# Rising to the Next Level of Excellence

# WOMEN'S HEALTH IN WOMEN'S HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WHIWH-CHC is a proud member of The Alliance for Healthier Communities and The Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team







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Becoming a Centre for Excellence in holistic healthcare for racialized women, trans and non-binary people

# OUR NEW FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

#### Mission

WHIWH CHC provides racialized women, trans and non-binary clients from the African, Black, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian communities in Toronto and surrounding municipalities with culturally safe, relevant, and responsive primary healthcare. We are changemakers engaged in knowledge transfer and exchange, research, capacity building and advocacy within and across multiple systems.

#### Vision

We envision optimal health, safety and wellbeing for all racialized women, trans and non-binary people across their lifespan.

#### **Our Commitment**

As the only centre of its kind in North America, WHIWH CHC aims to empower racialized women, trans and non-binary people, and improve their health outcomes. Working together as a multidisciplinary team to provide quality holistic health care, we are committed to working from a trauma-informed, intersectional feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppressive, sexpositive, harm reduction, and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to healthcare for our mandated priority populations.

# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We will strengthen our core and invest in our capacity for growth and sustainability **Objectives** 

- Assess our current operational, administrative, program and service structure to ensure we have the right complement of human resources.
- Review employee compensation, wellness and benefits packages to ensure we provide competitive offerings that motivate and retain staff and reflect our intersectional feminist values.
- Invest in continuous staff development and training to ensure that staff are empowered and capacitated to carry out their work in full alignment with our mission and values.
- Determine the needs, invest in the development of much needed operational systems, tools and planning processes including IT systems (hardware, software and expertise) process automation and digital health capacity.
- Develop a values-driven resource mobilization strategy to diversify and grow revenue streams and ensure growth and sustainability.

We will sharpen our focus and deepen our response

#### **Objectives**

- Increase our ability to support clients to navigate service systems, provide more comprehensive services, innovate and where appropriate, expand programs within a hybrid model which balances the convenience of virtual programming and telemedicine with in-person offerings.
- Create opportunities for greater collaboration and reciprocal, equitable partnerships within the Alliance for Healthier Communities, community and governmental partners, strengthening the capacity of others.
- Become a Research Centre of Excellence for the health of racialized women, trans and non-binary people that is recognized and respected as a subject matter expert in the sector.
- Develop a communication and branding strategy that modernizes the WHIWH CHC brand and highlights its offerings, successes and attracts new supporters. Overhaul the website to increase functionality and reflect our new strategic priorities.



We will build and create a physical site for our Centre for Excellence

#### **Objectives**

- relevant, community-embedded space to house our Centre of Excellence and anchor our work.
- construction/renovation of a new building, the acquisition of land and the purchase of large-scale equipment.

• Establish multiple satellite and mobile locations across the GTA through strategic partnerships to extend our ability to deliver

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE BOARD CHAIR





Over the last year, it has been an honour to witness the tremendous growth of the programs and services offered at WHIWH-CHC. These achievements have provided us the opportunity to better engage with our clients and communities to ensure their needs are addressed, while continuing the delivery of high quality and evidence-informed primary health care

for racialized women, transgendered and non-binary people.

equity and intersectional feminist values at the forefront.

WHIWH-CHC is privileged to continue to be recognized for its ground-breaking and intersectional research. We have sharpened our focus to become more responsive in program and service delivery that combats gender-based violence, and have deepened our commitment to gain information, share knowledge, and co-create with our communities, an effective and inclusive sexual and reproductive health program.

We are proud of the leadership and collaborative efforts of WHIWH-CHC in supporting Ontario's Health System Transformation- ensuring that voices of our priority populations are heard, and that their perspectives are considered and reflected in health service system design. We continue to make remarkable progress in operationalizing our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. We have begun the process of streamlining our operations, developing strategies to improve our IT infrastructures and are exploring opportunities to strengthen our staff complement keeping pay

In closing, we wish to send a heartfelt "thank you" to the WHIWH-CHC board, our staff, students and volunteers for their unyielding commitment, passion and energy to help make WHIWH-CHC a dynamic and vibrant workplace and organization.

Lori-Ann Green-Walker Executive Director

Allyson Collymore Board Chair

# WHIWH CHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Allyson Collymore Chair



Paula Bourne Vice Chair



**Emily Verghis**Secretary



Danielle Leon Foun Lin Member at Large



Nana Yanful Member at Large



Millicent Dixon
Member at Large

Delivering High Quality Evidence-Informed Primary Healthcare for Racialized Women, Transgendered and Non-binary People



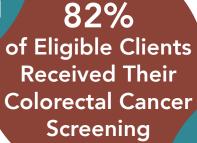
2190
Clients receive ongoing primary care at WHIWH

Number of Client Visits 18,200

75%
of Clients with Type
2 Diabetes received
care from 2 or more
members of the
inter-professional

Registered Clients: 3907

79% of
Eligible Clients
Received Their
Cervical Cancer
Screening

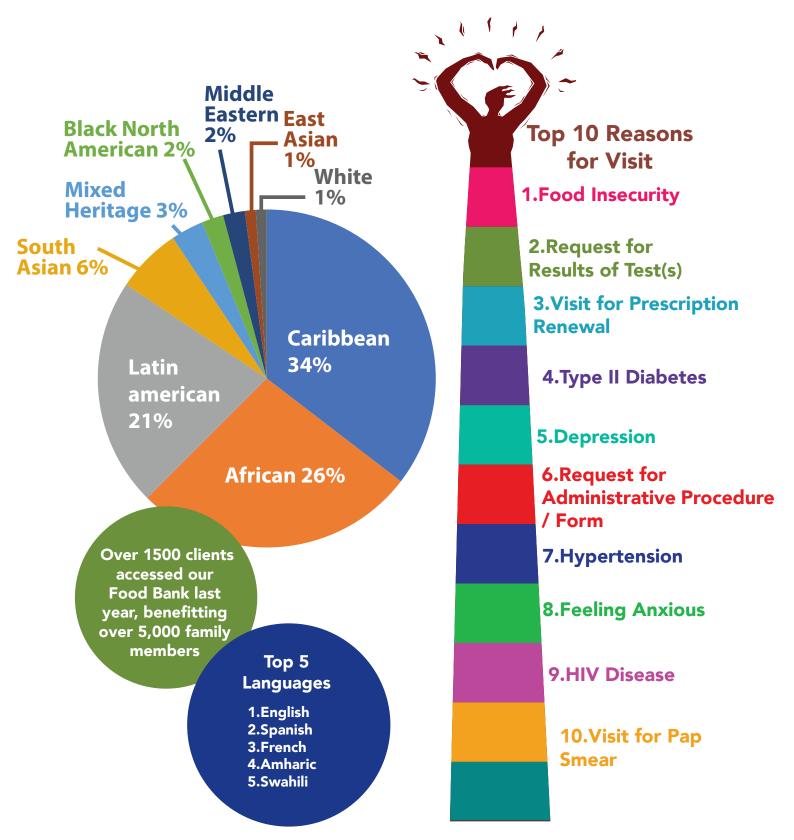




care team

84% of Eligible Clients Received Their Breast Cancer Screening

# Addressing the and Social and Structural Determinants of Health



### PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Primary Care's initiated "Better Health Hypertension Program" is a 3-year program funded through TD Bank. The goal of this program is to provide our hypertensive and at-risk clients of age 40 years and above an education about primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies to take control of their high blood pressure. The prospective objectives are change in behaviour, knowledge on hypertension and its short and long-term consequences, as well as an ability to record and document blood pressure readings to stay normotensive! Currently, our program is diligently serving our priority communities with the full collaboration and support of our Center. Workshops are designed by incorporating a myriad of educational activities such as PowerPoint presentations, handson training on digital blood pressure monitor, stress management and physical activity tips and techniques with the collaboration of dieticians, mind and body program (MBM) and mental health therapists. Our health navigator and trained Health ambassadors coordinate and facilitate workshops. Moreover, for outreach purposes, these trained health ambassadors deliver one workshop in their own communities.

An average attendance number per workshop is 10, total number of participants attended so far are 74 and knowledge increase (measured by pre and post workshop assessment tool) is up to 40% per participant! Our program is evolving based on the needs assessment of our client population such as the addition of a new component "one on one hypertension education hybrid sessions" to cater the needs of clients who are challenged by the transportation logistics, time management and capacity constraints. Supporting our

clients with having a better quality of life and autonomy over their health was and remains at the core of the program!

Hear what some of our clients had to say about the Better Health Hypertension Program:

"I really like this workshop because it helps us to focus on our health and also to improve our eating habits. It was very informative. I am looking forward to attending workshops like this in future"

"The workshop was so timely and educational! The information I learnt today will help me to live a better healthy life and I can also pass it on to others because each one can teach one"



### RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS TEAM

This team supports generation of evidence to inform development of programs, piloting and rollout of interventions that have emerged from research, proving their efficacy. Once interventions have proved effective, they are adapted and rollout as ongoing programs to improve the health of racialized women, transgendered and binary people across the lifespan. We continued to implement and monitor many of the ongoing programs, developed and obtained funding for two new projects which we are planning to rollout in Sept/October 2023. We also organized and delivered a number of knowledge and exchange activities to share evidence generated in research and/or service delivery with multiple stakeholders including service providers, researchers, policy makers, racialized individuals and their communities.

#### Changes in the Leadership Team

The team has been reorganized to utilize and build leadership from within. We now have two Team Leads supporting staff to continue building on our success in research, intervention development and effective services delivery. Our new Team leaders are:

# 1.Mary Ndungu, Team Leader for the HIV Prevention and Care Cascade Team:

Mary is a registered social worker with a master's degree in Social Work. She has over a decade of experience in providing psychosocial support to marginalized individuals with complex health challenges. In the last year Mary has been enhancing the continuity of care for newly diagnosed ACB women living with HIV by optimizing our HIV care cascade in system navigation. She is a passionate advocate for social justice and equity-focused access to HIV treatment, prevention and health care support for ACB women. She will provide support for the team delivering existing projects within the HIV program and support development of new initiatives. She will ensure seamless integration of the HIV prevention, testing and support programs at WHIWH.

# 2. Tomilola John, Team Leader for the Determinants of Health Programs Team:

Tomilola joined WHIWH-CHC research and programs team in 2022 as the coordinator of the Flourish project. She joined WHIWH with after four years of experience as a registered nurse working on a Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Postpartum (LDRP) unit at Scarborough Health Network. Tomilola's drive to support and coordinate initiatives aimed towards improving the overall health and well-being of racialized women who often experience intersecting systemic barriers to accessing support services and resources led her to pursue a master's degree in public health to improve her knowledge in preventative healthcare. Tomilola is responsible for overseeing projects focused on strengthening understanding of the health inequities experienced by African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) and other racialized women, taking a systems-level approach to address them and provide social support through community engagement and services. She plans to use this leadership opportunity to continue to develop and strengthen her skills.

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE**

#### We Matter Project

Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the We Matter Project (WMP) specifically works to address and support access, service delivery and capacity of culturally appropriate and gender-responsive health services for young African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) womxn, non-binary, and trans youth. This youth-led program utilizes a culturally/gender responsive and collaborative framework to enhance safer spaces for Black womxn and queer-identified people to access wellness services with the support of peer researchers and collaborating organizations.

The WMP aims to not only advance the health and well-being of Black and racialized young womxn through the social determinants of health, but also cultivate a conditional change to the way they access healthcare and address the manifestations of anti-Black racism within the healthcare field for service providers and youth-serving organizations. Our project team is working diligently towards building safer spaces, frameworks and wellness services that prioritize the health needs of Black youth through a raced, survivor-centric, gender and culturally responsive lens.

To learn more about this project contact Mame Antwi at mame@whiwh.com

# The netWORKING: Black Youth Mentorship Project

NetWORKING aims to support African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) women and nonbinary people living in the Greater Toronto Area ages 16 to 25 to advance their personal, academic, and professional achievements. Our work increases safer community and cultural spaces for young Black women to explore their identities, and strengths within an Afrocentric framework that embeds intergenerational communal supports.

The key objectives of the program are to

- 1. provide one-on-one career-centered mentorship
- 2. strengthen educational attainment
- translate knowledge and skills to mentees
  who have collectively embedded support to
  enhance positive health outcomes in young
  Black women. Throughout the mentoring
  relationship, mentees enhance their selfesteem, confidence, and decision-making
  skills, and are provided clarity on their
  career paths, and ability to seek meaningful
  employment.

In addition, the program facilitates monthly group programming for participants including, workshops centering on Black identity, self-care, mental health, financial literacy, post-secondary preparation, and post-graduation. We have returned to in-person programming for 2023, registering 35 mentees, and employing 6 ACB youth alumni of the program as Peer Facilitators.

To learn more about the program contact Rowa Mohammed at mentor@whiwh.com



# Student and Family Advocate (SFA) Program

The SFA program is geared towards the population of young African Caribbean Black (ACB) women to create cultural, gender and race-based advocacy in educational spaces to better dismantle systemic biases. WHIWH is the only organization that offers a genderspecific SFA initiative in Ontario and we focus on supporting neighbourhoods and schools in the Greater Toronto Area to provide oneon-one case management, workshops and family engagement support to advocate and empower young black women. The SFA program launched in September 2021, weathering the pandemic and will continue through 2024 to provide services, advocacy and representation for young black women in education.

For more information on the project, contact Kashaia Henderson-Doyle at kashaia@whiwh.com

#### The Empowered African, Caribbean, & Black (ACB) Women's Wellness Gathering Project

The Empowered African, Caribbean, & Black (ACB) Women's and Gender Diverse People's Wellness Gathering Project, is in its 5th and final year of delivering virtual mental health promotion workshops to our ACB community. The project reaches both Peers and Participants in our four priority regions from Toronto & GTA to Hamilton, Windsor, and Ottawa. We have continued to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our peers and participants, by providing tools and resources highlighting emotion regulation and self-care practices. Our Peers participated in numerous community outreach events and community wellness events. We have continued to build partnerships throughout

our four priority regions. This year, in addition to offering community workshops, we will be releasing podcast episodes where Peers share their experiences being involved with the project. Look out for a book chapter on the program which will be published in a book soon.

For more information on this project, please connect with Chantal Carey at chantal@whiwh.com

#### Enhancing Continuity of Care for African, Caribbean and Black Women Newly Diagnosed with HIV During COVID-19 Recovery

This project is funded by the Slaight Family Foundation's Women and Girls Initiative to support the optimization of our HIV prevention and care cascade to improve linkage to care, reduce HIV-related stigma and promote optimal health for newly diagnosed HIV-positive African, Caribbean and Black women (ACB) women through the implementation of a retention in care plan.

Specific aims of the project include

- Expansion of HIV testing and strengthening of links with HIV testing sites in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to support linkage to care, treatment and support services;
- expansion of support and care services provided at WHIWH-CHC to accommodate growing numbers of newcomer women diagnosed with HIV; and
- 3. development and implementation of retention in care plan for women who are lost or likely to be lost in care.

In the last year, we successfully connected over 50 women to care by providing comprehensive women-centred services including post-test counselling, seamless transition to HIV specialists, system navigation, referrals to AIDS service organizations, wellness calls, hospital and home visits, mental health and peer support. 6 psycho-educational sessions and 5 art-based body mapping sessions were also conducted to address intersections of HIV and mental health to promote self-efficacy and reduce HIV-related stigma and social isolation. We will continue to collaborate with healthcare professionals, HIV testing sites, and other stakeholders to address social and health disparities as well as systemic barriers to accessing healthcare services.

To learn more about this project contact Mary

ACB Women+ Taking Control over HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Project

Ndung'u at maryn@whiwh.com

The African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) Women+ Taking Control over HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health project is a three-year HIV prevention project for ACB women, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals. This project aims to address the disproportionate impact of HIV amongst ACB women and community members through peer-led outreach, workshops, and the provision of community HIV Point-of-Care (POC) testing conducted by our own certified Peer Testers.

The past year has brought on a team of highly skilled and diverse Community Health Ambassadors (CHAs) who have supported the delivery of the project. We built new partnerships with community organizations that service ACB women and community members, to provide wellness events that encompassed multiple aspects of sexual health while reducing barriers to testing with the support of our Peer Testers.

We are currently finalizing the project and taking everything we have learned to inform and build a broader and more robust sexual and reproductive health and rights program at the centre and for our community. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the development, implementation, and delivery of this project, especially all of the peers who have made this important work possible!

For more information, please contact Natasha Lawrence at natasha@whiwh.com

# The Community Action Fund (CAF) Project: Anti-Black Racism in HIV Services

The CAF Project is a five-year initiative that is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The project aims to address Anti-Black racism in HIV services by engaging with African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) community members to recruit and train 50 peers in four regions of Canada to strengthen their capacity to identify gaps in HIV services, and advocate for their needs; and provide educational activities to service providers to improve service delivery to ACB populations.

We are currently in the process of connecting with ACB community members, as well as service providers to review the scorecard tool that we will be using to inform the development and implementation of the peer training and service provider capacity-building workshops.

For more information, please contact Natasha Lawrence at natasha@whiwh.com

# Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Project

We have received funding through Health Canada to address the barriers and challenges experienced by African, Caribbean and Black Communities accessing SRH services and education. In collaboration with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Black, African, and Caribbean Network (CHABAC), our aims are to improve access to SRH and reduce barriers for ACB community members, through healthcare/service provider training, SRH awareness campaigns, and providing culturally comprehensive tools and resources for the ACB community.

We are currently in the process of consulting with the ACB community, to utilize their experiences to support the development and implementation of this project.

For more information, please contact Natasha Lawrence at natasha@whiwh.com.

#### HIV Program - Women's Skill Building and Case Management Program

The HIV Program is funded by the AIDS Bureau; the Ministry of Health supports continuity of services through the HIV care cascade for African, Caribbean, and Black women, youth and women living with HIV (WLWHIV). This program is the 'in care" component of our HIV prevention and care cascade and includes our well-known monthly health promotion and skills development program for women living with HIV.

The program aims to

- improve the health and well-being of populations most affected by HIV through awareness campaigns with available resources;
- 2. diagnose HIV infections early and engage

- people in timely care;
- improve the health and well-being of populations most affected by HIV; and Ensure the quality, consistency and effectiveness of all provincially-funded HIV programs and services.

Since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the HIV program has witnessed more in-person



programs including skills-building group monthly meetings, community networking events, in-person intakes and assessments and provision of primary care and interventions to support retention in care and access to and adherence to treatment.

To learn more about this project contact Irene Wanyoto Nangulu at irene@whiwh.com

# Integrated National HIV Prevention Strategy for ACB People in Canada

The aim of this five-year Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) funded project is to educate African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) community members and service providers about HIV prevention strategies and technologies in partnership with the AIDS Committee of Ottawa, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, Africans in Partnership Against AIDS, HIV Edmonton, Community Alliance for Accessible Treatment and Safelink Alberta.

A major component of this project is to carry out varying workshops specifically aimed at ACB community members and service providers covering topics such as the History of Black People in Canada, HIV Prevention Basics (101) and Technologies, Cultural Safety and competency for Communities, Substance Use, Access to Services and Pathways to Linkage to Care and much more. Additionally, we have our 1Love1Stop intervention popups, where we attend big and small events to distribute HIV self-test kits and other HIV prevention technologies (i.e. condoms, dental dams, information sheets). This project is also working on developing a national advocacy strategy based on status neutral approach, barrier reduction, Anti-Racism, Intersectionality, Anti-Oppression etc.

This year, we have been able to develop our workshops and are making the preparations to deliver them. We have attended numerous events such as Pride, Afrofest and Blockobana where we have successfully distributed over 3301 HIV self-test kits in 10 months through the hard work and dedication of our amazing outreach team.



For more information on this project, contact Orit Awoke at orit@whiwh.com

# Flourish: Collaborative Approaches for Supporting Survivors of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

Funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), Flourish aims to strengthen support systems for survivors of FGM/C and those at risk by implementing a service providers' framework and disseminating a toolkit focusing on culturally appropriate and trauma-informed care strategies.

Project activities delivered so far include webinars; community engagement and awareness raising through podcasts, informational videos, peer-led outreach and the use of social media platforms; and educational workshops to strengthen service providers' knowledge and skills on care for women living with FGM/C. We continue to partner with the RHCforFGC project at Gender. Net Plus to identify and develop survivor resources to scale up the toolkit and to build a digital platform [flourishaccess.ca] that houses these resources and a virtual service access map that serves as a pathway to connect survivors and women at risk of any form of gender-based violence (GBV) to community support organization across the country.

With the sustained support of the community advisory group, we will continue to disseminate the toolkit widely, deliver webinars to promote the website, access map and build usability skills among service providers and survivors and round up with a Knowledge Translation Event.

For more information on the project, contact Tomilola John at tomilola@whiwh.com

# Immunization Partnership Fund (IPF) Project

Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), IPF aims to optimize COVID-19 vaccine uptake among the racialized women served by WHICH-CHC - African, Caribbean, Black, South Asian and Latin American women in GTA.

This project focuses on

- building the capacity of healthcare providers working with racialized women as vaccinators;
- 2. building the capacity of peers from racialized communities to increase

- their knowledge and skills to support COVID-19 education and outreach to their communities; c) increasing knowledge, dispelling myths and reducing vaccine hesitancy in racialized communities; and
- 3. promoting and supporting uptake of vaccination among racialized women in settings where the congregate.

Project activities delivered to date include focus group discussions, virtual town hall meetings, webinars, community engagements through outreach, surveys and use of social media platforms, and a Knowledge Translation and Exchange event. This project ended at the end March 2023.

### RESEARCH STUDIES UPDATE

#### I am Ready HIV Self-testing Program/I AM health Program

This is a national research program led by Dr. Sean Rourke, Unity Health, St. Michael's Hospital and REACH NEXUS. It WHIWH-CHC is a member of the team which is implementing, scaling up and evaluating low-barrier options for access to HIV self-testing to reach the undiagnosed and offer choices about how to connect for needed care whether one is HIV positive or negative.

The program started as a program science research project that consisted of:

- A test app where a participant responds to surveys, gets a test kit and is referred to services;
- 2. An I am Ready to Talk platform which is run by peer navigators to provide support during or after the test, six of which are housed at WHIWH-CHC. An ACB Steering committee meets biweekly to support the program and analyze and review the data from the program.

The I am Ready Program has now been folded into a larger Community Link HIV self-testing program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The National ACB working group is overseeing the implementation of the ACB arm of the I AM health Program and has supported development of a social marketing campaign that is tailored to the needs of ACB population which can be accessed at https://www.i-am.health/acb Please help us promote the program the support access to HIV self-testing for ACB populations across Canada.

If interested in participating please contact Wangari Tharao at wangari@whiwh.com

#### Near Patient Study of the OraQuick ADVANCE HIV-1/2 Rapid Antibody Test in Oral Fluid and Fingerstick Whole Blood (ORASURE)

This is Phase 2 of the ORASURE HCP STUDY which aims to demonstrate the simplicity and accuracy of the OraQuick ADVANCE HIV-1/2 Rapid Antibody Test when used by health care professionals (HCPs) in a clinical setting.

The objective of the Orasure Self Test study is to evaluate the device performance and to document if intended users can successfully perform the steps to use the test, without product familiarization or demonstration. The study will also document if non-professional users can successfully interpret contrived strong positive, weak positive, negative, and a range of invalid results and if intended users can understand the key messages in the labelling. The ultimate goal is to have the kit approved by Health Canada and accessible to all Canadians. The HCP team assisting in the conducting of the study has been able to complete 60 of the 150 required participant visits and continue to work alongside other sites to reach the National goal of 900 participants by November 2023.

For more information or to participate in this study, contact Nonty Nkala at nonty@whiwh.com

#### **Ontario Cohort Study**

The Ontario Cohort Study (OCS) is an anonymous, confidential long-term study that collects information on people living with HIV in Ontario as they move through different phases of life. This study is part of the Ontario HIV epidemiology and surveillance initiative. The data from the OCS is used to improve services across Ontario (engagement and

care, advocacy, and promoting optimal Health) for people living with HIV today and in the future.

In the past year, we have conducted 159 follow-ups and 55 Baselines. We currently have 197 active participants, 1 moved, 10 lost follow-ups, 5 withdrawals from the study due to unspecified and 1 deceased. Since COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted, our numbers for this year have started to improve.

For more information on this study, contact Majorie Kabahenda at majorie@whiwh.com

#### **ACB CHIWOS Data**

The Canadian HIV Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health Cohort Study, or CHIWOS, was developed and rolled out in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, with additional work in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The aims of CHIWOS were to:

- a) Assess the proportion, distribution and patterns of use and uptake of womencentred HIV care, and factors associated with service uptake among women living with HIV in Canada.
- b) Estimate the effect of womencentred HIV care uptake on the overall HIV, women's, mental and sexual and reproductive health outcomes of women living with HIV in Canada

Data was collected over three waves from October 2013 to September 2018 with a total of 1422 women living with HIV participating in the study.

With a signed agreement between Women's College Hospital and University of Toronto, Dr. Mona Loutfy, the CHIWOS Nominated Principle Investigator has handed over the ACB Women's data to Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, Wangari Tharao and Mary Ndungu as Chairs of a working group that has brought together

Black women researchers within the academy and community-based settings, services providers (Black women providers), graduate students and other Black women and their community leaders. This group is currently laying down the foundational work to support analysis of the data to better understand the issues of ACB women living with HIV and build effective supportive mechanisms to optimize their health and wellbeing.

For more information or to get involved, send email to acbchiwos@whiwh.com

#### Safe Hands Safe Hearts

We have completed the testing of the #SafeHandsSafeHearts, a peer-led eHealth intervention that was delivered in 3 sites - Toronto, Mumbai and Bangkok. The intervention aimed to increase COVID-19 knowledge and protective behaviours (masking, physical distancing and hand washing) and reduce psychological distress during the pandemic. The was targeted to 2SLGBTIA+ populations and involved three sessions delivered on line by peers. Two hundred and two (202) participants participated in Toronto.

We are now in the process of conducting focus groups and key informant interviews to gain an in-depth understanding of the data that emerged from the survey. We also want to understand the experience of the peers who delivered the intervention.

For more information please contact info@ whiwh.com

# Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE) Update

Once research projects/programs are finalized, we organize and deliver knowledge translation

and exchange (KTE) events to share study findings in the form of presentations and other products developed to package the knowledge generated and share it with multiple stakeholders. Knowledge products include factsheets, community reports/policy briefs, etc. This year two of our major projects ended and share findings and lessons learned we organized two knowledge to action events:

# Promoting Vaginal Health Reduce Risk of HIV in Womxm

On August 18th at the YMCA Toronto (20 Grosvenor St.), we facilitated a knowledge translation and exchange event to bring Black women, researchers, service providers and policy makers together to dialogue on vaginal Health and efforts needed to maintain a healthy vaginal microbiome. Dr. Charu Kaushic, McMaster University and Dr. Rupert Kaul shared. University of Toronto/ University Health Network presented findings from a number of studies they had done in partnership with WHIWH on the health of the vaginal microbiome. Take away messages included learnings about the millions of bacterial that live and thrive in the vaginal tract; some are harmful, while others are good; the good ones are needed to support the vagina in cleaning itself and in staying healthy. An imbalance in these bacteria is linked to several medical conditions, the most common being Bacterial Vaginosis (BV). BV results from an overgrowth of certain bacteria in the vaginal tract.

Women also raised questions which will inform the next stage of research to support our efforts for more long-term treatment and/ or elimination of BV and its risk for facilitating HIV transmission and other STIs. Over 70 participants attended the forum in-person while 57 participated online.

#### Together We Recover: Supporting Racialized Women's Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19 toward Improved Intersectional Health and Well-being

Our Immunization Partnership Fund project titled "Optimizing COVID-19 Uptake among racialized women in the Greater Toronto Area" was completed at the end of March 31st 2023. The project was implemented with the support of a team of peers from the main racialized groups targeted by WHIWH – Black, African, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian women and their communities living in the Greater Toronto area. The staff, peers and community partners involved in the project utilized multifaceted strategies to successfully support implementation of this highly successful project.

To share knowledge and lessons learned, we organized a 2-day forum that brought together service providers, researchers, policy makers and racialized women to dialogue and discuss strategize to improve vaccine uptake among racialized women in Toronto, support COVID recovery and develop sustainability plans to continue the working after the end of the project. The forum was received with a lot of enthusiasm with more than 100 participants/day onsite at the Courtyard by Marriott, Yonge St. and online.

We thank all those who joined us in the lively dialogue that took place during the two days.

# International meetings Update: UN CSW67

We participated in the UN Commission on the Status of women 67th meeting held in New York in March 2023. This year's meeting was a hybrid of in-person and remote. Our own Lori-Ann Green-Walker, Executive Director of

WHIWH attended in Person, while a number of us participated remotely. We submitted an abstract to host a session which was accepted.

Our session, presented on March 11th, from 12:30 – 2:00PM focused on young racialized women. The theme of CSW67 was "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". Our presentation was titled "Racialized youth, Gender-Based Violence, and the digital age: issues & interventions" and was led by our dynamic team that delivers our 3 major young Black women programs.

We highlighted the need to recognize the diversity of racialized young women based on race, gender, sexual orientation and other dimensions of difference when addressing issues of gender-based violence (GBV) and access to digital tools. We emphasised the extent to which discussions on GBV exclude the experiences of racialized individuals and fail to consider the impacts of digital violence ranging from the experiences of the average user to influencers who are leaders of the digital age. GBV impacts the well-being, careers, and safety of Black and racialized youth. We also highlighted the importance of interventions to mitigate these impacts, educate others, and the use technology as a tool to end GBV.

### POPULATION HEALTH TEAM

#### **Deepening Our Response to our Priority Populations**

#### African, Caribbean, Black Family Group Conferencing Project (ACB-FGC)

ACB-FGC is an adaptation of the Family Group Conferencing model of Alternative Dispute Resolution used in family conflict situations to help streamline court processes and encourage alternatives to court for families engaged in the child welfare system. Our adaptation builds from this model to meet the distinct needs of ACB children, youth and families.

This project received family referrals from both the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and WHIWH-CHC. This year we started to receive referrals from WHIWH-CHC staff and collaborative workflows have been developed to support clients' access to this program. ACB-FGC Coordinators are working with the families to develop a safety plan, family plan or a plan of care for the children in question.

# Diabetes Education and Prevention Program

Our Dieticians organized a series of both virtual and in-person Healthy Eating Group Sessions and workshops, complete with food demonstrations aimed at motivating behavior change. These sessions comprehensively covered essential topics like diabetes prevention, diabetes management, weight management, and the art of making healthy dietary choices on a budget. The primary goal was to equip participants with practical guidance and essential knowledge, empowering them to foster better health through improved nutrition practices.

#### **Diabetes Prevention Workshop:**

Our Virtual Diabetes Prevention Workshop equipped participants with a deep understanding of diabetes causes, risk factors, and preventive measures. Participants learned about the significance of maintaining a balanced diet, staying physically active, and effectively managing stress.

#### **Heart Healthy Eating Workshop:**

During this workshop, participants engaged in insightful nutrition discussions, delving into the significance of food choices and their impact on heart health. Moreover, dietitians conducted live food demonstrations, showcasing delicious and heart-healthy recipes that participants can easily incorporate into their daily lives.

# Diabetes Self-Management Nutrition Group:



In our Diabetes Self-Management Nutrition Group, we organized a series of four informative sessions, which included insightful nutrition workshops and food demonstrations. This initiative was designed to empower individuals living with diabetes with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to effectively manage their condition. When clients were asked what they found positive about the workshop, they responded:

"Everything, from the information, handouts, practice using the device, environment, recipes, meals, sources, advice, and so on, was perfect."

"The discussions on how food and exercise impact blood sugar and diabetes, as well as listening to the other participants' experiences in nutrition, were very beneficial."

#### The Basic Shelf Nutrition Group:



In collaboration with the Food Bank
Coordinator, the DEP team hosted The
Basic Shelf Nutrition Group, featuring four
informative sessions. This program was
dedicated to educating food bank clients
about preventing chronic diseases and
preparing nutritious, budget-friendly meals.
Our aim was to empower individuals to make
healthier dietary choices, even with limited
resources, thus contributing to improved
overall well-being in our community.

#### Weight Management Workshop:



In collaboration with the Healthy Living Coordinator, the DEP team successfully conducted four comprehensive sessions as part of the Weight Management Nutrition Group. These sessions featured a multifaceted approach to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight, including engaging food demonstrations showcasing nutritious meals, in-depth nutrition discussions tailored for effective weight management, and invigorating one-hour physical activity sessions led by a Zumba instructor.

#### Diabetes Prevention Program: Community Health Ambassadors Project

#### Healthy Living Now; for Better Health Outcome and Resilience Project

As an integral part of the comprehensive diabetes prevention and treatment services of WHIWH-CHC, the Diabetes Prevention Community Health Ambassador project has conducted several rounds of Healthy Living Hybrid Workshops (both virtual and in-person), to build the capacity of our communities to live healthier lives and to support the leadership development among

women, trans and nonbinary individuals from diverse communities. The Diabetes Prevention Workshops focused on promoting healthy eating practices, physical activities, and stress-management strategies to prevent Type-2-Diabetes. Clients expressed appreciation for the workshop content and takeaways as shared here:

".... I am particularly grateful of participating on the healthy living workshop, because I learn how I could still enjoy my cultural food while keeping it healthy and controlling what goes into it..."

Throughout the workshops, participants explored topics such as Canada's Food Guide, Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and stress management exercises. They were also provided with healthy cultural recipes and additional diabetes prevention tools, both in hard and virtual copies. In all workshops, participants are encouraged to discuss and plan lifestyle changes to promote health and wellbeing.





Community Health Ambassadors were recongized for reaching out to the priority populations and for promoting healthy living practices to help support our community in preventing Type 2 Diabetes. Healthy meals were preapred by Community Health Ambassadors, deriving from their various cultures. These meals were then shared potluck style among them and clients, during a recognition ceremony held at the centre. This event was conducted to demonstrate how culture and food tradition can be part of healthy eating



#### Mind Body Movement (MBM)/ Mental Health

Clients have the opportunity to engage in our Mind Body Movement (MBM) programs which include One on one yoga (referral only by WHIWH service providers), Chair Yoga, Dao Yin Yoga, Zumba and Qigong, as well as our Mindfulness Meditation mental health program.

We are excited to have some of these programs return to in-person at the center in response to clients' requests and needs – this has led to the enhancement of social connection and physical wellness.

Our in-person programs have included Oneon-One yoga (each practice is designed and taught according to the individual physical\ therapeutic needs, strength, and flexibility of the client), Chair Yoga (offers gentle mindful postures, breathing exercises and short meditations), Zumba (this dance exercise increases physical activity hence increasing better health outcomes) and Mindfulness Meditation (clients are able to learn practices that can be done at home to support balance, calmness, acceptance and compassion for themselves and others).

Below are some more client reflections from our programs.

'I really enjoyed the sessions & would look forward to them, Kat is great at what she does. I loved the variety of music; the different dance moves & the way Kat would add some fun into the routines. I also loved the convenience of attending online, the tips & recipes for healthy eating were truly appreciated. Thanks for organising this."

"I have enjoyed the class and hope to be able to join again when the next session starts. I also like the Food of the Week; it adds a nice little touch to it. Thanks for the opportunity."

This year we had our very first Golden Girls Zumba classes which caters to our 55+ year old clients. See below for client feedback:

"Thank you for providing us with this exercise class. I would like to see the sessions continue on Zoom because as a senior, it is difficult to find exercise classes that are culturally sensitive and specific to older women."

#### **DPP: Community Garden Program**

As an integral part of the comprehensive diabetes prevention and treatment services of WHIWH-CHC, the Community Garden Program has conducted several rounds of wellness workshops to not only increase access to fresh produce, but also address social isolation among women, trans and nonbinary individuals from diverse communities. The Community Garden Workshops focus on encouraging clients to incorporate more produce into their diets, grow their own produce, be more physically active, learn together, and connect with one another. Participants discuss various topics related to social determinants of health. access to healthy food, gardening with limited resources, stress-management strategies, social isolation, and the intersection between mental and physical health.





During workshops, participants were provided with relevant books, seedlings, and additional worksheets on growing food at home. In all the workshops, participants discuss their sense of health and wellbeing and share the positive health effects they notice when they eat healthily and connect with the food they are consuming. Participants celebrated their hard work by coming together to harvest their plants and recognize the cultural significance of growing food and harvesting crops across various African and Carribean regions. The Community Garden Program collaborated with organizations such as York-South Weston Union and Building Roots Urban Farm. Staff also provided a mental health component to this essential initiative.



# Mental Health and Wellbeing at WHIWH-CHC

Healing and Strengthening Relationships Group

Mental Health Therapists in collaboration with the HIV Services Navigator facilitated a 6-week group for clients from African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities. The group's objective was to provide a non-judgmental, safe space for our HIV positive clients to explore their relationships with self, family, community and health care systems and provide space to reflect on and share practical strategies to support strengthening and healing of these relationships. Participants were able to explore and reflect on

relationships that are important in their life, anchored by the relationship with themselves. Participants learned tools to help with being more self-compassionate and kind to themselves and how to continue to nurture this relationship in addition to other relationships.

#### Some Client Feedback

"I liked the content. It was well planned and presented. The most important point is building a relationship with myself."

"I really appreciated the presenter, the logistics, and the model of education about mental health and how to trust and care for myself

"I enjoyed coming to the group, sharing experiences in a safe and open and accommodating space, and facilitators were lovely, polite and knowledgeable"

# Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program (OSP)

As a partner site of CAMH, WHIWH-CHC is implementing the OSP program with Culturally Adapted Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CA-CBT). CA-CBT helps clients understand the connection between their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. Through in-session exercises as well as personal projects between sessions, clients are encouraged to draw on their own strengths and resources to learn new ways of coping, which in turn will improve their daily functioning and quality of life.

Over the last year, the OSP team achieved remarkable milestones, underscoring our commitment to providing comprehensive mental health support. Noteworthy accomplishments include:

- Tailoring treatment to cater to individuals experiencing symptoms of Depression, Generalized Anxiety, and Panic Disorder, ensuring personalized care that addresses specific needs.
- Offering support in both English and Spanish, making our services more accessible and inclusive to a diverse range of individuals seeking support.
- Rigorous monitoring and documentation of client participation and progress, reflecting our dedication to continuous improvement in our care.

These achievements exemplify the OSP team's unwavering dedication to excellence and innovation in the realm of mental health support.

#### Wellness Café

One-day workshop conducted by the team of Mental Health Therapists and Dieticians. The workshop provided our clients with a non-judgmental space for connection, conversations about stressors and strengths, and helpful tools to improve their wellness.

#### Wellness Café – "Ahora en Español"

Is a one-day workshop conducted by our Spanish-speaking dietician and mental health therapist. The workshop provided our Spanish-speaking clients with a culturally tailored, non-judgmental space to connect, discuss stressors and strengths, and gain useful tools to improve their well-being. The workshop was facilitated in Spanish.

#### Healing Journey – Skills Building Group For Survivors of Violence

The team of mental health therapists in collaboration with our Flourish Project Coordinator facilitated a 6-week group for survivors of violence. The group's goal was to provide a safe, non-judgmental space for

survivors of violence to share experiences that help reduce and/or eliminate shame stemming from the experience of violence, validate the impact of violence on survivors' lives, and learn skills and tools to help survivors experience increased freedom and inner peace. Participants were able to learn about different types of abuse, red flags and grey areas of abuse, impacts of abuse, cycles of abuse, intergenerational perspectives /effects of violence, tools to explore emotions, radical self-love, acceptance and compassion as pathways for healing.

Some Client Feedback

"I like the reflection aspect of what we did. How the group helped me see things about myself I didn't know I was feeling. It was truly a healing experience."

"Thanks for this opportunity. Please have many more."

# Healthy Hearts Over the Holidays Workshop

The Centre held a Healthy Hearts Over the Holidays Workshop in December 2022. Workshop included a talk on stress management and mindfulness practices where staff explained the importance of the stress response cycle both historically and in present day, emphasizing the need to complete it to avoid chronic stress-related health issues such as hypertension and burnout. To empower participants, they were encouraged to brainstorm on practical strategies including physical activity, breathing exercises, social interaction, physical affection, laughter, crying, and creative engagement.

#### Winter Retreat: Embodied Liberation

In February 2023, mental health staff cofacilitated a one-hour workshop during the day long Winter Retreat. The session aimed to empower participants during Black History Month through the theme of "Embodied Liberation." We explored the concept of "embodiment" and its role in achieving freedom within oppressive systems. Participants discussed freedom, barriers to Black joy, and ways to experience freedom in daily life. The workshop ended with a grounding exercise, encouraging reflection and reconnection with the body, community, and wider legacy. Throughout, the focus was on empowerment, self-awareness, and fostering connections.

#### **Black Healing Circle Workshop**

In June 2023, we delivered The Black Healing Circle workshop facilitated by Agape Lens. This workshop was aimed at creating a safe and nurturing environment for individuals of African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) backgrounds to discuss the impact of intergenerational and racial trauma. This 3-hour workshop included psychoeducation, group discussions, and brainstorming sessions to encourage connection and mutual support among participants. During the workshop, participants shared their personal experiences and healing paths, promoting empathy and belonging. The guided discussions facilitated profound reflections and diverse viewpoints. The event concluded by introducing healing practices and resources within ACB communities, leaving participants with a stronger sense of community and a commitment to their ongoing healing journey.

#### Immigration Legal Clinic

WHIWH-CHC has hosted 2 cycles of the Immigration Legal Clinic in 2023. The clinic was co-facilitated by the intake counsellors, social worker and immigration lawyer, El-Farouk Khaki. This event provides clients with an opportunity to receive information

and support with their applications for humanitarian & compassionate grounds, refugee claims, family sponsorship, and appeals. The system navigation team supported with accommodations and Spanish language translation during the sessions and further supported clients with information sharing and referral to community resources.

# Collaboration with Canadian Centre Victims of Torture

This Amharic & Tigrinya support group provided Eritrean/Ethiopian participants the opportunity to address isolation, lack of community support and stigma around mental health. Clients attended two in-person sessions and learned coping strategies to deal with isolation and how to foster a sense of community. In collaboration with Centre of Victims of Torture (CCVT), this program provided a safe space for open dialogue and mutual support.

Addictions. Both Ministers have a keen interest in mental health and addictions service provision for racialized women, trans and non-binary people. The visit consisted of a brief tour of our beautiful space followed by a meet and greet session where engaging discussions on our culturally safe and trauma informed approaches to mental health and well-being services, programming and interventions were held. A special "thank you" to Dr Natasha Williams for facilitating the connection and visit!

#### Associate Ministers' Visit



In April 2023, WHIWH-CHC was pleased to host Hon. Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity and Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and

# **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

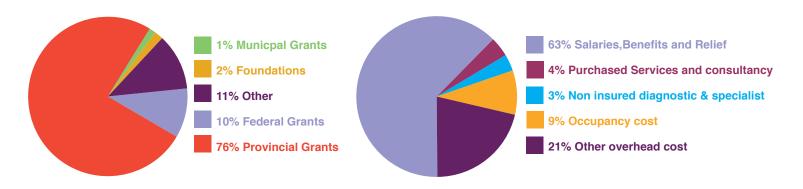
Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC -summarized statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ended March 31st, 2023 (With comparative figures for 2022)

Expenditure	2023	2022
Salaries, Benefits and Relief	\$4,459,660	\$4,574,702
Other staff related cost	\$35,563	\$47,750
Purchased Services and consultancy	\$288,606	\$147,442
Non insured diagnostic & specialist	\$240,101	\$227,258
Occupancy cost	\$640,611	\$627,999
Other overhead cost	\$1,526,786	\$1,193,799
Total Expenditure	\$7,191,327	\$6,818,949
Revenue		
Federal Grants	\$769,317	\$1,022,054
Provincial Grants	\$5,775,513	\$5,387,717
Municipal Grants	\$100,960	\$107,885
Foundations	\$137,500	\$663,034
Other	\$876,103	\$1,276,674
Total Revenue	\$7,659,393	\$8,457,364
Adjustments		
Transfer from/to Special Project Funds	\$198,435	-\$1,363,847
Due to Ontario Health	-\$463,728	-\$202,763
Due to Ministry of Health and Long Term Care & Aids Bureau	-\$93,081	-\$57,638
Recoveries During the Year	-\$109,692	-\$14,167
	-\$468,066	-\$1,638,415
Total Revenue minus adjustments	\$7,191,327	\$6,818,949

Expenditure 2023	\$	%
Salaries, Benefits, Relief and other	\$4,495,223	63%
Purchased Services and consultancy	\$288,606	4%
Non insured diagnostic & specialist	\$240,101	3%
Occupancy cost	\$640,611	9%
Other overhead cost	\$1,526,786	21%
Total Expenditure	\$7,191,327	100%
Revenue 2023	\$	%
Revenue 2023 Federal Grants	<b>\$</b> \$769,317	<b>%</b> 10%
	•	
Federal Grants	\$769,317	10%
Federal Grants Provincial Grants	\$769,317 \$5,775,513	10% 76%
Federal Grants Provincial Grants Municipal Grants	\$769,317 \$5,775,513 \$100,960	10% 76% 1%

#### Revenue 2023

# **Expenditure 2023**



### **THANK YOU!**

It is with deepest gratitude that WHIWH-CHC would like to thank each and every Student Intern, Community Health Ambassador, Peer Leader and Volunteer. Your countless hours of dedication and commitment to the advancement of healthcare for racialized women has been invaluable.

#### Students:

Caroline O'Neil Priyanka Gill Marielly Nodora Adrina Zhong Yasmine Chertouk
Toyemi Opeoluwn-Calebs
Chante Wright

Maclite Tesfaye

Sydney MacDougall Rabia Towfeq Feelin Labor

#### **Peers/Volunteers:**

Affiong Obot
Agnes Mbabazi
Agnes Rwimira
Akosua Peprah
Alaa Eissa
Alem Tekleab
Alisa Buckley
Amandeep Sekhon

Amina Chaudhary Angela Patricea Ramirez

Belinda Ageda
Bethelehem Birara
Bonani Mathe
Calista Nyembwe
Candice Madakadza
Caryl Munzara

Caryi Munzara
Casandra London
Chantal Mukandoli

Chikerenma Umechuruba

Chloe Kirlew-Geddes Cindy Kamau

Clementine Utchay Denese Frans

Dega Nur

Dequana Simmond Dexter Kanchenski

Dipika Roy

Emebet Mekonnen

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Florence Sekitte
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Justice Anderson
Justine Peters
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Kholeka Ndlovu
Kidist Kiros
Laarni Santiago
Laura Daniela Leon
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Louise Tiwaah-

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Neena.S

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Novlette Evans
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Rebecca Maina
Reham Teama
Riffat Fatima
Rizwana Zulfiqar
Robby Mukoniero

Romee Gayle Romy Alza Meza De Monge

Sabat Ismail

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Sauda Keita

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Taiwo Adeniyi

Tatenda Mudzingayama Thebiga Ravendreen Theresa Sinclair
Tolu Ogunyomi
Tumaini Lyaruu
Vanita Sabharwal
Wachera Mwangi
Wendolyn Vazquez
Wendy Zimbata
Zahida Khan

Zenitha Temenu Zoobia Safdar

# **COMMUNITY PARTNERS & FUNDERS**

#### **Community Partners**

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and

Community Services

Access St James Town

Across Boundaries

African and Black Diasporic Global Network on

HIV and AIDS (ABDGN)

African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in

Ontario

Africans in Partnership Against AIDS

AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener,

Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA)

AIDS Committee of Ottawa

**AIDS Committee of Toronto** 

AIDS Niagara

Alliance for Healthier Communities

Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

Anishnawbe Health Toronto

Anne Johnston Health Station

Asian Community AIDS Services

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention

Black Creek CHC

Black Health Alliance

Black Physicians of Tomorrow (BPT)

Black Women in Motion

Black Women's Visions

**BrAIDS For AIDS** 

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

Canadian Association of Community Health

Centres

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Canadian Mental Health Association -

Communities of Interest

Canadian Positive People's Network,

Canadian Public Health Association Caribbean

Women's Society Carleton University

Casey House Hospice

Centennial College School of Community and

**Health Studies** 

Central Neighborhood House

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Centre for Research on Inner City Health.

Centre for Spanish Speaking People

Centre for Urban Health

Centre Francophone de Toronto

CIHR Canadian Clinical Trials Network

CIHR Social Science Research Centre in HIV

Prevention.

Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment

(CAAT)

Community Based Research Centre (CBRC)

Daily Bread Food Bank

Davenport Perth Community Health Centre

Delta Family Resource Centre

Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team

(DET-OHT)

Dr. Roz Healing Place

East Don Mills Midwives of Michael Garron

Hospital

Elizabeth Fry Toronto.

El Tawhid Juma Circle

Ernestine's Women's Shelter

Fife House

Flemingdon Community Health Centre

For Youth Initiative

Forward in Faith International

Fred Victor Centre

Hamilton AIDS Network Health

Hassle Free Clinic

HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO)

Hospital for Sick Children

**Humewood House** 

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development

(ICAD)

Interim Place

International Community of Women Living with

HIV

**HIV Edmonton** 

**iRISE** 

Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA)
Kingsway Community Life Centre (KCLC)
LGBTQ+ Settlement Network Toronto

Maple Leaf Clinic

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment

Margaret's

Midaynta Community Services

McGill University
McMaster University

Metrac

Michael Garron Hospital Department of

Midwifery

Midwives Collective of Ontario

Mount Sinai Hospital

MOYO Health and Community Services Network for the Advancement of Black

Communities

Newcomer Women's Services

NGO Delegation, UNAIDS Programme

Coordinating Board (PCB) North York Women's Shelter

Oak Tree Clinic

BC Women's Hospital Ontario AIDS Network

Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving

**Immigrants** 

Ontario HIV Treatment Network Ottawa Children's Hospital

Ottawa University

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre

Pathways For Education

People to People Aid Organization (Canada)

Planned Parenthood Toronto Positive Living Niagara (PLN) Positive Pregnancy Program

The Redwood REACH Nexus Rexdale CHC

Rexdale Women's Centre Robert Carr Network Fund

Ryerson University Faculty of Nursing Ryerson University Faculty of Social Work

SafeLink Alberta

Salvation Army Sherbourne Health Centre

Sojourn House Somerset West CHC

South Asian Women's Centre

St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church - Toronto

St James Town Community Corner

St. Joseph's Hospital St. Michael's Hospital

St. Michael's Hospital HI-FI Lab Taibu Community Health Centre

Teresa Group The 519

Church Street Community Centre

The AIDS Network, Hamilton (The Network)

The Canadian Clinical Trials Network

The Redwood

Thorneloe University Times Change.

Women's Employment Service

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Toronto HIV/AIDS Network

Toronto Newcomer Strategy: Health Pillar

Committee

Toronto People with AIDS Foundation

Toronto Public Health

Unison Health and Community Services

University of Calgary University Health Network University of Ottawa

University of Toronto Bloomberg Faculty of

Nursina

University of Toronto Centre for Community

**Partnerships** 

University of Toronto Factor Inwentash School of

Social Work

#### Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Center Annual Report 2023

University of Toronto Faculty of Gender and Women Studies
University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of
Public Health,
University of Western Ontario ViiV
Pharmaceutical
West Scarborough Community Centre Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative
Women's College Hospital

Women's College Research Institute Working Women Centre World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research York University Faculty of Health, School of Nursing York University Faculty of Social Work YouthRex Youth Service Network Youthlink

#### **Funders and Supporters**

Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC expresses gratitude to our funders; first and foremost, Ontario Heath. We are also grateful for the funding provided by United Way, AIDS Bureau, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, City of Toronto Employment and Social Services, City of Toronto Confronting Anti-Black Racism Initiative, Employment and Social Development Canada-Canada Summer Job Program, City of Toronto-Community Investment Program, McMaster University, Ontario HIV Treatment Network, City of Toronto Urban Health Fund, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, The Public Health Agency of Canada, University of Toronto, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, TD Bank Group, Government of Canada-Department of Canadian Heritage, Griggs Family Foundation at Toronto Foundation, Slaight Family Foundation, Women and Gender Equality Canada, Unity Health/REACH Nexus, St. Michael's Hospital, The Children's AID Society of Toronto, The Foundation for Black Communities, Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (CACHC), CANFAR, Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR)/Canadian Association for Global Health, Mitacs, HIV Edmonton (Health Canada), UNAIDS, Employment and Social Development Canada – Supporting Black Canadian Communities, ViiV Healthcare, Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund

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Rowa Mohamed

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Sara Farah

Shamla Iqbal

Sherry Abas

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# **Location Map**

