



ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Changing Lives With YOUR Care and Support

Our Mission

Helping People

As a multi-cultural Christian outreach and community centre, The Lighthouse demonstrates God's love by offering unconditional hospitality, by sharing our resources and by helping people in need.

We offer an atmosphere of respect, dignity and security in order to address spiritual, emotional and physical needs, all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Changing Lives

To establish and maintain well-being, safety, dignity and community for individuals and families affected by poverty, migration stress, injustice and violence.

Our Holistic Approach

The Lighthouse engages those we serve in a holistic manner and in a culturally sensitive way. We recognize the importance of addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs in order for our clients to realize a ample sense of wellbeing. We focus on the immediate needs of our clients, and we also work proactively to empower our clients by enabling life-learning skills. We recognize the factors that contribute to an individual's current circumstances and prospective future, such as social conditions, personal history, family dynamics, access or barriers to community supports, cultural traditions and the individual's own hopes, goals and dreams.

Like the spokes on a wheel, these factors represent different areas in a person's life that contribute to the whole person. At The Lighthouse, we have developed a variety of services and programs, which seek to strengthen as many of these "spokes" as possible, recognizing that all are relevant to the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of our clients. A more detailed version of our Holistic Wheel for Support and Wellbeing can be viewed at <http://lighthousecentre.ca/what-we-do/>.

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Looking Ahead to 2015

Our Core Values

The guiding influence for The Lighthouse's core values is our **CHRISTIAN** faith and the desire to pattern our lives, deeds and interactions on the life, love and ministry of Jesus Christ.

We offer **LOVE** and **COMPASSION**. We strive for sound **STEWARDSHIP**.

We are committed to **SOCIAL JUSTICE**. We foster **SAFETY** and **HEALING**. We promote and work in **COMMUNITY** and we seek **RECONCILIATION** and **HOPE**.

For a detailed explanation on what our core values are, please visit the page:

<http://lighthousecentre.ca/our-core-values/>

Message from the Chair of The Board and the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The Lighthouse was blessed in 2014! Here are some highlights from our programs, the Executive Director, volunteers and the Board of Directors:

- Hosted 3 summer camps offering fun and learning for 130 children
- Facilitated 10 information and healing workshops for parents, caregivers and seniors
- Assisted in the launch of the fledgling Vietnamese catering business "9 Women Catering"
- Celebrated the successful completion of 44 graduates from the Haircutting and Manicure Program and 17 graduates from the Leadership Training Program
- Offered holistic counselling to 150 individuals, many on a weekly basis
- Served an average of 55 households with the Food Bank each week
- Presented at 10 professional conferences
- Participated in the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue, Refugee Justice Task Force (2 members)
- Hired one full time staff to replace Janet Elliott, who retired
- Hosted 5 successful fundraising events: Coldest Night of the Year, Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, Annual Phone-a-thon, Ride for Refuge and Benefit Concert
- Received funding from Canada Summer Jobs to hire two students
- Received a Sea-to-Sea grant for \$10,000 and a Christian Reformed Church, Canada Foundation grant for \$9,500
- Built community through an informative website www.lighthousecentre.ca and current Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thelighthouseontario>
- Worked with an amazingly committed and active Board of Directors

The Board and staff want to thank you for being part of The Lighthouse in 2014. We need your ongoing prayers and financial support as we walk alongside the poor, the newcomer and the refugee, offering assistance, sharing the good news of the Gospel, and learning what community and faithful living look like.

We praise the Lord for His goodness in 2014 and pray for his continued blessing in 2015.

With deep gratitude,



Jeanette Romkema
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J Romkema".



Rob Datema
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Rob Datema".

Our Board of Directors:

Adrian Helleman
Daisy Wai
Fadi Sharaiha
Jane Moore - Vice-Chair
Juan Rojo - Secretary
Roger Visser
Zaur Gassanov - Treasurer

Fostering Community

Recognizing that well-being is facilitated through positive relationships, The Lighthouse has established and oversees various ongoing and special programs that foster a sense of community, particularly for those new to Canada. One instance of a special program particularly helpful to newcomers is the ESL program offered at our building. Learning key language skills while forming new friendships can be crucial in adapting to a new country.



***Chinese ESL Program Christmas Dinner - 2014**

**Offered at Scarborough location*

Advocating for Stability and Security

Fleeing one's country, and living as a refugee in another country, is an extremely difficult and stressful experience. Obtaining refugee status in Canada has become increasingly difficult for those seeking refuge from human rights violations, persecution and violence in their native lands. In addition, the need for financial security quickly follows the need for physical safety and security.



Manicure/Pedicure & Hair Cutting Courses - 2014





Strengthening Families

In 2014, various family/children programs were provided in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, affording opportunities for parents and children to learn and engage each other through a variety of interactive activities. Through play, parents could bond with their children while improving on trust and communication skills. Through art therapy (Hispanic Family camp only), children could express various emotions and their hope for the future.



Summer Camps - 2014

Enhancing Skills and Resources

A key element of social justice is the promotion of those institutions that enable people to lead a fulfilling life and be active contributors to their community. A shortage of resources can impede the ability of individuals to realize their potential within their community. In 2014, a number of Hispanic newcomers were able to complete the Leadership Training and Development Program, enhancing their potential and ability to provide leadership.



Graduation Leadership Training - 2014

Stories of Change

"I was the victim of a crime... I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder soon after the incident. Unable to work, I relied on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) as my only source of income. Living on ODSP, I do not receive enough money to eat a healthy diet, so I have been coming once per week to The Lighthouse for food. At The Lighthouse, I receive fruit, vegetables and basic necessities I need... When I come each week, I am treated with kindness and respect. I am so thankful for this support in my time of need."

-C (Food Bank client)

"I am happy to know that places like The Lighthouse exist, where people like me, who don't speak English and feel terrified of immigration authorities, can get caring, honest and professional help. I didn't want my children to grow up without me... Now... my wife has my support, and my children will see their father come home everyday. Thank you."

- Client of Hispanic Program (refugee advocacy services), who had faced possible deportation

"The Lighthouse treats me like family... [It] has helped me furnish the apartment and has purchased things for me that I didn't realize I needed. The Lighthouse came into my life and offered me and my daughters unexpected, amazing assistance. My wish for my daughters is that they grow up to be happy and kind to others, as The Lighthouse has treated me."

-Linda (Chinese Program client)

"... approximately 80% of the [ESL] students and 50% of the dancercise class are not followers of Jesus – yet each week, these programs provide opportunities to discover more about who God is and to experience His love first-hand. I have been blessed and enriched by the time I have spent with Rita [Chinese Program Coordinator] and the Chinese clients, who have taught me more about community, sharing, hospitality and looking out for one another."

-Michelle Bauer (Intern, Fall/Winter 2014)

NOTE (2014 FINANCES): At the end of 2014, The Lighthouse has an outstanding mortgage obligation of **\$75,000** and continues to work diligently in financing its operations.

Testimonial from a Volunteer

"When I first began working at The Lighthouse, I didn't intend on building any sort of relationship/connection with others... My only goal at the time was to gain [volunteer] hours and have fun with my friend [a co-volunteer]... However, as each day passed... [I ended up] becoming friends with the other volunteers as well as the campers. I believe this is due to the fact that The Lighthouse is made up of such amazing people who are honest, reliable, respectful and [fun to be with]... I feel as if we are one big family where everyone matters and we look after [each other]... I will definitely volunteer again next year, and the year after that, and the year after that...!"

John Lee
Volunteer for 2014 Vietnamese Family Camp

2014 Finances

Total Revenue for 2014 - \$387,304

Individual donors	\$103,390
Grants	\$19,500
Fundraising Events	\$110,225
Grants/contributions from CRC Classis Toronto churches	\$51,215
Grants/gifts from other churches	\$20,489
Gifts from Other Organizations	\$50,829
Grants from government	\$7,380
Rental income	\$8,400
Other income (e.g. from other sources where no charitable receipt is issued)	\$15,876

Total Expenses for 2014 - \$358,678

Programs	\$248,828
Building and Occupancy Costs	\$21,012
Administration and Management	\$41,507
Promotion/Fundraising	\$38,611
Interest and Bank Charges	\$8,720

2014 Facts & Figures

Program/Service

Number of People Reached/Served

2014 2013

Neighbourhood/Community program

Food Bank Program	454	334	
Income Tax Clinic	253	250	

Hispanic Programs

Counselling	101	25	Includes 32 cases involving individuals and family members
Consultation & Advocacy	60	60	
Summer Family Camp	71	62	23 Families
Immigration Workshops	30	30	One time
Leadership Training & Development	19 + 14 kids	14	Includes a special program for kids. 10 full days in total
Sewing Class	7		Ongoing every week
Hispanic Seniors Program	25	20	Ongoing every week
Haircutting Course	16	15	Ongoing every week
Manicure/Pedicure & Nail Decoration Course	20	18	Ongoing every week
Acrylic Nails, Gel Nails and Make-up Workshops	29	45	3 different workshops, 3 days each
Special Events/Celebrations	353	30-75	One time celebrations (Christmas; Thanksgiving; Mother's Day; Father's Day; Women's Day; Course Graduation; Volunteer Appreciation Lunch; Senior's Anniversary)
Other Educational Workshops	42		Four different workshops

Vietnamese Programs

Counselling	48	63	30 counseling cases, 48 counseling clients, 28 clients for consultation cases
Women's Support Group	12	14	
Prison Ministry/Visitation	180	123	46 sessions (West & South Detentions)
Family Summer Camp	63	71	32 children, 14 adults/parents, 17 volunteers
Parents' Support Group	6	10	7 sessions
Healthy Cooking for Kids	44	16	16 children, 11 adults/parents, 17 volunteers
Special Events Celebrations- Thanksgiving	61	43	29 children, 21 adults/parents, 11 volunteers
Special Events Celebrations – Christmas	70	72	10 adults
Catering Group	11	14	
Educational Workshops	24	19	(in partnership with Vietnamese Women's Association – 2 guest speakers)

Chinese Programs

Settlement Counselling	47	64	Markham and Scarborough
Community Education Workshops	58	65	Markham and Scarborough
ESL Program	103	116	Scarborough
Community Baking & Cooking Class	98	73	Markham and Scarborough
Dancerise Class	76	79	Markham and Scarborough
Special Events/Celebrations	533	376	New year 128, Easter 89, Thanksgiving 120, Christmas 196
Educational Outings	141	42	TTC tour 27, Family Outing 76, Apple Picking 38
Children's Summer Camp	67	47	Scarborough 67 children and 16 volunteers
Women's Craft Class	21		Scarborough
Evangelical Lunch	333		Bi-monthly

Plans & Goals 2015

2014 was a great year at The Lighthouse with stronger, more focused programs and an engaged and active staff and board of directors ("Board"). We continue to grow! With this comes more accountability for planning and funding. To ensure this, The Lighthouse Board has the following 2015 goals:

Develop a 3-year plan. All staff, ED, Board and its committees work with annual goals and workplans. This helps us hold each other accountable and stay focused. It is now time for a longer look at where The Lighthouse needs to go next. The Board will lead the development of a 3-year plan with the help of external experts, supporters and staff to inspire us for the 50th anniversary of The Lighthouse in 2018!

Determine what new ministry The Lighthouse needs to develop. The GTA and surrounding areas are always changing, and so are its needs. Almost 40 years ago, The Lighthouse was welcoming "boatpeople" to Toronto and helping them adjust to their new home; over the past 10 years or so, counselling has been a priority need in Vietnamese and Hispanic communities; and today, we want to reflect and assess what new needs we are being called to meet.

Develop a strategy for more consistent cash flow. In the early history of The Lighthouse, our budget was largely met by freewill offerings collected by supporting churches. Over time, our budget has increased, and our ability to rely on such donors has decreased. We have diversified our fundraising strategies and stabilized the flow of funds. Beside quarterly fundraising events, we now need to develop ways to further stabilize sufficient cash flow.

Nurture and strengthen our relationships with supporters. Faithful supporters are critical for sustaining our programming and maximizing positive impact in communities. We want to ensure individuals, groups and churches feel ownership of The Lighthouse, satisfaction in knowing what their support makes possible, and excitement about future ways to partner in ministry.

Ensure a diverse and healthy Board of Directors. Because The Lighthouse Board is an active/operational Board, "more hands make light work." The Nominating Committee has a mandate to maintain a diverse and healthy Board, ensuring that its members reflect our client communities, have the skills needed for effective governance, and are passionate about justice and healing in the world.

Please give generously

The Lighthouse is dependent on the generosity of caring like-minded individuals, churches and businesses to continue its programs and services.

Donations can be made online at www.canadahelps.org. Canada Helps offers the ability to give anonymously and securely through credit card or interact payments. Online gifts are receipted instantly by email by Canada Helps.

Cheques payable to The Lighthouse can be mailed or delivered to the address indicated below. Consider giving through pre-authorized remittance (PAR), *as a steady stream of revenue helps The Lighthouse plan more effectively for the future.

Consider making a bequest, establishing an endowment or otherwise including The Lighthouse in your planned giving/estate planning.*

Receipts in respect of donations in any calendar year are issued on or prior to the last day of January in the immediately following calendar year (except donations through Canada Helps).

It continues to be a challenge to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve. Please consider making a gift that will ensure The Lighthouse continues to help people and change lives for years to come!

* Contact Rob Datema at rob@lighthousecentre.ca for more information.



1008 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5R 3G7
T. 416 535 6262 | F. 416 535 3293 | www.lighthousecentre.ca
BN 13036 3740 RR0001

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