Inspiring Hope Transforming Lives

2012 Annual Report

Manantial Neighbourhood Services

OUR CORE VALUES

· Caring for the whole person – body and mind
· Recognizing the full potential of each individual
· Promoting a violence-free community
· Showing compassion
· Showing respect and dignity
· Embracing diversity
· Demonstrating integrity and transparency
· Ensuring accessibility
· Promoting accountability

MISSION STATEMENT:

Manantial Neighbourhood Services, Inc. (MNSI) is a non-profit charitable organization that provides crisis intervention and newcomer integration services to primarily Latin American immigrants (individuals and families) in the Jane-Finch, Sheppard-Lawrence and Keele-Wilson communities of Toronto, and in south Vaughan. Manantial is particularly focused on serving the needs of youth and women victims of domestic and other violence, as well as providing leadership programs and activities for youth and seniors.

Charity Number 82415 1070 RR0001

Message from the Board of Directors

It is my privilege to present this annual summary of Manantial's successes in 2012.

Over the past year, we have accomplished many things together. I want to express my sincere thanks for the teamwork, loyalty and dedication shown by Manantial' Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, and the 'community of immigrants' themselves which have enabled Manantial to fulfill its mandate. Thanks to all of our partners and sponsors who have invested in our community to make a difference and to make positive changes in the lives of individuals and families of all ages and backgrounds, albeit predominantly Latin American in background, through a variety of programs and services. These programs and services were developed to promote awareness, end violence, strengthen family ties and empower lives. Manantial continues to help to make these individuals and families stronger and provided them with a sense of purpose.

Manantial keeps strong ties with local universities, colleges and other organizations, providing valuable work experiences for students, which has benefited us each equally. Many thanks go out to those who have invested their time, skills and talents to ensure that we had both a productive and successful year. Manantial has continued to blossom and bring hope to many seeking guidance, services, or friendship. Once more, I offer my appreciation to all.

In 2012, we continued to devote ourselves to realizing MNSI' first Latin American shelter for women. The shelter will be physically established next year, with the purpose of promoting family reintegration through a holistic approach to healing and reconciliation. We believe that with the aid and compassionate care of a supportive society we can improve the lives of the marginalized and many immigrants in need.

I would like to thank our sponsors and partners, Emmanuel Hispanic Church of the Nazarene, the Central District Office of the Nazarene Church, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, Immigrant Women's Health Centre, and foundations and individual donors who have continued to walk with us through this journey of serving those in need.

Lucila Maestre
Executive Director

Manantial' Board Members

Belkis Fernández
Former Executive Director and Programming Chair

Jonathan Mousley
Chair of the Board

Carlos Jerez
Secretary

Abraham Alberto
Community Advisor

Carlos Coloma
Community Advisor

Joshua Gonzalez
Community Advisor

Maira Jimenez
Community Advisor

A Special Thank You to all VOLUNTEERS!

53

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

3,800

TOTAL OF VOLUNTEERED HOURS

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, find new purpose in life and relieve stress. Receiving the gratitude of those to whom assistance is provided is, of course, something that is very special. Manantial's volunteers themselves often feel a sense of pride and achievement from carrying out such volunteer work.

A total of 3,800 hours were offered through student interns, community volunteer work, board meetings and program advisory committees.

My Volunteer Experience

I want to thank you so much for all that you have done during this past 14 weeks. Your kindness and dedication has helped me gain new skills that I will take with me into my future. I've had such a wonderful time sharing stories and experiences with you, and I think you are the most caring and sincere person I have ever met. I very much hope to keep in touch and work to contribute to Manantial and the community. I think of you as a friend and a mentor and feel so blessed to have had you as my supervisor.

-Danielle, a volunteer, in a thank you letter written to Manantial's Executive Director

Voices of Hope

Youth Support:

Access, Equity and Human Rights Program

The 'Voices of Hope' Youth Support Program was able to bring forth 'healthy and affirmative' race relations among a group of minority youth in the communities Manantial serves. Through the implementation of weekly educational workshops, creative arts exercises and interactive group discussions, youth participants gained new insight into the negative effects of racial discrimination and stereotyping; acquiring knowledge and skills to lead a positive lifestyle and to develop healthy relationships in their schools, homes and communities.

34 youth participants in the "Voices of Hope" program

'Voices of Hope' united a strong group of youth, allowing us the chance to learn and grow from each other. The weekly workshops were a great tool in helping us become aware of the social prejudices and injustices in our society. We acquired the ability to have a proper and just discernment in regards to different situations and scenarios that we face in our daily lives.

- Brenda

Creative Art Experiences

Passion rebuilds the world for the youth.
It makes all things alive and significant.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Take Control of Your Well-Being

Over the last five years, many seniors from the communities which Manantial serves have participated in Manantial's seniors programs in order to stay engaged in their communities, increase their mental, physical and spiritual health and wellness, and appreciate deeply the exceptional care, commitment and love that Manantial staff and program volunteers offer.

46 Since 2012, 46 seniors have been participating in the **"Take Control of Your Well-Being"** program in which a variety of activities are offered.

Weekly workshops with nutritious lunches and physical exercise, offer a place where seniors can learn, play, laugh, and socialize.

Take Control of Your Well-Being

Delicious Latin American Dishes

In 2012, the "Take Control of Your Well-Being" program for seniors created a practical and inspirational booklet containing Latin American recipes designed by-and for- a group of immigrant seniors who live in the local community, and gather together once a week at Manantial for education, food and fellowship. These recipes were handed down from generation to generation within their own families from their former countries. The recipes are not only rich and full of flavour, but also support a healthy, well-balanced diet.

We are very fortunate to have a supportive team of seniors who worked together to bring happiness, hope and enjoyment at this important stage of their lives. It was a beautiful opportunity for all of us to share our knowledge and experiences in culinary arts.

-Angela M., a Seniors' Advisory Committee volunteer

Testimony

Healthy eating begins at home and in family, so it is essential that when it is time to eat, you feel the love of your family. Eating healthy allows you to live a lifestyle and attitude that's filled with peace and love. *- Maryori., by a community volunteer*

During the year 2012, Manantial continued to follow its vision and mission of helping those in need. Working predominantly with Latin American immigrants and families, and through a variety of programs and services, Manantial helped to make these individuals and families and their communities stronger, and provided them with a sense of purpose. Manantial has continued to blossom and bring hope to many seeking guidance, services, or simply friendship.

Counselling Services

for women, youth and families has always been an essential service offered by Manantial. Manantial's counseling services support immigrant families, women and youth in crisis, and has greatly impacted the lives of many, bringing about hope and the promise of a brighter future in a new land.

In 2012 more than 115 individual, women, youth, and seniors received counselling and guidance.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Program

In 2012, 12 HIV/AIDS/STI outreach, promotion and educational awareness workshops to immigrants from Latin America were delivered to a total of ***243 men and women*** participants. Manantial's program designed a Spanish-language brochure for the City of Toronto, Public Health Division, relating the causes and effects of HIV/AIDS/STIs to Spanish –speaking residents of the City. Manantial, in collaboration with "Latinos Positivos" presented a workshop on prevention in April. The experience was new to the agency, community members and the "Latinos Positivos" group. We are planning to continue this relationship during our next program year.

Other Services

Through this past year, Manantial provided various settlement and referral services to new immigrants , helping them to settle and adjust to their new life in Toronto.

In 2012, 425 services were offered through drop-in settlement, housing, immigration and citizenship, documents and advocacy services.

Annual Health Fair

In 2012, this annual community event was held on July 26th, and was visited by more than 100 community members. Free services offered included: the Mobile Health Clinic of the Immigrant Women Health Centre, workshops from the A-Plus Institute for Dental Hygiene, Alzheimer Society of Toronto, and the Don Mills Family Health Team. To engage young people, Manantial launched the **Voices of Hope Concert**, a unique experience where youth had the opportunity to express themselves with creative arts and music impacting the lives of the audience.

"Voices of Hope "Concert

Mobile Clinic of Immigrant Women Health Centre

Partnerships

Over the years, Manantial has entered into partnerships with several local organizations to deliver local programs and services:

Manantial is part of the **Black Creek Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)** funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). The Black Creek LIP is lead by a Council, with the Council's membership representing approximately 16 services and institutions as well as newcomers and grassroots groups in the Black Creek area of Toronto. The LIP is focuses on developing a local settlement strategy to coordinates and enhances service delivery to newcomers, with an aim to improve social and economic integration of immigrants. Manantial looks forward to continuing to work with other organizations that form part of the LIP to achieve this aim.

Over the last three years, anger management programs have been delivered at Manantial every Saturday through **Counterpoint,** an organization that provides counselling services for men. This year over 100 men participated in the program.

Over the last six years, Manantial has been working n partnership with **Immigrant Women's Health Centre,** which has had a positive impact on improving health and well-being in our community. The Centre's mobile health clinic is dedicated to providing PAP test for the detection of cervical cancer, among other services. Through Manantial's Annual Health Fairs, we have been able to create awareness and educate the local community on disease prevention and the importance of developing healthy habits to help improve health and well-being.

Manantial is also part of the Spanish Workers Coalition which seeks to maintain and cultivate Hispanic culture in Toronto.

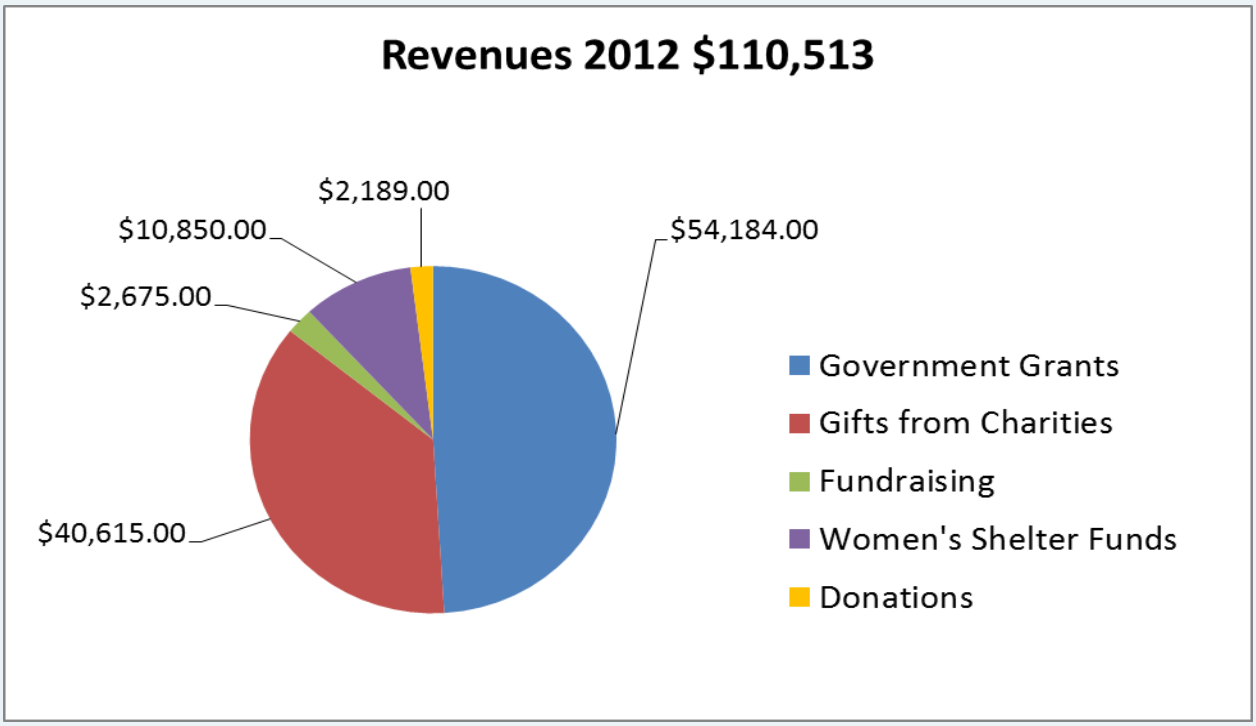
Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to all of the partners, board of Directors, leaders, staff, and volunteers whose dedication, input and commitment to improving the lives of the members of this community have made Manantial's many accomplishments in 2012 possible. We are greatly indebted to our donors and sponsors for their financial assistance- without their commitment, none of this would be possible.

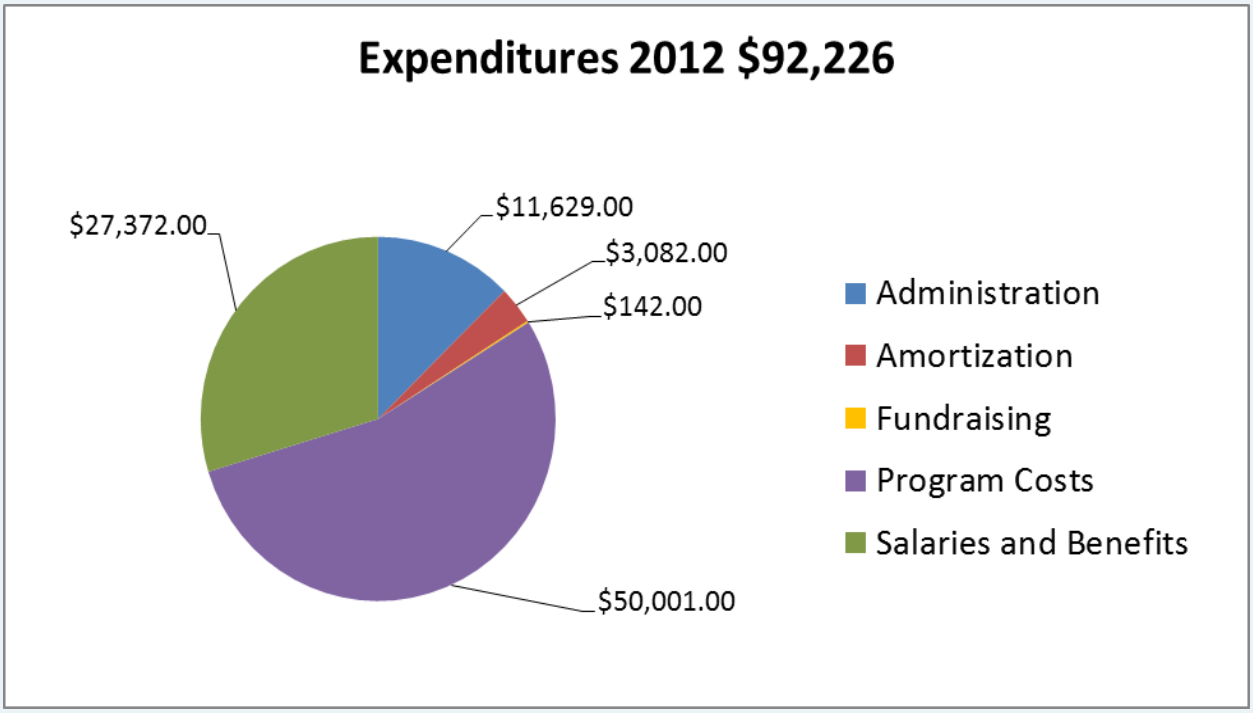
MANANTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES INC.

Financial Activity report for the Year Ended September 30, 2012.

Revenues



Expenditures



Manantial Neighbourhood Services, Inc.
1875 Sheppard Ave. West
Toronto, Ontario
M3L 1Y6

Phone: 416.915.0997
Fax: 416.915.0996
E-mail: info@mnsi.org
Webpage: www.mnsi.org

Charitable Business Number:
82415 1070 RR0001

Manantial Neighbourhood Services, Inc.

Canada

TORONTO

immigrant women's HEALTH CENTRE