

QUARTERLY Impact Report

POSSIBILITY
PARTNERS

SUMMER 2024

Your partnership empowers YSM community members

This edition of our **POSSIBILITY PARTNERS'** Quarterly Impact Report highlights a key YSM program area, **Community Development**, and its initiatives like the **Women's Development Network (WDN)** and community building and engagement efforts. It reports on ways your recurring donations have continued to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Toronto neighbours in need.

About the Women's Development Network

YSM's Community Development initiatives support individuals and communities by building bridges and creating connections and partnerships to strengthen social impact, cohesion and belonging.

As part of our community development work, the **Women's Development Network (WDN)**, was established to provide peer support, skills development and counsel to burgeoning women-led businesses in areas like catering, jewelry making, beauty products and services, sewing, gardening and other social enterprise opportunities. They are embraced by racialized women and those experiencing poverty in Regent Park and surrounding areas.

The WDN creates community capacity building: it was established to expand opportunities for women's small businesses, aiding them to develop business plans and to increase their capacity and sales. This strong support network of entrepreneurial women is



YSM's Community Development team provides support to budding female entrepreneurs in Regent Park.

creating financial opportunities in struggling areas like Regent Park, to help evolve pathways to meaningful income and break the cycle of poverty experienced by many local residents.

"The first time I received money for something I created with my own hands was life-changing. It was so empowering! I knew I wanted more women in the community

to experience the same," shared Margret, a YSM community member and Women's Development Network participant. After receiving help herself, Margret has helped create opportunities for other women in her neighbourhood.

YSM
YONGE STREET MISSION

Community engagement in action: Little Trinity Anglican Church

At Yonge Street Mission, we recognize churches are communities where people connect, find a sense of belonging, and renew their relationship with God. To help churches achieve these things, we adapted YSM's Community Development tools and expertise, to support churches looking to create sustained, relational, and transformational change within their communities.

Little Trinity Anglican Church, or Little T, as it's known, has been a pillar of the Corktown community for over 180 years. As the neighbourhood has evolved with new condos replacing old buildings, the church wanted to connect with more members of its changing community. As the area evolved, so have the needs of residents. Seeking guidance on how best to engage meaningfully with the rapidly changing neighbourhood, Little

Trinity's Community Justice Minister reached out to YSM's Community Development team for help.

Our Faith Communities Toolkit, which helps churches align their gifts and assets with the needs of their areas, was used to train Little T's team. During the training, their staff learned valuable skills like asset mapping, surveying, and analysis.

Applying their new abilities, the church engaged with community groups, researched neighbourhood demographics, and conducted surveys in Moss Park and West Donlands, with the surveys revealing two primary needs in the community: food security and a sense of belonging.

In response, Little Trinity launched a Good Food Market, providing low-cost or free food to nearby residents. To enhance a sense of community and belonging, they invited local

musicians to perform during market days, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere where residents could connect and build relationships.

Little T's new initiatives have been able to serve over 700 community members within Corktown!

Such capacity-building and community initiatives at Little Trinity were made possible by the generosity of YSM's donors - your support has helped enable Corktown residents to find security and connection.

Thank you for your steadfast giving which helps fuel our Community Development initiatives. Together, we are building stronger and more connected neighbourhoods, to help transform our city for the better!



YSM's Faith Communities training taking place at Little Trinity Anglican Church.

Your committed support as a valued POSSIBILITY PARTNER monthly donor continues to help Toronto's most vulnerable community members. Thank you!

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