



**Banff Avenue  
Community House**



**2023**

# **Annual General Meeting Report**



**BANFFCOMMUNIYHOUSE.CA** 

# Message from our Executive Director

Dear Community,

Empowerment is at the heart of everything we strive to achieve within our community. It is the driving force behind our programs and services, shaping a future where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity to thrive. Today, I want to highlight the essence of empowerment and how it translates into meaningful action in our community.

Empowerment begins with recognizing the inherent strength and potential within each individual. Our goal is to provide resources, support, and opportunities that enable every member of our community to hone in on their full potential. Through our food bank, tutoring services, youth mentorship programs, and afterschool activities, we aim to break down barriers and create pathways to success.

Our food bank ensures that no one goes hungry, addressing immediate needs while fostering a sense of security and dignity. The tutoring services and afterschool programs are designed to nurture the minds of young people, giving them the tools and confidence to excel academically and beyond. Youth mentorship is particularly vital, as it provides guidance, role models, and the inspiration needed for our young people to envision and work towards a brighter future.

Empowerment is also about creating an inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment. We celebrate the unique strengths and perspectives that each individual brings to our community. By fostering inclusivity, we ensure that everyone feels valued and has a voice in shaping our collective future.

As we continue to grow and evolve, I encourage each of you to actively participate in community driven programs, share your ideas, and support one another. Together, we can build a resilient, empowered community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

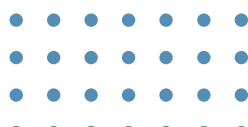
Let's continue to uplift and empower each other, creating a brighter future for all.



**Sylvie Manser**  
**Executive Director**

*In Community with community,*

*Sylvie Manser*  
*Executive Director*



# Working Together For A Better Tomorrow

# Board of Directors



**Peter Tobin**  
Chair



**Joe Templin**  
Treasurer/Secretary



**Erly Relucio**  
Community Representative



**Maliha Hamide**  
Vice Chair



**Eric Collard**  
Area Representative



**Janet Statton**  
Area Representative



**Greg Bender**  
Area Representative



**Denis Moyneur**  
Community Representative

## OUR PURPOSE

### Mission

Banff Avenue Community House aims to alleviate the effects of poverty by providing a safe, supportive and inclusive place where children, youth and families have access to programs, services and equitable opportunities that are beneficial to the community.

### Vision

We envision a community where every person has equitable opportunities to achieve personal success

### Values

Inclusion and respect  
Equitable opportunity  
Integrity

Community Focus  
Collaboration  
Accountability

2023



# Core Functions

## Empowerment



### Essential Services



Food and Clothing



### Connector

Wraparound  
supports & Referral

Equitable & available  
Opportunities



### Health & WellBeing

Community Health Nurse

Community Connections

### Children/Youth Services

Mentorship & Internship

Skill Development  
Opportunities

Afterschool, Sports &  
Camps

### Community Engagement Activities

Tenant Circle

Events

Family Activities

Internships

Community Priorities

& Adult Programming

Women's Group



# Why Empowerment at the of our mission?

Empowerment is embedded in our mission to foster resilience, inclusivity, and opportunities, enabling our community to thrive.



## In 2023



- Tenant Leaders collaborated on a research project and were able to provide Trauma-Violence Informed Women-only fitness programs to support equity.
- 10 paid community internships were offered, building employable and life-skills capacities.

"Our community gives us programs we like, where we can learn and play. We get to do what we love and become better every day." - G.N



## Community Engagement

At the Banff Avenue Community House, empowerment means supporting our community to build resilience, foster inclusivity, and create opportunities for lasting positive change. Here's a few ways we do this;

### Community Development

Tenant Circle facilitation,  
Community events planning

### Family Activities

Ice Cream nights,  
family BINGO games

### Community Events

Food, clothing and wrap  
around support



## RESIDENT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Our community members actively take on leadership of initiatives that improves their neighbourhood. It embodies grassroot empowerment, where residents identify issues, advocate for change, and collaborate with partners to implement solutions. ***"Working Together For A Better Tomorrow."***





# ESSENTIAL SERVICE TEAM HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## EMPOWERMENT

- BACH's Partnership with the Ottawa Food Bank resulted in: Food bank visits increased by **100%** in some months.
- Provided **75%** of food needs.
- Helped secure culturally diverse items.
- Funded a generator to prevent food loss.
- Monthly average: **470** families served.
- Developed a New model of Food Distribution: **Appointment-based system** for personalized service.

Thanks to our Donors for Essential Services  
**More families** have access to the basics

## THE IMPACT OVER THE YEARS:

**360,000 lbs**  
of produce  
distributed

**8640**  
volunteer hours  
tracked

**98,000**  
family members  
benefited



Gwendy Herring



Jamie Spooner



Aisha Idris



Cayla Dalgetty



Marcel Alexander



Marc Barere

The Produce Program evolved from a street corner  
distribution to a organized community service.



Ottawa Food Bank  
La Banque d'Alimentation d'Ottawa



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Tommeson  
Toussaint



Madison  
Bolland

## It's all about Empowerment



Sophie

Tutoring   Mini Scholars   Snacks/Meals   Afterschool   Sports   Summer Camp



## Afterschool Program **HIGHLIGHT**

- TUTORING
- MINI SCHOLARS
- SNACKS/MEALS
- AFTERSCHOOL
- SPORTS
- CAMPS

**21,400**

Total # of  
children contacts

**211**

Total # of unique  
children registered

**176**

of tutoring hours  
provided in 2023

**123**

Children & youth  
received school  
supplies/gift cards

**5362**

meals and/or snacks  
were distributed

**28/35**

How many children sustain  
or improved their reading  
levels

**20**

active play and/or  
sports offered

**24**

kindergarten students  
participated in afterschool

"Being involved in the afterschool program has been really good for me. It's a place where I can focus on my homework and join in fun activities. The tutoring sessions have been super helpful with my French homework since I'm in French immersion and I have no one to help me at home. Thanks to the extra help from the staff, I've improved my marks in French and in other classes. The Afterschool/Tutoring program has really helped my learning and my grades."

## CHILD/YOUTH STAFF TEAM



Crystal Hayes  
Ife Dadjo  
Noah Belanger  
Mariana  
Shandwe  
David Wamba  
Sienna Simpson  
Angela Brown



Ayak Akeg  
Magartu Roubbo  
Stephanie Hadjara  
Abuk Akeg  
Nura Mohamed  
Dominic Moon  
Oneil Simpson  
Christian Maregarege  
Christine Kasongo

Davan Pignon  
Ella Widdis  
Noor Salim  
Aisha Hagi





# RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## SUMMER CAMP 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



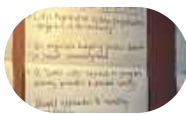
38 unique children registered for a six-week summer camp with 6 senior staff, and 3 junior staff:

We offered a quality, well-balanced summer camp program, including:

- Numeracy/Literacy Development
- STEM (Science, Technology, Math, Engineering) Activities,
- Park/Outdoor Activities
- Art Activities
- Social Emotional Learning
- Cultural Programming
- Community Connection, and Wellbeing
- Physical Exercise and Nutrition
- Skill Development
- Weekly Out-trips

## HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH GROUP

At BACH we hosted First Trauma-informed Women's Fitness



**Community engagement is essential for building resilient, vibrant, and supportive communities.**

## ACCESS TO SPORTS

In partnership with the City of Ottawa, children were offered free swimming and skating lessons to 56 children in the Banff/Ledbury community.

Through various grants we were able to offer children exposure to sports such as; taekwondo, baseball, and basketball.





# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



## Youth Council

leadership program that empowers young people to develop skills, gain volunteer experience, and actively contribute to community initiatives.

**93% ATTENDANCE**



## Youth Social

Time to connect with peers. and have fun!  
Over **25** Unique youth participated in this program.  
It's our most popular program!



**Nicholas**

"I like going to youth social. It's a good place to chill with friends, have fun, and do creative activities. The events are exciting and make me feel supported by the community."



## Basketball Team

First competitive team in 15 years  
"My neighbours and friends always wanted to have competitive basketball to get to play other neighborhoods and communities to see how good we are and to win a championship."

- JN

# YOUTH COMMUNITY EVENTS

Youth events provide opportunities for young people to see their feedback and ideas come to life, benefiting the entire community.



**Sebastian**

★★★★★

"The youth programs gives me something to do in the neighborhood when bored."



# Youth Opportunitites

- Summer/School Year Internships
- Financial Literacy Course
- Competitive Sports
- Resume & Cover Letter Help
- Volunteer/CO-OP
- Mentorship Program (Guys & Girls Group)
- Leadership Program (Youth Council)
- Bursary Opportunities



## EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH OF TOMORROW



### What this is all about

Hire community youth 15 - 17 to work in Child/Youth programs



### Who benefits

- Youth
- Children
- Community House
- The Community



### What does it do

Provides youth with paid work practical experience, trainings. and certification gaining valuable insights into the Child/Youth Sector



### Results

Increase confidence and leadership  
Increase employability  
A positive role models  
Enables programs to operate at full capacity

"The work opportunities that the community gives is really important because they give youth including me a chance to gain work experience and give back to the community."

Mariana



# Responding To Identified Priorities

## Women's Self-Defense Course

This program provided women in the community with practical skills and techniques to protect themselves in unsafe situations. Taught by certified instructors, it included situational awareness training, defensive tactics, and de-escalation techniques.

**95% reporting increased confidence in personal safety.**



## Youth First Aid Certification

A critical initiative to empower youth with lifesaving skills, this program certified over 30 young participants in basic first aid, CPR, and emergency response. This not only prepared them for emergencies but also improved their employability in child care, recreation, and leadership roles.



## Safety Walks

Regular community-led safety walks allowed residents, local officials, and law enforcement to identify and address safety concerns in public spaces. Issues such as poor lighting, unsafe pathways, and potential hazards were documented and reported for action. Feedback led to increased street lighting and improved neighborhood watch initiatives.



## Safe Park Planning

In response to concerns about park safety and access, the community collaborated with our City Councillor to identify possible upgrades in the local park. This included adding lighting, placing benches in key areas, and putting in a recreational pathway. A major outcome was the commitment to ongoing community involvement in park design and maintenance, ensuring safe and accessible green spaces for all.



Over  
**150**

Participants  
Across all events

**5,300**  
Meals

**5,600**  
Food Bank  
Visits

**211**  
Registered  
Children



# Community-Driven Prioritization

Safety, Skills Development, Community Well-Being, and Connections.



Informal discussions (40% of feedback)  
Focus groups in programs (30%)  
Formal meetings/events (30%)

## Possible Priorities For 2024



Each year at BACH we host community prioritization events, where we hear from our neighbors and make sure that we are prioritizing their needs and wants while designing our programs. this year our neighbors prioritized the programs below:

<b>FAMILY ACTIVITIES &amp; COMMUNITY EVENTS</b> Community BBQ, Family gatherings, Cultural dinners/potlucks, and events, Youth opportunities, Winter Carnival, Back to school, Holiday and graduation celebrations.	<b>SKILLS DEVELOPMENT &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b> Internships, Learn a new skill, Civic engagement/advocacy, Academic supports	<b>COMMUNITY WELL BEING &amp; SAFETY</b> Women's fitness, Exposure to sports children & youth, League opportunities, Safety courses, Taekwon-Do, Security cameras	<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b> Larger basketball court, Recreational Pathway, Picnic tables, benches, splash pad, mural, Community House Outdoor Market Stand, bike repair station	<b>GAPS IN PROGRAMS</b> Cooking lessons, youth employment, recreation programs-swimming, lifeskills courses
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## RESOURCE CUTS & WHAT THIS MEANS

The community faces major funding cuts in 2024 affecting summer programs, food security, and youth employment, leading to reduced services, fewer opportunities, and increased strain. Below are the three areas greatly impacted:

<b>FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES</b>	Produce program closed abruptly Huge need for Food bank operational funds food bank visits cut to once per month, and fewer staff for distribution.
<b>SUMMER CAMP</b>	We did not received Federal funding to operate our Summer Camp - Lost approximately \$30K in funding, leading to reduced programming, staff, and hours.
<b>COMMUNITY INTERNSHIPS</b>	Provincial changes cut 6 youth intern positions and \$15K in wage subsidies, reducing work experience and program support.

### What This Means:

- Less food and resources to the community (food, jobs, recreation).
- Increasing pressure on Community House staff & volunteers to fill the gaps. (Just not possible)
- Fewer employment opportunities for youth.
- Urgent need for funding & advocacy to sustain critical hours programming.

Despite these challenges, our efforts continue to find solutions to keep these critical supports going in some capacity.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December, 2023

## REVENUE

Municipal	\$ 252,134
Provincial	\$ 20,040
Federal	\$ 24,598
Program Supporters (ie; grants)	\$ 200,447
donations	\$ 24,790
Other Assets	\$ 1531
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 523,540</b>

## Expenditures

Compensation/Benefits	\$ 340,281
Coalition Management	\$ 22,700
Program Related Costs	\$ 77,069
Overhead	\$ 52,166
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 492,216</b>

Excess over Revenue \$ 31,324



# BACH

## Community Impact Snapshot



**42,104**  
Contacts  
were made



**97**  
OCH households  
accessed  
services



**326**  
Individuals

### ESSENTIALS



**\$78,445**  
Towards providing  
healthy food



**\$4115**  
worth of clothing+  
was distributed



**5600**  
people access our  
foodbank



**26,700lbs**  
of produce was  
distributed

### PROGRAMS



**394**  
Total attendance  
for fitness classes  
**80** childminding



**99**  
Children/Youth  
participated in sports



**\$63,356**  
Was invested in  
supporting  
educational goals

### SUPPORTS



**133**  
Children received gifts  
through Shoeboxes & Toy  
Mountain



**16 / 28**  
Employees were hired  
from the Community

**10**

Community Interns



**97**  
Individuals received  
wraparound  
supports

## Youth Projects, Trips & Grants – Community Impact

- **Youth Projects:** Youth Council (**leadership**), Guys & Girls Groups (**mentorship**), Competitive Basketball (**first in 15 years**).
- **Trips:** Parliament Hill (**civic engagement**), College Tours (**career pathways**), Outdoor Retreat (**team-building**).
- **Grants:** Internships (**paid youth jobs**), Recreation (**sports access**), Skills Development (**financial literacy, job readiness**).

Thanks to  
our  
Contributors







# Thanks for Another Year Together

Banff-Ledbudry Community House

2023

