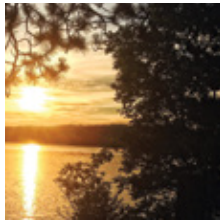
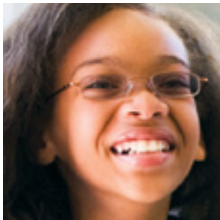


2015-16 Annual Report



The
**Teresa
Group**



Message from the President and Executive Director

Mission:

The Teresa Group
advances the
dignity and well-
being of children
and families
affected by HIV
and AIDS

2015 was an exciting year for us – The Teresa Group celebrated 25 years of service to the diverse communities of children and families affected by HIV. We marked the year in our e-newsletters www.teresagroup.ca/newsletters with a series of interviews with people who have played important and meaningful roles over the years and at our AGM in June, we celebrated with a party and took some time to recognise the inspiring dedication of our large group of volunteers.

2015-16 was a year of renewal. We developed a new strategic plan to guide the organisation through the next three years. The organisation went through some significant staffing changes this year but by the end of March 2016, we had all our permanent staffing in place to support our new strategic objectives.

We are excited about our new strategic directions and look forward to a positive future!

Marcel Watier and Nicci Stein
Board President Executive Director

In memoriam

This year we lost two people who were very important to The Teresa Group. Our founder, Penelope Holeton, died in May 2015 after a long illness and our Board President, Scott Gibson, died in April 2015. We remember and honour these two powerful and dynamic individuals – Penelope, for having the vision, determination and passion to start an organisation focused on the needs of children and families affected by HIV and Scott, for his energy and dedication to an organisation and a cause he strongly believed in.



Results and Impact



Highlights

- 25th anniversary of The Teresa Group!
- Development and approval of a new Strategic Plan 2015-2018
- Development of a comprehensive 3-year plan to guide the greater involvement and more meaningful engagement of people living with HIV at all levels of the organisation (GIPA/MEPA)
- Creation of a booklet “Is formula good for my baby?” and two leaflets to support new moms and infants
- Additional prenatal groups to support the increase in pregnant woman being referred to the organisation
- Another successful Summer Camp, our second year in partnership with Moorelands
- Development of a more comprehensive youth leadership program – creating synergies between our “Leading the Way” groups for adolescents, Summer Camp Counsellor-in-Training, the tertiary education Scholarship Program, summer student internship and creating opportunities for those who have aged out of our programs to serve on the Board
- Expansion of the Board of Directors welcoming seven new members this year, bringing the total number of board members to eleven

Statistics

1,137

individual
clients

608

children

700

families supported
through the
food program

500

families received
emergency financial
assistance

165

adults and children
attended support
groups

460


sessions of case
management and
counselling

86

volunteers

8,254

volunteer hours –
the equivalent of
4.5 fulltime staff
positions



What are the major issues that HIV-affected families face?

Many families continue to experience poverty, under- or unemployment, challenges settling in Canada and high levels of fear and anxiety due to HIV-related stigma. The latter part of 2015 saw a significant and quite sudden spike in food prices. Consequently, the demand for our practical supports, particularly grocery cards and emergency financial support, grew fast and these programs remain over-subscribed.

Many families who access our services are new to Canada and face a number of barriers including employment, housing, child care, language support, discrimination and racism. An increasing number of women have experienced trauma and violence in their country of origin.

Due to the high levels of HIV-related stigma, disclosure of HIV status remains a difficult and sometimes dangerous issue. Many parents are anxious about the impact of disclosing their HIV status to their children.

One of the world's best HIV success stories is the massive reduction in the number of babies born with HIV. While we celebrate the fact that we have virtually eliminated perinatal transmission in Canada, the emotional impact on mothers who are counselled not to breastfeed can be challenging, particularly in light of the ever-present social stigma surrounding living with HIV.

Now that children born with HIV can live long and productive lives, many of those children have reached adulthood in the past 5 or so years. As youth who are also long-term survivors, they face particular challenges as they transition from the warm embrace of a child-centred hospital setting to the fast paced, more individual world of adult medical care. Young people born with HIV need sufficient support during this transition to ensure they are retained in care and remain on treatment.



How do we respond to these issues?

Taking a life cycle approach to our work means that certain issues are apparent at different ages and stages of development. If we support a woman during pregnancy and childbirth, we can remain engaged and supportive of the family throughout the child's journey to adulthood. Many families have a long relationship with The Teresa Group.

Emotional supports for parents include Prenatal Groups, Moms Group and a Parent Club as well as counselling, case management and referrals.

Practical supports designed to alleviate the impact of poverty include monthly supplies of grocery cards, diapers (for children aged 0-3), gently used and new clothing, backpacks and school supplies at the start of each school year, a new diaper bag filled with newborn supplies when a baby is born, public transit tokens, emergency food and emergency financial support.

Programs for children include the award-winning "Leading the Way" therapeutic groups divided by age and disclosure status (whether or not the child is aware of the presence of HIV in the family), "Leap for Success" tutor/mentor program for children in grades 2-12 who need academic and emotional support, summer day camps and a week-long wilderness Summer Camp.

In this past year we have begun to focus more intently on adolescents – offering more individual supports to those living with HIV who are getting ready to transition to adult care and also offering a range of leadership training opportunities through "Leading the Way", Summer Camp Counsellor-in-Training program, summer job opportunities in our office and our tertiary education scholarship program.

This year we are proud to have produced a number of useful printed resources – "Is formula good for my baby?" booklet, produced in partnership with CATIE, a breast care leaflet and a bottle feeding leaflet for new moms living with HIV.

Further details about our programs can be found on our website www.teresagroup.ca.

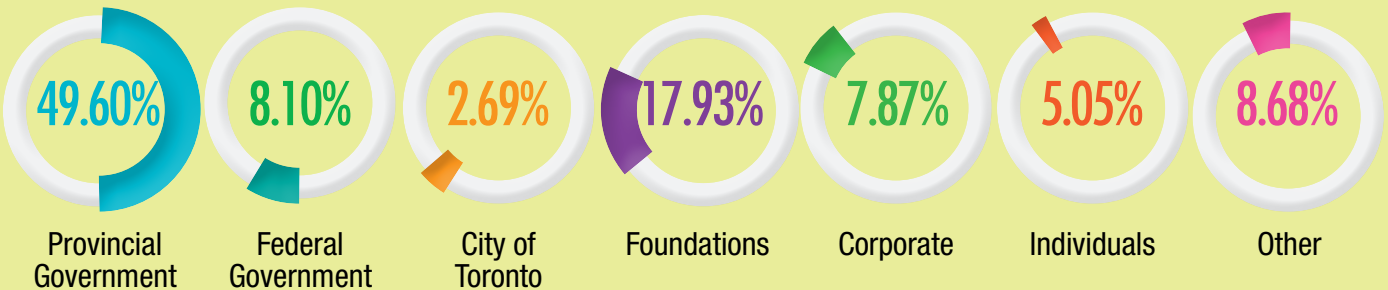
Governance and Finance

The Teresa Group operates within a policy board governance model. The board provides overall direction to the organization, is committed to the Mission and provides leadership to ensure quality service to our clients and with other partner organisations. The board focuses on developing and monitoring the progress of strategic plans, setting goals and the process to achieve them, celebrating operational accomplishments and identifying and managing risks. The board delegates authority to the Executive Director to manage the organization's operations and supports the Executive Director to achieve goals and manage risks.



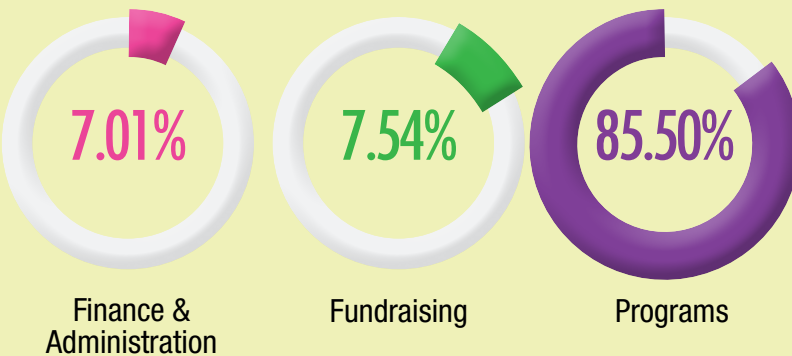
Where does our funding come from?

REVENUE



How is our funding spent?

EXPENSES



The Teresa Group is one of the co-founders and acts as a Trustee to the global Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS. www.ccaba.org The Coalition brings together funders and technical experts to advocate for the best policy, research and programs for children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in all parts of the world.

Detailed Audited Financial Statements can be found on our website <http://www.teresagroup.ca/about-us/audited-financial-statement>

Board of Directors

(elected June 2015)

Marcel Watier, President

Danielle Szandtner, Vice-President

Alison Symington, Secretary

Ian Smith, Treasurer

Cheresa Bacchus

Marisol Desbiens

Saara Greene

Muluba Habanyama

Sarah Pole

Ashley Shultz

Andrea Westbrook

Staff List 2015-16

Shelly Baksh, Development Coordinator

Jaleesa Bygrave, Family Support Coordinator

Samara Carroll, Family Support Coordinator

Emily Essig, Family Support Coordinator

Wendy Firth, Office Manager

Ron McGee, Office Manager

Constance Nobes, Volunteer Coordinator

Dorothy Odhiambo, Family Support Coordinator

Chilombo Olawoye, Program Manager

Megan Porter, Family Support Coordinator

Maureen Ringlein, Family Support
Coordinator

Stephanie Savage, Family Support
Coordinator

Nicci Stein, Executive Director





“This camp has shown me
to be proud of who I am and
how to take part in leadership
by being more responsible.”

(age 16, summer camp)



The
**Teresa
Group**

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