dietitians Pre-Registration Program

Christine St.-Denis, University of Toronto, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing

Jamie Thomas-Pavanel, University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Master of Health Promotion

Mei-ling Wiedmeyer, University of Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical Elective

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF

WHIWH Board of Directors

Dr. Natasha Browne - Chair
Archana Mathew - Vice Chair
Rumana Chowdhury – Secretary
Lauriana Mandody- Treasurer
Sharon Njobo – Member at Large
Fouzia Warsame - Member At Large
Gabriela Agatiello - Member At Large
Novlette Fraser - Member At Large
Saira Zuberi – Board Development and Recruitment
Committee Chair
Richelle Samuel – Policy Committee Chair

WHIWH Staff

Alana Clarke	Lori-Ann Green-Walker
Andrena Mookram	Marvelous Muchenje
Anu Lala	Dr. Megan Saunders
Avi Kant	Mercedes Umana
Carolina Luengo	Michelle Osbourne
Catherine Chhina	Dr. Nalya Jessamy
Cherisse Solomon	Narmin Afzal-Bell
Cindy Tsai	Nimo Bokore
Claudia Samayoa	Notisha Massaquoi
Corrine McPherson	Dr. Praseedha Janakiram
Deone Curling	Racquel Bremmer
Eesananthini Sivakumar	Rosa Flores
Helen Gateri	Sharon Khoo
Ishara Jeyachandran	Shirley Cheung
Julie Vandahl	Dr. Sonia Malhotra
Latoya Maloney	Sumintra Sammy
Linda Cornwell	Vivia Mc Calla
Lisungu Chieza	Wangari Tharao
	Yogeeta Sharma

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario
Africans in Partnership Against AIDS
Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention
Casey House Hospice
Black Youth Helpline
Centre for Urban Health
Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment
The Daily Bread Food Bank
East Downtown Local Immigration Partnership
Ethno Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario
Fred Victor Centre
Hospital for Sick Children
Jamestown Women and Children Services
LGBT Settlement Network
Maple Leaf Clinic
Massey Centre
Mount Sinai Hospital
Mujeres al Frentes
Newcomer Women's Services Toronto
Ontario Sexual Health Network
Ontario Women's Health Network
Ottawa Children's Hospital
Planned Parenthood of Toronto
Sherbourne Community Health Centre
South Riverdale Community Health Services
St. Joseph's Hospital
St. Michael's Hospital
Teresa Group
Toronto Faith Based Initiative
Toronto People with AIDS Foundation
U-MOVE – United Mothers Opposed to Violence Everywhere
University Health Network
THRIVE Coalition
Voices of Positive Women
West Downtown Local Immigration Partnership
Women's College Hospital
Women's College Research Institute

FUNDERS

Women's Health in Women's Hands expresses gratitude to our funders, first and foremost, the Central Toronto Local Health Integration Network.

We are also grateful for the funding provided by AIDS Bureau, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Ontario Diabetes Program of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport,

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, City of Toronto AIDS Prevention Investment Program, City of Toronto Community Safety Investment Program, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario and Nunavut region and The Ford Foundation

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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E-mail: whiwh@web.net
www.whiwh.com

Hours

Mon, Tues, Thur: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Wed, Fri: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
3rd Sat. of the Month: 10:00am to 4:00 pm

Location Map







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