

Dear Friends,

Now in its 15th year, the Riverside Antler Breakfast is raising funds in support of the year-round operation of Fontbonne Ministries' Food Program at their Mustard Seed location (791 Queen St E) and Ralph Thornton Community Centre programming. The Antler Breakfast is a fun community event that will take place at the Ralph Thornton Community Centre (765 Queen St E) on **Friday, December 11th from 8am to 10am**. It's truly all about our local community and bringing everyone together for a good local cause.

As you can imagine given the rising costs of food and prevalence of food insecurity, Fontbonne Ministries' Mustard Seed Food Programming - which has provided more than 25,000 meals over the last year alone to individuals facing adversity in our community (see attached info page for more) - needs support more than ever. Additionally this year, we are raising funds in support of programming for low income seniors and youth at The Ralph Thornton Community Centre, a cornerstone in our community for 45 years. **We would like to invite you to be a supporter in 2026!**

Our 2026 goal is to raise $26,000! Our Santa Sponsor Outline Financial has helped kick off the fundrasing again, and we are seeking several essential "Santa's Helper", "Reindeer", and "Elf" sponsors. We are also seeking donations of items toward our Silent Auction.

Benefits of Being a Sponsor and Sponsorship Opportunities*:

- Santa's Helpers ($1,500) will receive: recognition online and at the event, a logo spot on our thank you poster on the TTC Ad at Queen/ Broadview, and four complimentary Riverside Antler Breakfast tickets for your team (this can be donated to those in need if you wish!)
- Reindeer ($500) will receive: recognition online and at the event, and two complimentary Riverside Antler Breakfast tickets for your team (this can be donated to those in need if you wish!)
- Elf ($250) Recognition on our digital promotional campaigns and at the in-person event
- Silent Auction Donors will receive a digital thank you and recognition at the in-person event
- Buy Tickets for your team - To get tickets for your team purchase here: https://riverside-antler-breakfast-26.eventbrite.ca

*Your sponsorship will be 100% deductible for your business (talk to your accountant).

For more information and to become a Riverside Antler Breakfast sponsor contact Jennifer Lay at the Riverside BIA (office@riverside-to.com or 416-466-8167).

Wendy Bray
Interim Executive Director
Fontbonne Ministries
Mustard Seed location

Jennifer Lay
Executive Director
Riverside BIA

Ravi Yee Joshi
Executive Director
Ralph Thornton Community Centre

Fontbonne Ministries

About Fontbonne Ministries

Fontbonne Ministries is proud of its 25-year presence in the Riverside community supporting individuals at various stages of life – some facing homelessness or precarious housing situations, others struggling to keep pace with the rising cost of living, and many grappling with social isolation and a longing for companionship. Inspired by the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we foster community and wellbeing through welcoming and inclusive programs ensuring access to essential services for people living in disadvantaged circumstances and experiencing stigma. As the cost of living continues to skyrocket, we witness an increasing number of people turning to the diverse programs we offer for support. Together as a community, we are not just providing services, we are connecting with compassion to individuals within our community.

Addressing the Need for Safe Space, Food Access and Community



Since our beginning, our Mustard Seed site has always offered accessible safe space for socially marginalized people to access food and build community in an environment of respect and acceptance. Food has always been shared in our history to show hospitality and caring and which we recognize as a basic human right for all.

Responding to the growing need for food security, which significantly increased throughout the pandemic and continues to grow, our welcoming and barrier-free drop-in offers individuals a reprise from the weather, a nutritious breakfast and community five days a week. As food prices have increased, more seniors and community members are struggling to pay their grocery bills, leading them to access a meal at our Mustard Seed location for the first time.

The connection between a full stomach and sense of well-being is something we understand. We focus on preparing meals that are nutrient-rich, incorporating veggies, fruit and protein into every meal and we do our best to accommodate preferences with vegetarian options and easily chewable foods such as yogurt and applesauce. A typical breakfast meal may include an omelet sandwich with eggs, onion, red peppers and cheese together with toast, cereal, apple sauce and bananas or fruit cocktail. Coffee and tea are always available. Individuals have the choice to eat in our drop-in space or take their meal outside to enjoy in our courtyard, weather permitting.

"Someone told us about the meal program at Fontbonne Ministries – he really talked it up and he wasn't exaggerating! The food is delicious. Being a vegetarian, I appreciate the variety of the menu and home-cooked meals. We've been regulars at the drop-in since the Fall, receiving breakfasts and information from staff about other community resources." –Jesse & Harry

Over the last fiscal year, almost 25,000 meals have been provided to individuals facing adversity in our community.





Good Food Market

In collaboration with FoodShare Toronto we run a weekly Good Food Market (Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm) helping provide access to local produce at affordable prices to those most impacted by food insecurity in our Riverside and Leslieville neighbourhoods.



Over the last year over 1,433 customers have visited our Good Food Market!

ABOUT THE RALPH THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (RTCC)

RALPH THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ralph Thornton Community Centre (RTCC) is a City-owned, community-managed facility that relies on fundraising to support and operate the many programs, services, events, and community initiatives we provide.

RTCC is where neighbours meet, events are celebrated, programs are enjoyed, and support is exchanged. We offer space, support, and service to many community organizations and partners. We also develop programs, nourish culture, and empower resident action by working with agencies, individuals, and groups to build the capacity of a caring, healthy, and vibrant community.

RTCC shares the historic Post Office building at 765 Queen St. East with our partner tenants: the Queen/Saulter branch of the Toronto Public Library and the South Riverdale Child-Parent Centre.

RTCC AT A GLANCE

- 229 CHILDREN SERVED, INCLUDING OVER 416 CAMPER WEEKS AND 720 HOURS OF CHILDCARE PROGRAMMING
- 41 WEEKS OF FREE SENIORS' GROUPS AND PROGRAMS
- OVER 140 CALLS EACH YEAR TO SENIORS, REDUCING ISOLATION AND SUPPORTING SOCIAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH OUR FREE SENIORS WELLNESS LINE
- 6,700 VISITS TO OUR EXCHANGE LOFT (A FREE DROP-IN COMPUTER CENTRE)
- 124 VOLUNTEERS ANNUALLY, CONTRIBUTING OVER 4,000 HOURS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY
- 167 TAX FILINGS COMPLETED, CLAIMING OVER $576,000 IN BENEFITS FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Our Life-Long Belonging programs include after-school care; a summer camp, Riverdale Adventure Camp (RAC), for children ages 6–12 and free for children from low-income households; a suite of youth programming, including a weekly group and a Leaders in Training (LIT) summer program; and seniors' programming, including a weekly group, annual excursions, and yoga classes.

OUR VALUES:

INCLUSION
RESPECT
EQUITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COLLABORATION
PARTNERSHIP
CAPACITY BUILDING
COMMUNITY BUILDING

WHAT WE DO:

OFFER SPACE
DELIVER PROGRAMS
ENGAGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

"AT RALPH THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, YOU NEVER STOP BELONGING."
– DEB SINGH, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

ABOUT RTCC'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

In our community, youth always belong.

RALPH THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

- 33 GOOD YOUTH JOBS CREATED
- 50+ YOUTH GRADUATES OF YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMS

RTCC hosts a suite of programs for youth in Riverdale and Rivertowne. Along with partners such as Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre and Toronto Community Housing, RTCC holds a weekly youth group where young people can socialize, participate in workshops, and plan and co-host community events.

In the summer, working with partners like Applegrove and Eastview Community Centre, we facilitate a six-week Leaders in Training (LIT) program. The training involves youth workers and peers facilitating workshops, organizing team-building events, and supporting in-person work placement opportunities. Focused on skill building and advancing work and study opportunities with an emphasis on equity, anti-Black racism, and empowerment, the RTCC suite of youth programs is a vital bridge for young people between childhood and adulthood.



YOUTH GROUP AT CANADA'S WONDERLAND



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM CRAFT

"EVERY TIME I WALK INTO RTCC, I FEEL A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PURPOSE. IT'S A PLACE FILLED WITH POSITIVE ENERGY, WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS COME TOGETHER TO LEARN, GROW, AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER. RTCC IS MORE THAN JUST A COMMUNITY CENTRE, IT'S A SAFE AND EMPOWERING SPACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN FIND SUPPORT, MAKE CONNECTIONS AND FEEL SEEN. WHETHER YOU'RE HERE FOR A PROGRAM, AN EVENT, OR JUST TO HANG OUT, YOU'LL ALWAYS FEEL WELCOMED. IT'S A PLACE THAT TRULY BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER."

– CATHIA, RAC COUNSELOR (AND FORMER CAMPER)