



ENGAGING, ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING YOUTH SINCE 1985



LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission

Living Rock Ministries is a charity reaching out in the cultural language of youth since 1985. Living Rock offers youth a place of belonging, safety and a bridge to the community, while supporting youth to develop a personal vision for their lives.

Our Values

In pursuit of our mission and vision, Christ has called us to value; justice, compassion, diversity, community and learning.

Our Purpose

OUR VISION IS TO ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP YOUTH

Living Rock Ministries has been a safe place of community and support for youth for 39 years. Last year alone, we responded to over 1,800 individuals, serving one of Hamilton's most vulnerable populations: young people aged 13-25 facing challenges such as family loss, poverty, substance misuse, and mental health issues.

Navigating social systems can be overwhelming for young people, especially when it comes to meeting their basic needs for food, education, and shelter. Living Rock Ministries addresses these needs through a comprehensive range of programs and services that offer a continuum of care. Our initiatives support youth and their children, providing opportunities for personal growth, life skills development, and employment training.



GOLF TOURNAMENT



WE RAISED \$27K NET





ARTS OF AUGUST

The 22nd Annual Arts of August Grand Finale Showcase at The Gas Works.
We exhibited 89 works of art from 57 young, talented youth artists!
They submitted pieces of visual, literary, photography and performance arts
under the themes of Peace, Love, Equality, and Culture.



THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EVENT

2024 FINANCIALS

Income Breakdown – 2024

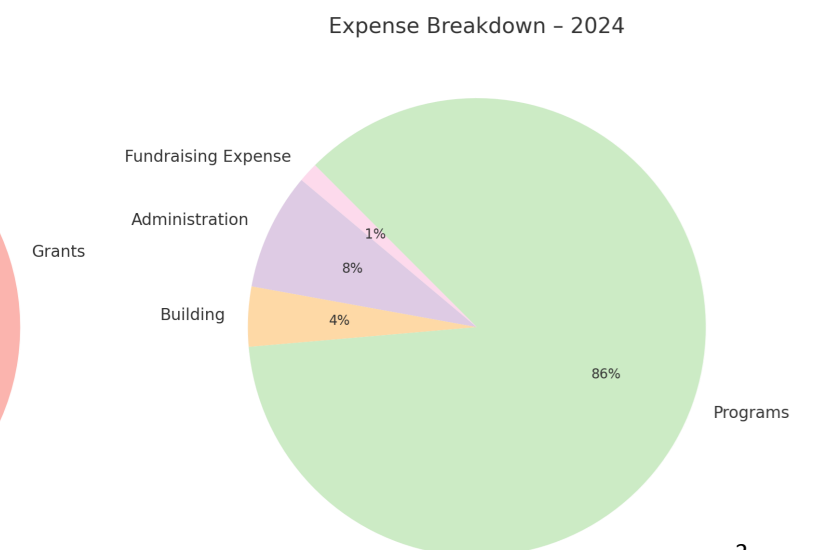
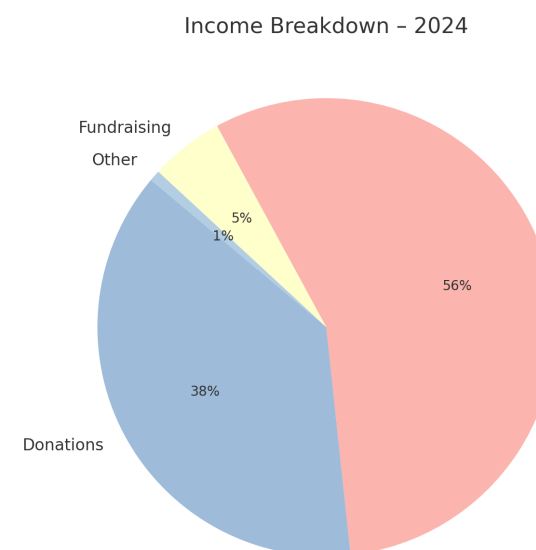
Total Income: \$2,066,983

Source	Amount	Percentage
Donations	\$781,446	38%
Grants	\$1,162,154	56%
Fundraising	\$107,582	5%
Other	\$15,801	1%

Expenses Breakdown – 2024

Total Expenses: \$2,207,339

Category	Amount	Percentage (rounded)
Administration	\$182,350	8%
Building	\$93,329	4%
Programs	\$1,900,868	86%
Fundraising Expense	\$30,792	1%
Salaries & Benefits	<i>Not Listed</i>	--*



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Jennifer de Vries
Executive Director

In 2024, we witnessed the growing complexity of challenges facing youth in our community. The ongoing affordability crisis, housing instability and rising mental health concerns have made our work more vital than ever.

A key support this year was continued Drop-in funding from the City of Hamilton, which enabled us to remain open seven days a week —Monday to Friday from 9:00am–8:00pm and weekends from 1:00pm–8:00pm. This low-barrier program provides essential services for youth, particularly those who are unhoused or at risk, including access to showers, clothing, food, laundry, and safe respite. Funding also supported our meal programs, and by leveraging resources across all open-access funding streams, we created a safer, more consistent, and more stable environment for youth every day of the week.

While fluctuations in funding and partnerships continue to affect staffing and program capacity, we remain agile and committed. Thanks to the generosity of donors and partners, we were able to sustain key services and respond to changing youth needs with care and flexibility.

We are especially grateful to our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose compassion and commitment make this work possible. As we look ahead to 2025, we remain determined to provide a safe and welcoming space where youth not only meet their daily needs but also find opportunities for growth and greater stability at such a critical time in their lives.

Jennifer deVries,
Executive Director



Soupfest Stirred up \$53K in support of Youth



Living Rock is so thankful for each sponsor, for every restaurant who donated and prepared 175L of soup, event volunteers and to all who attended.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS BLESSING



Living Rock’s goal was to ensure that all youth and children, who accesses Living Rock had an opportunity to engage in Christmas and holiday celebrations, receive a gift and Christmas food package.

285
YOUTH GIFTS PROVIDED
79
CHILDREN’S GIFTS



HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

BrokerLink
Insurance



24

DIRECTORS REPORT



Mark Corriveau,
Board Chair

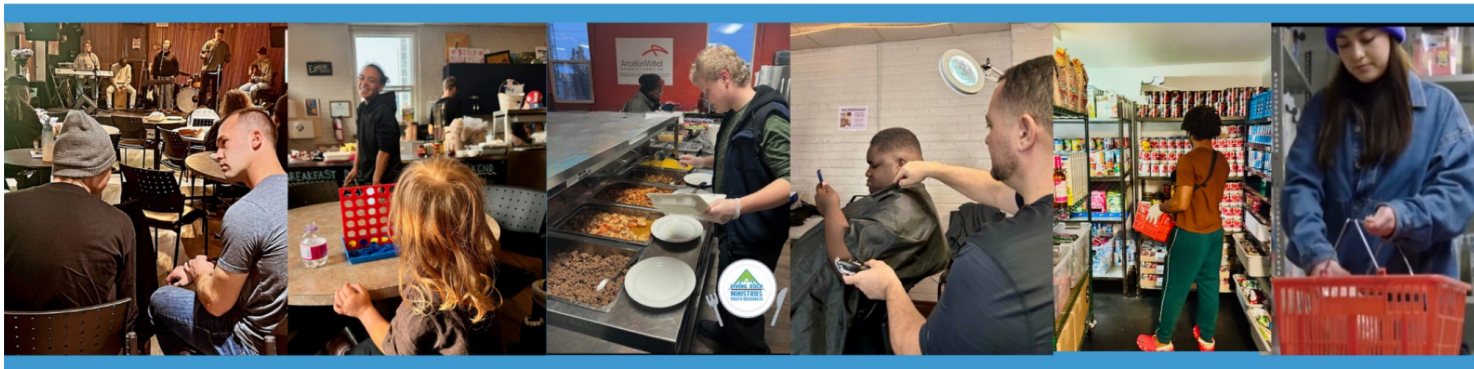
Some of you may recall that in 2023 we faced a significant shortfall. Our revised projection for 2025, however, now shows continued improvement, with the possibility of breaking even — which would be a wonderful milestone.

Behind the scenes, much work has been done to ensure these challenges do not affect the day-to-day operations of Living Rock. The Board has been diligent in reducing expenses while also working to increase funding and donations. This ongoing effort by the Directors has helped stem our losses, and I want to sincerely thank them for their tireless and often unseen work.

As a Board, our goal is to have a positive impact without disrupting the daily flow of the ministry — to support Living Rock’s vision and mission with steady guidance. We focus on bylaws, policies, financial stewardship, and risk management, all in service of strengthening and sustaining our Christian ministry going forward.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to sustain an organization like Living Rock Ministries. You — our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners — are that village. Together, you make it possible for Living Rock to carry out its vision and mission.

Mark Corriveau,
Living Rock Ministries
Board Chair



LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Corriveau	(Board Chair)
Chad Paddock	(Secretary)
Ken Jean	(Treasurer)
Peter Boushy	
Corrie Mulder	
Chris Mantel	
Jennifer de Vries	(Ex Officio)

LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES 2024 CHURCH SUPPORTERS

- Ancaster Christian Reformed Church
- Bethel Christian Reformed Church
- Bethel Gospel Tabernacle
- Calvary Christian Reformed Church
- Calvin (Dundas)Christian Reformed Church
- Ebenezer Reformed Church
- Fellowship Canadian Reformed Church Deaconry
- Flamborough Christian Fellowship
- Forestview Community Church
- Harmony Baptist Church
- Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
- Kingsway Lambton UCW
- MacNeill Baptist Church
- Maranatha Christian Reformed Church
- Marshall Memorial United Church
- Meadowcreek Community Church
- Meadowlands Fellowship CRC
- Mission Baptist Church
- Mount Hope Community Christian Reformed Church
- St. George's Benevolent Society of Hamilton
- St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church

THE GATHERING

77
Unique
Participants



SERVING FOOD
FOR THE BODY
AND SOUL



1,650
MEALS SERVED

The vision of Gathering is to share the message of Christ in a way that speaks the cultural language of youth. Each week, Living Rock Ministries hosts a voluntary lunch-time, faith-based Gathering that creates a welcoming space where youth feel a sense of belonging. Through food, music, and authentic stories of life with God, Gathering offers encouragement, hope and a reminder that every young person is valued and not alone.

HIGHLIGHTS & GUEST SPEAKERS

- Special guests included the **YWAM Hawaii Team**, Martin Brothers, Mike Gordon, Frank & Jeff from Chaplain United, Rick Joslin, Father Greg, Mina (former Tri-Rocker), and other staff and community leaders.
- YWAM Hawaii brought music, teaching, and prayer that deeply impacted youth.
- Martin Brothers and Chaplain's United continue to be youth favorites for their authenticity and relatable stories.
- Rick Joslin’s testimony of transformation resonated deeply and inspired youth.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Music and storytelling** were the most impactful tools, sparking conversation and faith exploration.
- Videos from **I Am Second** and **The Bible Project** provided accessible, engaging teaching.
- GOHOP prayer partnership** (weekly prayer, Prayer Truck, and worship) strengthened Gathering and was a great support to the Living Rock team and youth.



Al Craig, Founder Living Rock



WELLNESS WORKS

PROMOTING WELLNESS AND CONNECTION FOR PREGNANT & PARENTING YOUTH

The **Wellness Works Program** supports **pregnant and parenting youth**, offering critical case management, outreach, and Incentive-based support in both structured and informal settings. It is part of Living Rock Ministries holistic strategy to build resiliency, reduce poverty, and improve outcomes for young families with children ages 0–6.

2024 PROGRAM REACH AND OUTCOMES



Volunteers

9 participated, providing
98 hours of volunteer support



Programs Offered

4 distinct programs (Stroller Fit, Kitchen Time,
Outreach, Case Management Support)



Contact Form / Needs Conversations

74 parents supported through the program



Case Management

19 individual youth supported through
88 appointments



Pregnancies Reported

25 new pregnancies in 2024



Young Parents Supported through Outreach

140 individuals (116 female, 20 male, 4 other)



Direct Supports (Diapers, formula, baby wipes, clothing) 928



KEY FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Crisis pregnancy support in Food Bank & Drop-in
- Earn-while-you-learn programs (Stroller Fit, Kitchen Time)
- Access to essential parenting resources
- One-to-one case management & support groups
- Community collaboration via Young Parent Network



22

2024 EMPLOYEES

Alan Craig (Rev.) ***
Karen Craig (RSW)***
Jennifer de Vries***
Julie Conway***
Eudora Benjamin***

Founder & Spiritual Director
Co-Founder & Program Director
Executive Director
Operations Director
Finance Director

* Worked only part of 2024
** Completed 5 years or more service
*** Completed 10 years or more service

Adebimpe Oyewole
Andreas Stefani*
Ashleigh Bridge*
Britto Cyriac
Cindy Amberman*
Cynthia MacDonald***
Danielle Hrischenko*
Domenic Caruso*
Elizabeth Kirchin**
Grant Hutchings**
Hannah Ormond-Jones*
Jerra Lindsay
Jimeca Atkinson
Jacqui Westoby
Kevin Vos***
Kyle Beaty**
Martin Leong*
Martha Solar
Matthew Junkin*
Melissa Buchner*
Murray Swain
Nathan Craig
Ryen Mackenzie-Brown
Olivia Partridge
Scarlet Williams-Kelly
Stuart Lumsden
Stephen Harstine
Val Campbell***

Food Bank Staff/Youth Support Worker
TRI-Rock Employment Coach
Relief Staff
Rock Resources Coach/Youth Support Worker
TRI-Rock Program Coordinator
Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
TRI-Rock Support Worker/Open Access Manager
Weekend Program Coordinator
TRI-Rock Employment Coach
Youth Support Worker
Rock Resources Coordinator
Cook
TRI-Rock Interim Coordinator & Support Worker & Health & Safety
Chaplaincy Team/Breakfast Program Coordinator/Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
TRI-Rock Support Worker/Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
TRI-Rock Case Management Coach/Life Skills Coach
Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
Youth Support Worker
Evening Program Coordinator/Youth Support Worker
Housing Support/Youth Support Worker
Outreach Driver
Food Bank Coordinator
Wellness Works Program Coordinator

7

YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE

LOW BARRIER DROP-IN SPACE FOR YOUTH 13-25

ACCESS TO COMPUTERS - SNACKS - STAFF SUPPORT - LAUNDRY – SHOWERS - PHONE



894

INDIVIDUAL
YOUTH



2,720

SNACKS SERVED



1,840

SUPPORTS
OFFERED



2024 Youth Drop-in Visits



Male
4,558



Female
2,994



Other
377



398
Phone
Access

1,940
Bathroom
Access



TRI-ROCK PROGRAM



Unique Youth- TRI-ROCK PROGRAM

Male
19

Female
18

Other
0

36
Unique
Youth

84% of Youth Completed Phase 1

66% of Youth Completed Phase 2

Youth gain 480 hours total work
experience in Phase 1



TRI-ROCK PROGRAM



TRI-Rock seeks to support youth who are underemployed, who have gaps in their resumes, and/or who have difficulty maintaining employment.

The objective of the TRI-Rock Employment Program is to assist youth who are facing employment barriers to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment.

TRI-Rock is an 18 week, full-time, paid employment training program for people aged 18-30.

Participants gain:

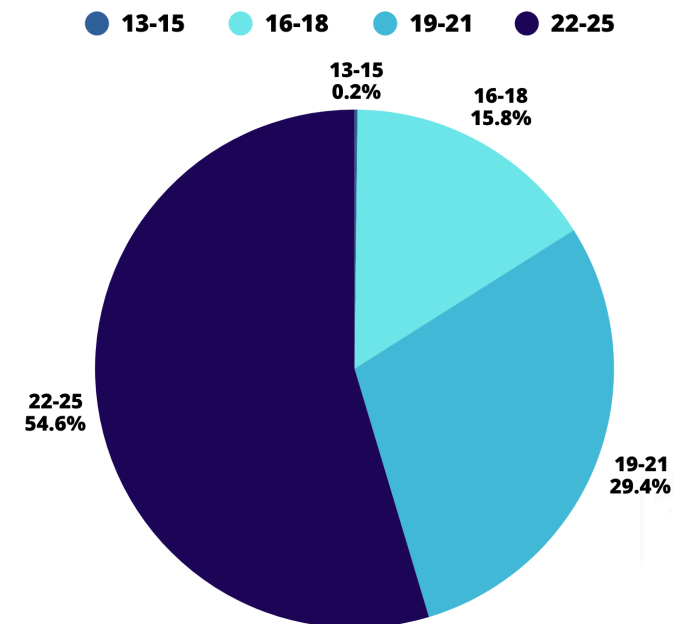
- Certifications (First Aid/CPR, AODA, WHMIS, Worker Health and Safety Awareness in 4 Steps, Food Handlers, and Smart Serve)
- Employment Readiness Training
- Life Skills Trainings and workshops
- Hands-on experience with janitorial, food services, and administrative work

Service
Canada

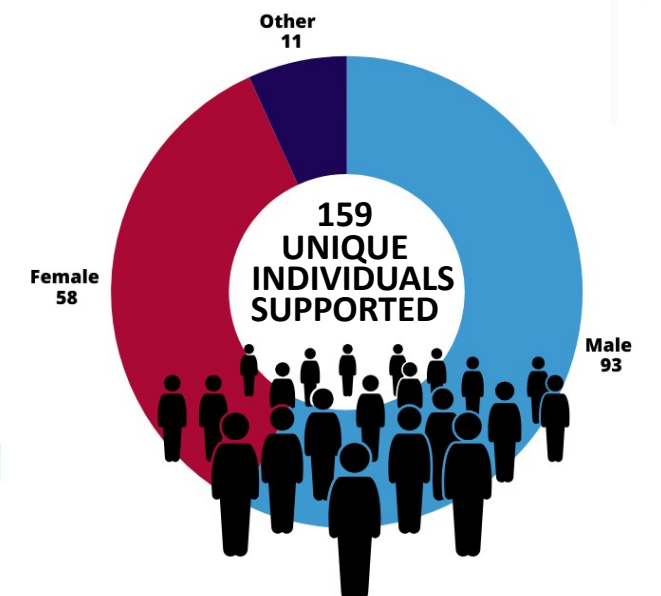
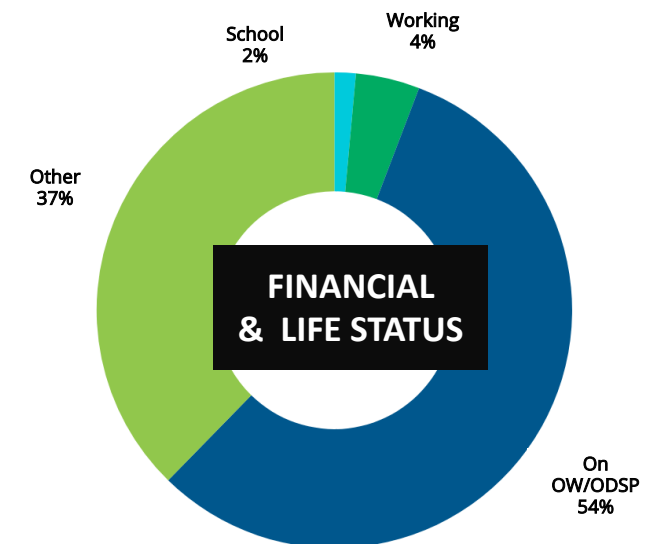


HOUSING SUPPORT

AGES OF YOUTH ACCESSING HOUSING SUPPORT



HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 9 Evictions Prevented through a Pilot Project in partnership with the Hamilton Community Foundation.
- In 2024 there was a increase of 7x more referrals, and 6x more case management sessions, showing the growing demand and successful outreach.
- **Housing Needs Remain Urgent** – Over 60 youth in shelters, and nearly 60 experiencing homelessness.
- Referrals to community services and case management are key to navigating complex youth challenges.
- **Youth Aged 19–25 Require Intensive Support** – Often in crisis or transition, this group represents the core demographic for housing and wellness interventions.

STACEY'S PLACE

YOUTH FOOD BANK & THRIFT STORE

In 2024, the Food Bank at Living Rock remained a vital lifeline for youth facing food insecurity. We recorded **6,481 visits** from **1,444 unique youth**, including **343 pregnant and parenting youth**.

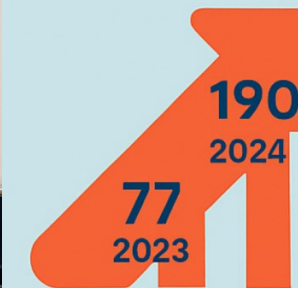
On our busiest day, 77 youth were served in just five hours, highlighting both growing demand and ongoing challenges with space, staffing, and food supply.

In 2024, we tore down walls to create more usable space in the food bank, which decreased wait times while also increasing our time of engagement with youth. This was accomplished by community and volunteer support.

Youth came from diverse backgrounds, with a significant increase in newcomer youth from Syria, Ukraine, Mexico, Afghanistan, and African nations—many between 13–17 years old and needing translation and cultural support.



ROCK RESOURCES



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



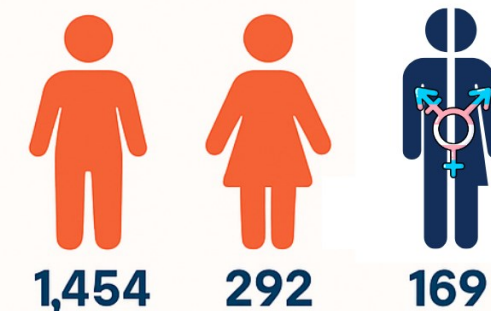
WORK & LEARN TO EARN



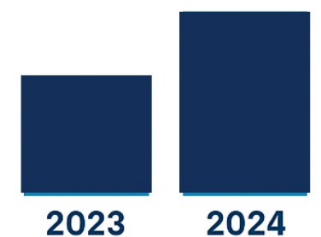
"I have gained more confidence since getting involved with Rock Resources. I feel like I am also helping at the Rock and that feels good"

Female Youth, 23

YOUTH PARTICIPATION VISITS BY GENDER



UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS 2023 vs 2024



INCENTIVES GIVEN OUT

- 2,016 GIFT CARDS
- 2,760 BUS TICKETS

- Rock Resource more than doubled its reach in 2024, particularly among **females and underrepresented gender groups**.
- The program expanded its **support tools**, improved its **tracking systems**, and offered practical supports for **incentives**.
- The **rise in unique participants and work hours requisitioned** suggests the team delivered **more flexible and tailored interventions**.
- **146% increase** in youth engaged with the program, indicating greater reach and relevance.

ROCK RESOURCES

Rock Resources supports vulnerable youth through "Work-to-Earn" and "Earn-while-you-Learn" models. Living Rock collaborates with participants to set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) goals, addressing challenges and dreams such as stable housing, mental health, substance misuse, and positive activities.

In the Rock Resources Program, we celebrate the milestones and goals that youth participants have achieved with incentives such as gift cards and bus tickets. Incentives are offered to help support youth participants basic need while also recognizing the effort made towards their personal development goals.

Rock Resources provides work place training and experience to build confidence and skills for life and the workforce. Experience is related to food services, retail merchandising, inventory control, and cleaning work crews.

Using a "work-to-earn" model, Rock Resources provides incentives for youth to engage in one-to-one weekly meetings with a coach, skill-building workshops, and work crews aimed at preparing them for entry-level employment.

WORK-TO-EARN & LEARN

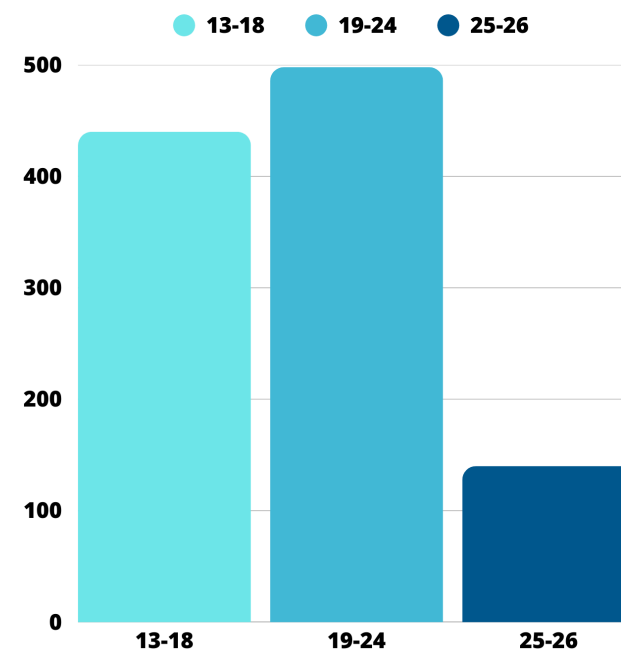


THANK YOU TO
OUR PROGRAM
SPONSORS



STACEY'S PLACE

YOUTH ACCESS BY THEIR AGE



1,444
INDIVIDUAL
YOUTH



6,481
TOTAL SHOPPING
VISITS



778
UNIQUE
HOUSEHOLDS

154,390
POUNDS OF FOOD
PROVIDED



GROCERY DELIVERY FOR YOUTH WITH BARRIERS



793
GROCERY
DELIVERIES
PROVIDED



TO **295**
UNIQUE
YOUTH

The Grocery Delivery Program provides essential food support to youth experiencing barriers such as housing instability, financial hardship, lack of transportation and limited access to nutritious food.

This initiative is designed to meet immediate physical needs while also fostering a sense of dignity, inclusion, and trust.

The program delivers groceries directly to the homes or safe locations of youth, reducing barriers and increasing food security for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.



BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Congregation to the
Sisters of St. Joseph



Deliver
Groceries

IT'S A NEW DAY BREAKFAST PROGRAM

2024 showed a mixed impact. While more individuals engaged, and internal referrals increased—indicating effective outreach and trust—the overall participation slightly declined, particularly among females and in education-related stats. Program adjustments may be needed to address the drop in female engagement, clothing access, and school attendance, while building on the success of trivia-based engagement and food services.



HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
Bill & Tina Seale Fund



HAMILTON
Food Share



HAMILTON
TASTEBUDS
STUDENT NUTRITION COLLABORATIVE



OASIS COFFEE HOUSE WEEKEND PROGRAM

Youth Visits To The Weekend Program

Male
2,042

Female
933

Other
150

Σ 3,125
Youth
Visits

Unique Youth Accessing Weekend Program

Male
503

Female
254

Other
36

Σ 907
Unique
Youth

Items Distributed

244
Pairs of Socks



2,372
Pieces of
Clothing



1,116
Hygiene
Products



120
Laundry Access



192
Showers
Access



53
WORK CREWS



1,596
Referrals Provided



*"I know that the Rock will be open on Weekends.
I like coming for the food and getting my laundry done."* Male, 22

OASIS COFFEE HOUSE WEEKEND PROGRAM

Oasis Coffee House Weekend Program For Youth 13-25 Enjoy Great Food, Community, Connection and Fun!

The Oasis Coffee House Weekend Program is filled with opportunities for positive social interaction. Beyond the fun and games, our Weekend Program serves as a place of connection. Our team is ready to support youth with referrals, crisis assistance, access to clothing, showers, laundry machines, and other helpful resources. We also offer opportunities to participate in our "work to earn" model, where youth can earn incentives like bus tickets or snacks.

In 2024, Weekend Program expanded to operating Saturday and Sunday from 1pm-8pm

The Oasis Coffee House Weekend Program is a welcoming place for all youth to enjoy a great meal, engaging activities, meaningful connections, and essential support.



Thank you Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East



Deliver
Groceries

IT'S A NEW DAY BREAKFAST PROGRAM



Youth Visits to the Breakfast Program

Male
2,625

Female
934

Other
373

Σ 3,932
Youth
Visits

Unique Youth To Accessing Breakfast Program

Male
280

Female
115

Other
29

Σ 424
Unique
Youth

Items Distributed

235
Pairs of Socks



462
Pieces of Clothing

343
Hygiene
Products



442
Work Crews
Offered



157
Showers
Access



1,100
Bus Tickets &
Incentives Earned



1,596
Referrals Provided

It's A New Day Breakfast Program provides a safe space where youth can build connections, find belonging, and receive assistance tailored to their needs.

Our program goes beyond providing physical sustenance; it's a place of community and connection where youth can access crisis supports, housing support and linkages to other community resources.

OASIS COFFEE HOUSE EVENING PROGRAM

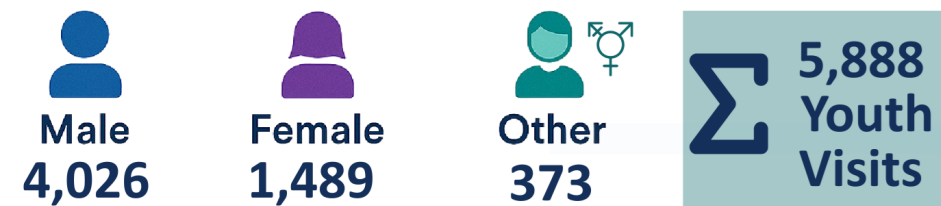
Oasis Coffee House Evening Program For Youth 13-25
Enjoy Great Food, Community, Connection, and Fun!



OASIS COFFEE HOUSE EVENING PROGRAM

2024 IMPACT

Unique Youth Accessing Evening Program



Youth Visits To The Evening Program



Items Distributed

185
Pairs of Socks



756
Pieces of Clothing

635
Hygiene
Products



442
Work Crews
Offered



222
Showers
Access



659
Bus Tickets
Earned



889
Gift Cards
Earned

