



Annual Report 2017



Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre
550 Hamilton Rd., London, ON N5Z 1S4
www.crouchonline.org
Phone: 519-642-7630 Fax: 519-642-7026

Our Mission

The Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre is a neighbourhood organization which brings diverse people together to plan, develop, and provide services and activities that support, build community capacity, and nurture the well-being of all residents in the Hamilton Road Community

Our Vision

The Vision of the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre is to be a strong, dynamic, and diverse community organization that supports a process of neighbours helping neighbours, through programs, services, and projects that benefit the Hamilton Road Community.



A Message from Board Chair, Coby Veenendaal & Executive Director, Margaret Wills



What does a Neighbourhood Resource Centre do? Whatever the neighbourhood needs it to do! In 2017, Staff and volunteers at Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre:

- Supported the St. Julien Park Festival, the Country Hoedown and the Railway Heritage Festival
- Provided fresh food and vegetables from 5 community gardens and the Good Food Box program
- Served lunch and provided support for 60 – 100 men every Thursday (52 weeks) at Egerton St. Baptist Church
- Provided emergency food to almost 1,000 people
- Helped people to find affordable housing, access government benefits, access mental health supports, leave abusive relationships, receive addiction support...
- Provided workshops on money management
- Provided drop-in pre-school fun for children and caregivers



- Provided education on preparing affordable, nutritious meals
- Involved children in healthy meal preparation
- Provided afterschool nutrition, recreation, games and crafts
- Provided summertime fun for neighbourhood children and youth
- Hosted Saturday morning adventures to Storybook Gardens, Pioneer Village, Children's Museum and more



If there is something that you would like to see in our neighbourhood, let us know! We'd love to help you to make it happen.

2017 was the year of new partnerships for Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre. In an effort to ensure that we are serving our community members to the very best of our ability, we have partnered with some outstanding organizations.

Boys and Girls Club
Pathways Woodworking Shop
Health Zone
Childreach
London Intercommunity Health Centre
Beautiful Edibles
Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre
Growing Chefs
London Food Coalition

These partnerships have allowed us to provide: increased access to recreation programs for children in our afterschool programs; facilitated discussions for parents; woodworking education and opportunities for men in the community; healthcare services for Hamilton Road community residents; increased access to fresh food, fruits and vegetables for community members; cooking lessons for children and so much more....

Through our continued strong relationships with the Hamilton Road Community Association and Hamilton Road Area Business Association we have been able to participate in the St. Julien Park Festival, Hidden History of Hamilton Road, the Hamilton Road "Matters" Newsletter, and the Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan.



And of course, Crouch Branch Library who generously provides us with our home base.

Many Thanks to all who have participated, volunteered, supported and donated!



Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre

Thank you to our 2016-17 Board of Directors!

Coby Veenendal (Board Chairperson)
Claude Olivier (Vice-Chair)
Jennifer Hollis (Secretary)
Diane MacMillan (Treasurer)
Kathryn Lambert
James Dean
Russell Green
Kevin Davidson (standing Crouch Library Position)
Beth Landowski (Non-voting)
Margaret Wills (ex-officio)

2018-2019 Board of Directors

To be Elected

Jennifer Hollis
Claude Olivier
Diane MacMillan
James Dean
Chantal VanLeeuwen
Vincent Jonathon
Margaret-Ann Peddle
Rebecca D'souza
Jennifer Hale
Jeff Duncan

Appointed: Kevin Davidson, Janice Hamilton, Margaret Wills

2017 Staff

Youth Team

Alicia Stafford
Cory Funes
Arizona Pheonix
Jasmine Paul
Darrin Schuyler

Shelley Qiu
Shelley McIntyre
Rebecca Viveiros
Danielle Schultz
Sarah Frank

Brittany Shepley
Daisy Willar-Brady
Taylor Frenette
Nohemi Lopez
Fares Amanuel

Community Development Team

Bethany Innes-Mejia

Margaret Wills (Executive Director)

Preschool Team

Cara Chafee Kimberly Beck

Community Outreach and Support

Stanislav Rajic

Megan Kesich

Carolyn Luistro

Craig Mellow

CMHA

Christine Wilson

Our Community Members

Each year we survey our program participants to ensure that we are fulfilling their needs. Below are some of the comments we received in 2017.



In our Afterschool Program:

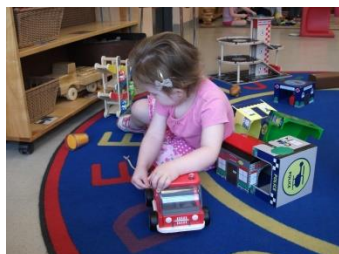
What's the biggest change you've experienced since attending the afterschool program?

- + I'm eating healthy
- + I'm making new friends and being more social
- + I'm learning to control my emotions
- + I'm learning to be less shy

In Summer Splash:

The biggest changes I have experienced by coming to this program are:

- + I met new friends and experienced gardening
- + It is fun to garden because you get to harvest and it is healthy
- + being more active and making healthier choices
- + I'm not alone
- + working together and helping each other
- + choosing better food to eat and getting more exercise



Early Years Program:

- + Staff takes the time to get to know each child
- + Dedicated to children and parents
- + Friendly and Supportive Staff
- + Warm and Very Welcoming atmosphere

Our adult programs

- + Giving me a chance to help others
- + Helping me access my first support worker through CMHA and helping me with my addictions.
- + Giving me confidence, friends, social activities
- + Crouch has made a big difference in my life because they have shown that kindness goes a long way
- + Exposing me to multiple services in the community
- + I just find that the staff is amazing and have been so sweet to me and shown kindness and have been there to protect my son and I. Thanks
- + I really enjoy coming here. The arts and crafts and cards have helped me with my anxiety problems
- + Thank you for the help I have receive and the feeling of belonging





Greetings from the Crouch Branch of London Public Library

Today we celebrate the longstanding partnership between London Public Library and the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre. Together, we aim to enrich the lives of our friends and family in the Hamilton Road community. We work with community members to identify assets, and gaps, develop plans and strategies to include the community in addressing gaps, and enact change. Whether working towards food prosperity, employment opportunities, social connectedness, or other, a visit to both the Crouch Library and the Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre is a great step toward expanding possibilities.

Congratulations to the CNRC and their amazing staff on another year of outstanding achievement and a heartfelt thank you for creating such a positive impact in our neighbourhood.



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Middlesex
Mental health for all

**Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale**
Middlesex
La santé mentale pour tous

Greetings from CMHA Middlesex

The Community Wellness Program of CMHA Middlesex is delighted to be in partnership with Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre and the London Public Library. It is an honour to be working together with volunteers, community members, area businesses, schools, faith groups and other health care and service providers to create a safe and healthy community for all.

Highlights of 2017 – Another Year of Creativity

Circle of Life – Art Therapy Group with Registered Art Therapist, Norma Jean Kelly.

This year the women's art therapy group had the privilege to work on the London Clay Art Centre Mosaic project and also sold a group piece at the Framing the Phoenix Art Show.



Cards, Crafts and Games – This group is brimming with support and laughter. It is a weekly pleasure to gather with the participants who have made this group a real 'go to' destination for fun and friendship. Much gratitude to Gladys Neathway and Wanda Gould, for your dedication to this group in 2017.

Boost Your Self Esteem Group and the Thursday Men's Group are two new additions to programs that are now offered through the Crouch/CNRC located at the Crouch Branch London Public Library. CMHA Middlesex gives sincere thanks and appreciation for having access to the valuable community meeting spaces that are relied upon to make these programs possible.

Christine Wilson

Awards

Hamilton Road Area Leadership Awards

The Recipients of the Hamilton Road Area Leadership Award demonstrate a level of volunteerism, commitment, and leadership over and above the call of duty. These leaders set an example and inspire others to get involved to make their community a better place. Each year, deserving adults and youth who demonstrate leadership qualities in our community are selected to receive the Hamilton Road Area Leadership Award. Congratulations to the 2015 recipients of the Hamilton Road Area Leadership Award.

Youth Leaders

Tessica Lamoureux

Adult Leaders

Doreen Fairservice

Don McLeod

Peggy Sutton Outstanding Youth Achievement Award

The Peggy Sutton Outstanding Youth Achievement Award was created in memory of Peggy Sutton whose life exemplified community engagement. Peggy was a long-time volunteer with the Hamilton Road Community and Senior Centre, was an active member of Kiwanis for 14 years where she was the Kiwanis' first female member and treasurer, as well as a local Scout Leader for over 30 years. Peggy and her husband Bob always made an annual personal contribution to our Summer Splash program to benefit youth in the Hamilton Rd. area. Bob continues to personally and generously support our youth programs.

Two young recipients are chosen each year for the Peggy Sutton Outstanding Youth Achievement Award; in addition to their names being engraved on the plaque, Mr. Sutton provides a cash acknowledgment to each winner. The youth nominee must be between the ages of 10 and 24 years old, be a committed volunteer, actively involved in the Hamilton Road Community, attending school, and demonstrate excellent leadership qualities. Congratulations to our 2017 recipients of the Peggy Sutton Outstanding Youth Achievement Award.

Janessa Ford

Destiny Taylor

The Crouch Teal Heart Award



The Crouch Teal Heart Award is a recognition award community members who give their heart and soul in service to Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre and to the Hamilton Road community.

The recipients of this award are connected to Crouch and have demonstrated energetic, positive and giving attitudes toward their fellow community members. They often recognize and respond to a need for an extra hand. They can be found working, sometimes behind the scenes, enabling Crouch to go that little bit further in delivering services. Despite obstacles they may face, they see the world as open before them and are taking on the challenges of personal growth. The recipients of this award are thoughtful, compassionate and passionate, hard workers and people who see the community as their own and want to better it through their being a part of it. They are ambassadors and positively promote Crouch's services and the Hamilton Road Community. Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Crouch Teal Heart Award.

Youth

Jamarius Earhart Keira Worton
Desiray Titus Chardonay Garrard

Adults

Mark Boudry (aka Crow) Staff of Crouch Library
Kohn's Meat Market
Sharon Vanderloop Evelyn Hayman
Hamilton Road Seniors Bingo
Vincent Jonathon
Ian Gifford
Christine Wilson

**Thank you to our funders and supporters who make the work of Crouch
Neighbourhood Resource Centre Possible!**



Many thanks for the generous contributions of London Public Library (Crouch Branch), Hamilton Road Seniors and Community Centre, Kings University College School of Social Work, UWO School of Nursing, Egerton St. Baptist Church, All Saints Anglican Church, CMHA Middlesex, our partner Neighbourhood Resource Centres (South London NRC, LUSO Community Services, Glen Cairn CRC), Boys & Girls Club, Kiwanis Club of North London, Bea Nofle, CAS Employee Fund, All Nations Full Gospel Church, Middlesex-London Health Unit, Dental Outreach Clinics; Schulich School of Dentistry, UWO, Fanshawe College, IMPACT Church, London Food Bank, Salvation Army, London Intercommunity Health Centre, St. Leonard's Community Services, Health Zone, our many donors, Great West Life, Union Gas, Agape Foundation, Larry Myny, Kohns Meat Market, Evans Funeral Home, Ideas Unisex Hair Design, Accutax, Ealing Home and School, project and event partners, and volunteers. We work hand in hand with large numbers of community volunteers in our Hamilton Road neighbourhood organizations including: The Hamilton Road Community Association (residents), The Hamilton Road Area Business Association (business owners and operators), St. Julien Park Festival Planning Committee, Hidden History of Hamilton Road group, Food Forest Stewardship group, London Food Coalition, The Changemakers – London, Frightmares, and many other seasonal and neighbourhood planning groups, project and event committees.