



STONEGATE MINISTRY

Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry

Annual Report

for the fiscal year
ending December 31st, 2022



2022

Table of Contents

Vision, Mission and Core Values	1
Annual Report from the Chair	2
Treasurer’s Report	3
Human Resources Report	4
Ministry Program Report	5
CCSJ Food Pantry Report.....	7
‘Prayer For You’ Report	10
Facilities Report	11
Publicity Report	12
2022 Board of Directors	13
2022 Balance Sheet – Consolidated	14
2022 Income and Expense Summary	15

Stonegate Ministry

Vision

Working together to build a stronger, kinder and more just community

Mission

Stonegate Ministry is an alliance of local Christian churches working in partnership with the community through shared resources, offering programs and opportunities to build healthy relationships, strong families, a sense of belonging and a deeper relationship with God. We endeavour to address the needs of the whole person and families to bridge toward a better life and to be a faithful voice to ensure that everyone in the community is treated with justice and Christian compassion.

Core Values

Stonegate Ministry is committed to:

- **The wellbeing of the individual:** We will endeavor at all times to treat each person with kindness and respect while giving special attention to those who find themselves marginalized. To the best of our ability we will provide aid to ensure the basics to those in need: safety, food, shelter, support (economic, social, spiritual and emotional), while engaging in skill-building in order to develop people.
- **Building healthy community:** We will actively work to reduce isolation and loneliness and to provide opportunities to build healthy relationships.
- **Christian witness:** we will endeavor at all times to be a visible and articulate Christian witness to those around us.
- **Stewardship:** We are committed to effective use of our resources at every level of the organization while striving for excellence. We consider the resources we are given to be God's gifts of time, money and talent.

Report of the Chair

In a year during which the pandemic finally began to ease, it would not be an exaggeration to say that we were shocked to encounter a situation that was even more challenging than the past few years of viral epidemic. The combination of severe inflation and rising interest rates further negatively impacted the lives of the most vulnerable, and even created difficulties for many in the community who suddenly faced the loss of affordable accommodation and food security.

Without the support of our donors and partner churches, as well as volunteers who stepped up to assist our senior staff, themselves concurrently hit with unexpected health challenges, our Ministry could have faltered, leaving people in need in our neighbourhood to also suffer the loss of critical programs that provided food security, companionship to ward off the effects of isolation, and activities for children and young people, as well as mental and spiritual sustenance.

Having made the decision to maintain our staff, both for their own sakes and because we clearly could not maintain our services without their skills and leadership, the Stonegate Ministry Board of Directors worked continuously to keep alive our services to those most in need as the new waves of inflation and food shortages threatened to close down our programs to those most marginalized.

As our Food Bank Manager, Jeannie, dealt with heart and kidney issues, and our Program Director, Natalie, coped with the onset of multiple sclerosis, through facilitators like Bruce Smith, Sue Hill, Kathleen Mahaffey, and others, we were still able to continue programs that countered isolation and loneliness, allowing people, many of whom are elderly, to begin again to meet in person. They were offered companionship, support, and hope for the future through these regular community gatherings. We are also grateful for our faithful 'Prayer for You' team led wonderfully by Carol-Anne Foty, which has continued to pray for both the governance issues of the Ministry and for the needful communities that we serve.

We were to hold our second virtual fundraiser dinner in November but the aforementioned health issues of the Ministry senior staff made that impossible. Nonetheless our donor community was so generous that even without our online event, many individuals and organizations stepped up their support, both to the Ministry and to the food bank, so that there was no break in our service to the community.

Also, despite their own financial challenges after three very difficult years with little opportunity for in-person attendance, our member churches did not waiver in their financial support of the Ministry.

Without these acts of faithful generosity, given the loss of revenue from our thrift store for the entire year, we would not have been able to enter a new year where even more clients face fiscal uncertainty and be certain of our ability to continue our service to those most vulnerable.

As we go forward into yet another year of uncertainty, we pray for guidance in finding and selecting a site for Great Finds. We thank God for His blessings on His Ministry over the past twelve months and pray for His direction and guidance in 2023.

With gratitude,
Peter Patterson, Chair

Treasurer's Report

I suspected early in the year that 2022 was going to be a rough one for the Ministry. The search for a new home for the thrift store was ongoing but not yielding results. It turned out that we had no store in 2022 and, therefore, no store revenue to offset expenses. The pandemic support we enjoyed in 2021 was gone. Early projections were that the Ministry was going to end up with a very large deficit by the end of 2022.

However, a few good things happened. Support from our partner churches increased by \$20,000. Our fundraising efforts resulted in a donations increase of \$11,000. We also received money from the food bank (since the Ministry was paying the salary of the food bank manager). The net result is that the Ministry had a loss of \$17,000 in 2022. While that is a large number, it could have been much, much bigger. The cash position is strong with \$58,000 in the bank as of December 31, 2022 and another \$75,000 in short-term investments.

I would like to thank the Board for their support and guidance during the year. I also would especially like to thank the Ministry's supporters and donors for their prayers and financial support in 2022.

Pete Pynenburg, Treasurer

Human Resources Report

Jeannie Martinez, who so capably managed our Great Finds thrift store, continues full time as Co-Manager of the Christ Church St. James Food Pantry. The Ministry has been a partner with the Food Pantry for many years and serves many clients who also need the services of the food bank. Jeannie has been through some difficult health challenges in the past year, and we are praying that she will continue to gain strength as she devotes her time and energy to meeting the growing needs for food security.

Natalie Sharpe has also been through health challenges and is learning to live with her diagnosis of MS. While this has temporarily limited her physical presence in our community programs, she has been using her skills and experience in setting up social media opportunities for the Ministry as well as guiding us through a 'rebranding' process that will provide a new look in all our communications. She will also work with Don and Raymond Gill – who have set up and maintained our current website – through the implementation of an updated website look and features.

We have also hired students through the government’s student placement program which allows students to gain work experience for two months and assists the Ministry in the food bank operation and other areas. This has proven to be very successful both for the students and the Ministry and we plan to continue this program.

Graeme Quigley, Human Resources Chair (*Pro tem*)

Ministry Program Report

We “work together to build a stronger, kinder and more just community” by serving the needs of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. This is our goal, and we are making positive strides to accomplish it against all odds.

We had eight programs in full operation in 2022. Stonegate Ministry successfully turned around full circle from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We opened up our doors and transitioned back to in-person sessions and activities where necessary. We are grateful to all the facilitators and volunteers who have helped to make this smooth transition achievable. With our doors opening up, the demands for the programs increased significantly. Programs like the CCSJ Food Pantry experienced a tremendous demand increase because of many life circumstances changing for many people and families. Overall, we have found that the necessity for our programs and the need for more resources have increased because of the effects of the pandemic on our local community. We have reached out to our community to help meet the demands of our programs and they have heard our cry and have come together to ensure the continuation of our efforts.

Near the end of the fiscal year, a few key staff members and committee members experienced unfortunate health challenges that placed a pause in some activities that were expected for the fall and winter seasons. This time gave us the opportunity to see the true character and nature of this organization as our members, partners, facilitators and clients rallied together in prayer and necessary support to ensure that we could keep the doors open and the programs functional.

We are now in a new season and glad to keep the momentum growing.

Program Updates

- **Circle of Friends** has continued our in-person meetings. We are providing a light lunch for the ladies. We are delighted that attendance has been maintained with a weekly average of 15+ ladies in attendance. The ladies enjoy participating in a variety of activities like quizzes, body stretches, vacation slideshow tours and the various topics explored with our guest speakers.
- **God, Coffee, and Me?** has continued to gather at Nimman's Thai restaurant weekly for their Bible study with Bruce. This program continues to be a staple by lending the opportunity to share the gospel through a relaxed and approachable setting in a local restaurant.
- **Get Reading** is a weekly book program at the food bank designed to encourage a love for reading with children and youth. As the number of clients attending the food bank has increased so has the demand for the books for kids. This program has seen a tremendous reception of gratitude from those who participate and has also encouraged other local organizations to participate in donating books *via* school book drives, etc. We have been able to create more opportunities for interaction with the kids who are receiving books regularly. We have successfully donated over 50 bookbags for the new year with learning activities, stationery and treats for our clients. We are excited about planning and executing a backpack drive for the upcoming school year in which 50 filled backpacks will be donated to kids in need in our community.
- **Prayer 4 You** continues to be an intercessor for many in our community *via* a prayer box at the Food Pantry Registration where clients will be able to write their prayers and place them in the box for the prayer team to intercede. We are currently working on efforts to increase the participation of the next generation of prayer intercessors to ensure the longevity of this vital program.
- **The Prayer Course** is an online program that has been offered weekly for eight sessions online *via* Zoom. It is a journey through the Lord's Prayer. Conversation, testimony and teaching help the community to grow and deepen their prayer life,

one session at a time. We have successfully completed two rounds of this course with a bonus Part 2 round, “The Prayer Course II ‘Unanswered Prayers’ “. There have been positive feedback and requests for a third round of The Prayer Course which would be available on Thursdays in July 2023 at a later time in the day for those who work during the days.

- **Life Coach Counselling** is one of our answers to the growing need for mental health support in our community. This program is a person-to-person weekly or as-needed counselling session. It is helping people to navigate through the rough patches in their life. It offers them access to a listening ear and helpful guidance to realign their daily path and get them back on course to a healthier journey in their life. Partnerships with independent mental health facilitators are currently being developed.
- **Amplified Program** The aim of this program is to empower young women to acknowledge their ability to amplify their voice and share their stories through the powerful medium of media. This program is in partnership with the Jean Augustine Centre for Empowering Young Women. It currently has participants of 12 to 15 years of age. The girls have learned about the history of media and how to develop a character and a story. They have also explored new tips and advice on how to create a quality photograph using their mobile phones. The girls completed a project creating their original story to be presented at the end of the program at a Stonegate/JAC Oscar award Ceremony. The girls were awarded with simple mobile recording gear to continue their individual efforts to tell their original story.

Natalie Sharpe, Ministry Program Director

Christ Church St. James Food Pantry Report

Christ Church St. James Food Pantry is one of three agencies under the auspices of the [Daily Bread Food Bank](#), serving southern Etobicoke for over 35 years. CCSJ Food Pantry is open three times a month: the second Saturday and the last two Wednesdays. Depending on the family size, approximately three to five days’

worth of food is provided each food bank day. The more donations of food and money we are given, the more generous we can be in order to extend that period.

CCSJ Food Pantry Hours of Operation

- **The second Saturday of the month: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** (For 2023, the Saturday hours will be extended to 2:00 p.m.)
- **The last two Wednesdays of the month: 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Easter

We were able to hand out turkeys, chickens and roasts to all our food bank clients. Easter is not normally a time when we hand out turkeys, chickens and roasts. However, we were blessed to receive turkeys from a generous benefactor. This private benefactor had donated turkeys to our food bank every Christmas for the past several years but sadly, he passed away in January. He bequeathed that the tradition of donating turkeys to CCSJ Food Pantry continue. Therefore, we received turkeys for Easter. In addition, we were able to purchase whole chickens for smaller families.

Toy Mountain

Every year, CCSJ Food Pantry provides a Toy Mountain on the Saturday food bank in December. Food bank clients with children ages 14 and under are able to choose a toy, game, puzzle, or activity set for their children for Christmas. We were blessed with donations from our regular donors, partner churches and again from Alderwood United Church.

Though we did not receive the same number of donations as last year, we still had enough toys to provide to over 120 children in our food bank and to partner with organizations such as Women's Habitat, Stonegate Community Health Centre and other churches and organizations that needed toys for their clients.

Good Food Box

Through our partnership with Stonegate Community Health Centre, clients of our food bank received a Good Food Box before Christmas. This is a box filled with fresh fruits and vegetables and was available for food bank clients who signed up to receive it. We were able to provide a Good Food Box to 75 of our food bank

families. Any boxes that were not picked up were added to the produce selection for the following food bank day.

Stonegate Ministry Christmas Cards/turkeys, chickens roasts and sides

On the food bank Wednesday before Christmas, we were able to provide to our food bank clients the Stonegate Ministry Christmas card that included grocery gift cards inside: \$30 for families with one to two members and \$60 for families of three and up. On this day, we also provided our clients with turkeys, chickens, and roasts with choices of stuffing, gravies and cranberry sauce on top of their usual food supplies. Many were appreciative and grateful to receive such blessings.

Covid-19 and the rise in inflation

Prior to Covid-19, CCSJ Food Pantry supported an average of 60 to 70 families three times a month with an annual budget of \$19,000. As of today, an average of 200+ families are registering for food bank services at CCSJ Food Pantry three times a month. Due to the rising costs of food, gas and supplies, we have been seeing not only newcomer families needing the food bank but also working families. In addition, due to the war raging in Ukraine, numerous Ukrainian refugees have needed the services of our food bank, many of whom have young children in their family.

Due to the increased numbers of families needing food bank services, CCSJ Food Pantry's budget has increased to over \$75,000. The increase in families attending our food bank has caused us to experience shortages in our food supplies and has put a burden and stress on our food bank. We continue to experience donation shortfalls from our regular donors such as Toronto Daily Bread, Second Harvest and various corporations and organizations due to the greater numbers of families needing our food bank. The result is that we have been forced to buy additional supplies on a regular basis and extend our hours of operations in order to meet the increased needs.

New team member

This year we welcomed Sue Maurici to our food bank team. Sue joins Gord Glandfield and Jeannie Martinez as Co-Director of CCSJ Food Pantry. Welcome Sue!

Thank you

We give thanks to all our generous donors for their continuous support of CCSJ Food Pantry, including All Saints Kingsway, which donated \$10,000 from their Out of the Cold budget, as well as the residents of Old Mill Terrace, who collectively donated over \$10,000 this past year. Private donations of food and cash enable our food bank to accommodate shortfalls. We give special thanks to all the volunteers. Their dedication and hard work are to be commended.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my heartfelt appreciation to all. This past year has been a year of health concerns. Going through three surgeries in one year challenged my strength, energy and spirit. Through it all, I have received so much love and support from everyone. Thank you very much for your thoughts and prayers!

Jeannie Martinez, CCSJ Food Pantry Co-Director
On behalf of CCSJ Food Pantry

Prayer for You Report

The Prayer for You team of volunteer prayer ministers has continued to be available to intercede for all concerns coming to our attention regarding Stonegate Ministry and beyond. Due to the Covid pandemic and other family health issues, some changes were made. It was no longer possible to offer prayer time one-on-one with clients at the CCSJ Food Bank, due to the exponential growth of client numbers and lack of confidential space. Although we could not meet personally to pray with each other, the team of volunteers has held telephone prayer times together and meets on Zoom monthly for our “Impact Stonegate” intercessions and updates. We have been encouraged to hear about specific answers to prayer that God has accomplished, in response to our prayer for Stonegate Ministry. Even though there are many challenges due to the pandemic, we remain steadfast in our hope for God’s faithfulness in every situation we bring to Him on behalf of the Ministry.

The members of the prayer team committed to the privilege of praying for Stonegate Ministry are: Eleanor Cawthorne (CCSJ), Phyllis Ortiz (CCSJ), Rev. Nancy Webb (KBC), Shirley Ingram (KBC), Cathie Cade and Carol-Anne Foty (CCSJ).

Carol-Anne Foty, Coordinator, Prayer for You

Facilities Report

To say we are frustrated because we do not have a store location is an understatement. It is not for lack of trying.

At first our sights were set quite high as we knew we wanted certain criteria. We needed more space than we had before. A place to have an Oasis bin and drop off bin would be required. Ample parking and a washroom on the main floor also fit the bill. But now, with our storage costs mounting and a challenge to meet our budget being more and more prevalent, our wish list has to be adjusted.

The first thing we considered was the location priority. Mimico was certainly where we wanted to be, with Lakeshore close to Royal York Road also acceptable. Royal York Road south of Evans Ave and the Queensway east of Royal York were our final options.

During 2022 we looked extensively at a double store on Royal York Road. It had more space than we needed and the owner was not willing to divide the space. It also needed a substantial amount of work to make it usable. Another store just up the street became available but it had absolutely no parking, not even street parking.

Two properties on the Queensway became available but both were too small even with our new standards. Another one became available in Mimico but it was rented before we could put in an offer. An interesting property in Mimico near our old store was shown to us. The person owning the business offered to sell the business to us and then we would assume the lease of the store. It was a dollar store but the sale of the business was some time in the future.

The search goes on with a real estate agent monitoring listings and Board members constantly checking the streets for signs of vacancies. We realize the importance of having the best location and are doing everything we can to accomplish this.

Submitted by Gordon Glandfield, Facilities Chair

Publicity Report

Our Stonegate Ministry Newsletter is published quarterly and includes regular articles from our staff and Board. Over 300 copies are distributed, mostly by email with a few hard copies. We are indebted to Priscilla Knight for her skills in the layout of the articles and adding appropriate photos and attractive seasonal colour to each issue.

A one-page 'Focus' communication was initiated this year to announce events and any newsworthy reports between the quarterly Newsletters. We are also indebted to Raymond Gill who manages the mass mailings of all our emailed communications.

Besides these traditional email communications, Natalie Sharpe, our Ministry Program Director, has brought expertise in social media and websites to the Ministry. The logo that you see in this Annual Report is the result of a 'rebranding' that has been adopted by the Board and will be evident in all our future communications and on our website. We are also encouraging our staff and supporters to communicate through social media such as Twitter and Facebook if they are already conversant with these media.

Submitted on behalf of the Publicity Committee – Moira Grant, Jeannie Martinez, and Natalie Sharpe.

Graeme Quigley, Publicity Chair

2022 Stonegate Ministry Board of Directors

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Stonegate Ministry
Balance Sheet – Consolidated – 2022

ASSETS

Bank accounts	\$ 57,618
Investments	\$ 75,000
Other assets	\$ 4,132

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 136,749
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LIABILITIES

Food vouchers	\$ 4,017
Other current liabilities	\$ 44,640

Sub-total current liabilities	\$ 48,656
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EQUITY

Reserve – Development Fund	\$ 40,000
Retained earnings	\$ 80,828
Net Assets	-\$ 32,736

TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 88,093
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 136,749
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Stonegate Ministry
2022 Income and Expense Summary

INCOME

Support from local churches	\$ 85,920
Individual donations	\$ 43,965
Great Finds store sales	\$ 574
Interest	\$ 135
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 130,593

EXPENSES

MINISTRY EXPENSES

Great Finds	\$ 10,352
Ministry staff	\$ 118,419
Program expense	\$ 11,624
Total Ministry Expense	\$ 140,395

ADMINISTRATION

Administration	\$ 7,615
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 148,010
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EXCESS (Deficiency) REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(\$ 17,417)
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