



The Teresa Group

NEWSLETTER
JULY 2023 TO JANUARY 2024

In Touch

Dear Teresa Group Family,

Yet another sunny summer is here. I take this moment to recollect some memorable moments at the Teresa Group that have marked a busy eight months!!!

The World AIDS day on the 1st of December gave us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the impact of Pediatric AIDS nationally and globally. The participants created a wonderful collage to commemorate the lives of children and youth impacted by HIV/AIDS nationally and globally. Such events also give us an opportunity to reflect on the impact of HIV on children, youth, and their families globally. We had a special time celebrating the holidays with our annual Food Hamper Program, Childrens Toys, Youth Gift Cards, and the Get ready for Winter program.

The Teresa Group continues to acknowledge and embrace the reality that HIV amongst children and youth is still very real and there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure the rights of children and youth impacted by HIV/AIDS. That is the reason why we at the Teresa Group strive to make sure that the interests of children and youth impacted by HIV are at the epicentre of the programs we implement while still recognizing that the communities we serve still struggle with navigating systems because of barriers they face. They also deal with the stigma and discrimination which is still a huge issue very relevant to children and youth living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. I really look forward to the summer programs we have planned that we will be rolling out including Camp Mandala, the Back-to-School Backpack Program, Clarins Scholarship Program, Stewardship Scholarship Program and The Annual General meeting.

I really look forward to the continued collaboration with all members of community, our funders and donors and extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your unconditional support and contributions in helping us ensure our complete support to all the communities we serve at the Teresa Group.

In solidarity always!!!

Rajesh Pisharody
Executive Director

Teresa Group

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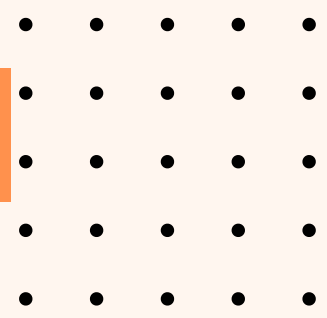
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Land Acknowledgment

With humility and respect, we acknowledge that the Teresa Group is situated on the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee, Six Nations, and the Huron-Wendat and home to many diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People from across Turtle Island. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

CAMP MANDALA 2023

This one-week program allows local children and youth who are affected by HIV a chance to connect with their peers. In the Camp Mandala 2023, around 40 children and youth enjoyed camp activities from August 14 to 18 at Mooreland Camp in Dorset, ON



MANDALA SUMMER CAMP 2023

ACTIVITIES:

- Outdoor games
- Camping
- Swimming
- Storytelling
- Treasure hunts
- Painting

14-18 AUGUST

AGES 9-18

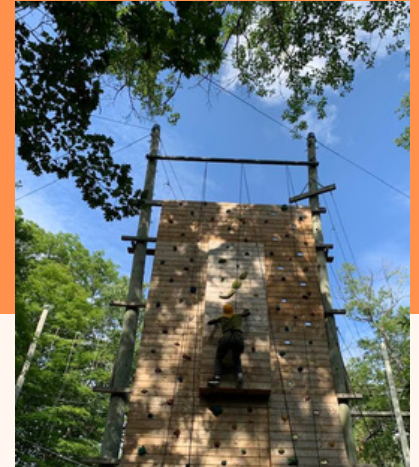
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Mooreland Camp, Dorset, ON



CAMP MANDALA 2023

This program allows children and youth to gain a sense of belonging within a supportive community and reduce their isolation. The goals of the camp are to build support, learn life skills to help empower them to live self-sufficient, independent, productive lives, and most importantly to have fun!



"Camp has filled my self-confidence and self-esteem because it taught me many lessons on how to be a good leader"

INFANT FORMULA PROGRAM

This program eliminates the risk of HIV transmission through breast milk by offering free infant formula for a year to all HIV+ new mothers in Ontario. The program is funded through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. During the last year, more than 130 children had access to Formula



BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Back to School Program provides new backpacks filled with a water bottle and a lunch bag for children and youth in grades 1 – 12 annually. In August 2023, more than 140 children and youth picked up their Backpack.

DIAPER PROGRAM

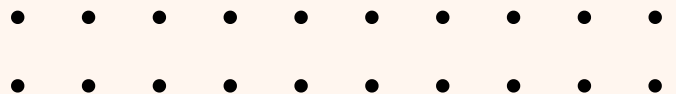
Welcome Home Baby Bag delivers a new diaper bag, filled with baby clothes, a blanket, and bottles to new mothers in the hospital or at home.

WELCOME HOME BABY BAG

Welcome Home Baby Bag delivers a new diaper bag, filled with baby clothes, a blanket, and bottles to new mothers in the hospital or at home.



"When I walk into the Teresa Group, I know I have come home. My smile becomes genuine, and I feel safe. No one here will judge me, and I know they are there for me and my child. The future scares me a little less each time I leave."



TERESA GROUP



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CLARINS SCHOLARSHIP

This program offers partial tuition support to youth who have completed high school and been accepted into a post-secondary program at a College or University. The program is funded through a generous donation from Clarins Canada. Last year 8 students were beneficiaries of this program.



WORLD AIDS 2023

This year, Teresa Group initiated a project that aims to be replicated annually in commemoration of World AIDS Day. The artwork was created through the joint efforts of community members, workers, and members of ASO organizations, resulting in a collaborative work of art. This painting was created by members of the community, workers, and members of ASO organizations, creating a collective piece of Art.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Our 2023 Holiday Program was successful!

We are incredibly grateful to Spardhead, Toronto PrepSchool, and Delivering Good & Patagonia who helped us to support families in having a warm Holiday Celebration.

FOOD HAMPER



CHILDREN GIFT TOYS YOUTH GIFT CARD



GET READY FOR WINTER



"The Teresa Group has been such a comfort to me and my children. We come from a country where we were treated terrible because we were an "AIDS family". It has taken me a long time to be able to trust again. This is the only place where we can talk openly about our situation. Now my children feel wanted, nurtured, and comforted. They are no longer ashamed of who they are. They know there are other good families just like us."

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