



The
Teresa
Group



ANNUAL REPORT



2018-2019

Message from the President and the Executive Director

It seems that 2018-19 went by in a flash! As we come to the end of our current Strategic Plan (2016-2019) we are taking stock of all our achievements as well as the challenges we face – both old and new. The Teresa Group has made great strides positioning itself as a leader, providing targeted unique and high-quality programs and services and also strengthening all that we do through strategic partnerships. We are happy to be entering our new strategic planning cycle with a strong team and community alongside us. Our preparatory work indicates that we will need to emerge with a very clear focus on our goals and how we reach them. We look forward to being able to engage our clients, partners, volunteers and staff in this exciting process.

We'd also like to express our very deep and sincere thanks to everyone who has been engaged in the organization this past year. A full list of donors and supporters is available separately. Our community of children, youth and families affected by HIV has been inspirational in their eagerness to engage and help us be the best we can.

Andrea Westbrook (Board President)

Nicci Stein (Executive Director)



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

POSITION TTG AS A LEADER ON ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV

The "How Do I Tell My Kids?" booklet on HIV disclosure to children is available online in both English and French and has been extremely well received by parents and our community partners across Canada and in other parts of the world. Work on an accompanying toolkit has begun – watch out for new resources in the near future.

The Teresa Group staff shared lessons learned and information about the impact of our programs at three conferences – CAHR in Vancouver, OHTN Endgame in Toronto and the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam. This included two oral presentations, three posters and a workshop.

Over the past year we have embarked on a number of advocacy initiatives to address government policy changes and program cuts that deeply affect the children and families we serve. These include the significant impact of changes to the sex-ed curriculum in schools, cuts to autism funding and deep cuts to education in general. Other areas affecting our community include harm reduction, ODSP and a broad range of social services. Some good news on the federal front was the strik-

ing down of the "10% rule" which now allows charities greater freedom to advocate for their affected communities.

Research: This year, The Teresa Group has become engaged in several new research projects.

"Exploring the sexual health and reproductive health and parenting needs of young women who were born with HIV" Women's Xchange 15k Challenge Grant – Nicci Stein and Saara Greene Co-Principal Investigators.

KIND Study (Kids Imaging and Neurodevelopment) CIHR Dissemination Grant held by Dr Lena Serghides. The Teresa Group is Principal Knowledge User.

"Effects of dolutegravir on folate transport in the placenta" OHTN Endgame grant held by Dr Lena Serghides and Dr Raina Bendayan. The Teresa Group is a Knowledge User.

Public recognition: Staff member Tjiraja Hipikuruka received "Women Moving Forward" award; The Teresa Group was nominated for OCASI Social Justice Award and a 2019 Inspire Award (Inspiring Community Organisation of the Year category)



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2

PROVIDE TARGETED UNIQUE AND HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

We continue to provide a broad range of care and support programs and services for children of all ages and their parents. Participant feedback has vital to our development and has led to program growth and development. Demand for practical supports continues to grow and engagement in parent support groups has increased.

Practical supports - monthly grocery cards and transit tokens, diapers for kids up to 2yrs, new and gently used clothing; emergency food bank; "Back to School" new backpacks and supplies; "Welcome Home Baby" bags for all new infants; holiday gifts for children and families.

Counselling – individual, family, couples, children and teens, by phone or in person

Case management and referral to supplementary and specialized services

"Leading the Way" therapeutic groups for teens 15-18 years and for children 6-10 years

Moms' Group monthly mutual aid support group for Moms with new babies/toddlers

Parent Club monthly mutual aid support group for parents of children of any age

Prenatal Classes groups for pregnant women living with HIV

Scholarships financial support for young people entering tertiary education

Summer Camp a week-long wilderness camp experience for children aged 9-14 years and a Counsellor-in-Training program for teens aged 15-18 years

Advisory Committee quarterly meetings to guide the workplan supported through a grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada Community Action Fund

Infant Formula Program a Province-wide program to supply infant formula to all babies born to Moms living with HIV



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3

ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN EVERYTHING WE DO THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Circle of Care: a collaborative approach to providing diverse, innovative and practical support services for women living with HIV or AIDS in Toronto (with BlackCAP, PASAN, PWA and ACT)

SickKids Hospital: The Teresa Group social work staff work in the outpatient clinic twice a week

WHA: Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative

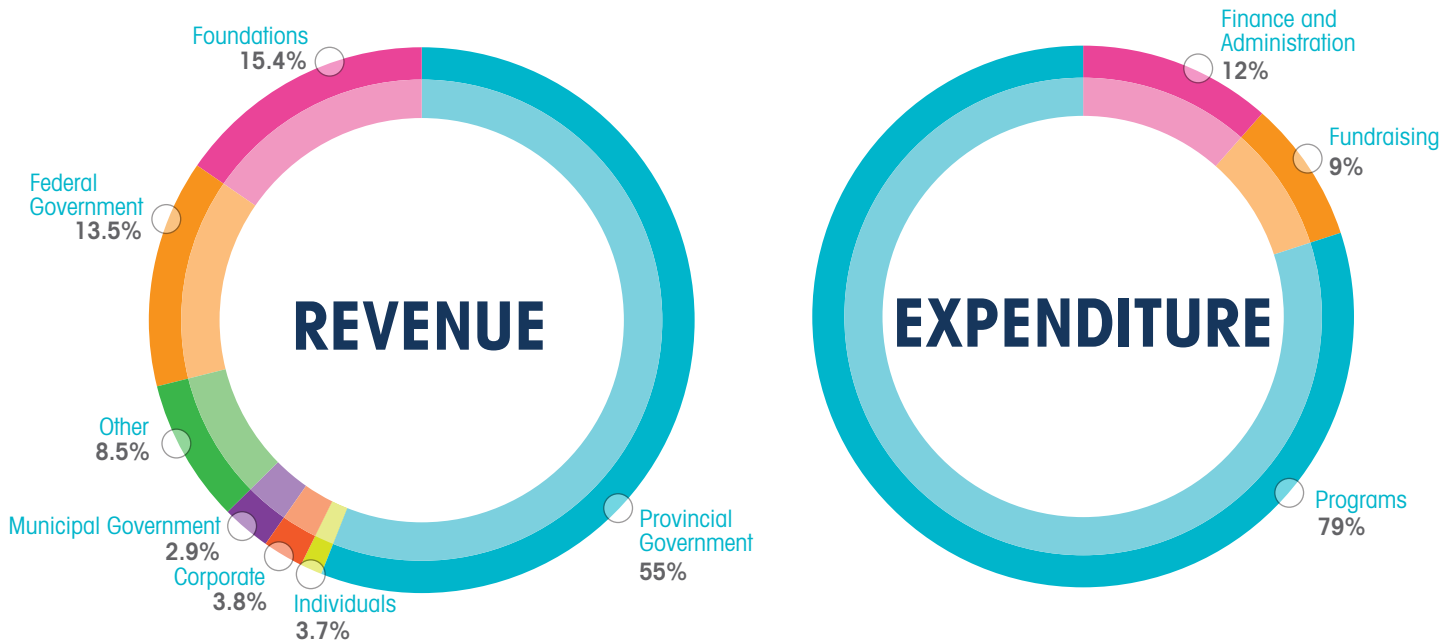
OCAS: Provincial umbrella body for settlement agencies

OAN: Ontario AIDS Network

Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS: The Teresa Group is co-founder and fiscal agent of this global advocacy coalition

SANI Twinning Project: international twinning partnership between The Teresa Group and PWOC (Passion for Women and Children) in Malawi

HOW IS OUR FUNDING SPENT?



STAFF

Kelly Armstrong – Development Officer
 Jaleesa Bygrave – Family Support Coordinator
 Samara Carroll – Acting Program Manager
 Tjireja Hipikuruka – Peer Program Coordinator
 Melody Lotfi – Family Support Coordinator
 Ron McGee – Office Manager
 Jane Namarome – Program Assistant
 Chilombo Olawoye – Program Manager (on leave)
 Shai Rowan – Family Support Coordinator
 Nicci Stein – Executive Director
 Raejeanne Watts – Program Assistant

Contracts

Carmen Contreras – Family Support Coordinator
 Corinna Csaky – Manager (Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS)
 Juliet Glassroth – Communications consultant (Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS)
 Alison Symington – Interim Program Manager

Clinical Supervisor

Reem Abdul Qadir, MSW, RSW

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrea Westbrook - President
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