



COMMUNITY
IMPACT 2024

Commitment to Equity

There are many journeys about immigration that are represented in our neighbourhood, and we know that is a reflection of Waterloo as a whole. Many stories are of folks who through displacement have created avenues for themselves to succeed.

Unfortunately when they arrive it is easy for them to not see avenues for them or their children to thrive. We know this can be a reality but at Adventure4Change, we believe that equity is essential to building inclusive communities where everyone can thrive. We are committed to creating a welcoming environment for newcomers, immigrants, and all individuals in the Waterloo Region. Recognizing the diverse experiences and challenges that shape each person's journey, we aim to reduce barriers and ensure that everyone has access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to reach their fullest potential. Newcomers have shown their resiliency by immigrating, and committing themselves to rediscover how to live in different cultural contexts.

While navigating this we want to be able to provide a safe place for our families to land. Recognizing the diverse experiences and challenges that shape each person's

journey, we aim to reduce barriers and ensure that everyone has access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to reach their fullest potential. We also recognize the unique role we play in promoting social inclusion, and we are committed to actively learning from Indigenous communities and uplifting their voices as part of our journey toward equity

Equity, for us, is not just a value but an action. We embrace the diversity of our community and are dedicated to supporting programs and partnerships that reflect this commitment. We strive to empower individuals from all backgrounds, foster a sense of belonging, and advocate for inclusive change within our neighbourhoods. Together, we work towards a future where every person feels valued, supported, and inspired to be an agent of positive change.

LAND/TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As an organisation we at Adventure4Change acknowledge that the land where we find community, gather, and operate our programs is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Waterloo, Ontario is part of the Haldimand Tract, granted to the Six Nations of the Grand River, and as an organisation we are dedicated to fully honour their deeply rooted relationship in connection with this land.

Adventure4Change is dedicated to welcoming newcomers and immigrants to this region. We recognize the privilege of working on this land and the importance of understanding its history and cultural significance to its Indigenous Peoples, and its ongoing occupation by settlers. We commit to learning from Indigenous communities and fostering respectful relationships that honour their knowledge, resilience, and contributions as a context for our work. We strive to create a space that welcomes all people to embrace self discovery, celebrating the diversity that brings forth the collective growth and understanding of our neighbourhoods, and community.



At **Adventure4Change** we strive to bring our communities together around shared values and goals to ignite change.



Our ision

Our Vision: Changing our world by inspiring people towards lives of self-worth, respect, opportunity and contribution.

Our Mission: Adventure4Change contributes to children, youth and their families realising their unique potential to create impactful change.

Our Values: We nurture Growth by building trust that inspires Connections, and tailored Care, while ensuring Inclusion, and Contribution.



Partner With Us

We are always looking for caring community partners to help us develop and deliver our important programs that support our communities.



Donate Now

We invite you to join the many other Waterloo region residents who financially support our efforts.

Help us support families!



Leadership Message

For many in Waterloo, 2024 has not been an easy year. The cost of living has escalated, housing is a constant challenge and it has been hard to get jobs. In the midst of these hassles, we are grateful for the past 12 months and the many opportunities we have had to contribute to upstream community engagement in the Region of Waterloo that has reduced the many difficulties community members could have faced.

This year being the 20th year of existence of this vision and movement we have seen immense growth in the number of children, youth and families asking to be a part of the group sessions that help to be with other people in safe spaces that create hope and an anticipation for a desired future. From 30 to 50 kids and 80 to 120 youth, the growth in the neighbourhoods we serve has resulted in a corresponding increase in the demand for various group based programs and initiatives that we offer.

In a year where mental health needs have increased, our neighbourhoods look forward to coming to the Adventure4Change (A4C) hub because they know that there will be someone to listen to and support them to access solutions to their various needs.

Stories like 11 youth applying to post secondary education and 7 getting admitted, diversification of our funding channels and stories of hope in the midst of despair are some of the features of this impact report. This is why we continue to do what we do, to be a beacon of light, hope and inspiration in our neighbourhoods.

Our goal with our first ever impact report is to share stories of the strengths of our neighbourhood, life-long change makers aka volunteers, partners, donors and sponsors who make all we do happen. Together we contribute to ensuring No Poverty, Reduced Inequalities, Decent Work and Economic Growth as well as building Sustainable Cities and Communities according to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope that as you read our Impact Report, you see this reflected in the stories and glimpses into our neighborhood and its programs. Together, let's continue building stronger, and more vibrant neighbourhoods. Enjoy!



Oluseun Olayinka
Executive Director



Corrie Ballantyne, PMP, P.Eng
Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marion Marshall
Director

Tarique Plummer
Director

David Marshall
Director

Jeffrey Wong
Director

AN INTRODUCTION TO

Neighbourhood Looks and Stories

At the heart of Adventure4Change's work lies a profound commitment to creating connections and empowering change. For nearly a decade, the organization has not just served the neighborhood but become a cornerstone of the community itself. As Naheed, a dedicated team member and witness to its impact, shares:

“When we started, we were unsure—would people come to our programs? Would they find value in them? Now, years later, we don't even need reminders. The community eagerly shows up, waiting for the programs they've grown to love. That speaks volumes about how deeply Adventure4Change resonates with those we serve.”

From welcoming immigrant families to helping mothers find their voice and confidence, Adventure4Change builds bridges where gaps once existed. Programs teaching English, providing volunteer opportunities, and offering pathways to employment have transformed lives, fostering independence and empowerment.

“These women aren't just supporting their families; they're standing tall, showing the world their strength. They're shaping a future not only for themselves but for their children, creating a legacy of hope and resilience.”

But it's not just the parents who benefit. Children and youth are thriving as they engage in opportunities that might have once seemed out of reach. Programs like swimming and soccer have encouraged girls to break cultural barriers, try new things, and gain confidence in their abilities. As Naheed describes:

“Girls who thought they could never play hockey or swim due to cultural or religious restrictions are now proudly saying they can do it. They're becoming more confident, exploring new activities, and realizing their full potential.”

Adventure4Change's youth programs also focus on preparing young people for the future. By inviting professionals to discuss life skills, college applications, scholarships, and career planning, these initiatives equip youth to dream bigger and achieve more. Naheed emphasizes the ripple effect:

“From high school to university, these kids learn how to navigate life—how to talk to people, treat others with respect, and pursue their goals. They're not just gaining skills; they're building a brighter future.”

Adventure4Change is a space where confidence grows, connections flourish, and possibilities unfold. It's a testament to what happens when people feel safe, supported, and seen.



Kid's Tutoring & Stemovation

Better Beginnings Waterloo is a community-driven initiative dedicated to providing high-quality programs for children, parents, and families in North Waterloo. By collaborating with community members, volunteers, and local schools, we help children excel in their early academic years while building vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods. Better Beginnings bridges this gap with year-round activities that inspire learning, foster well-being, and strengthen family and community connections. Each week, Wilfrid Laurier University students from the Faculty of Education lead engaging “hands-on and minds-on” STEM activities through the STEMovation project. Programs like Kids Club and Kids Tutoring & STEMovation continue to spark curiosity, growth, and connection across our community.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK:

Kids' Tutoring through the eyes of a Tutor

The tutoring program has been such a rewarding experience for me. I've seen it improve the lives of both the students and the tutors. It's not just about academics—it's also about building relationships and bringing positive change to the community. The students have somewhere to go, something to eat, and a supportive environment to grow in. I've worked with the same kids over and over again, and I've seen them improve individually—not just academically but also in how they communicate with each other. For example, in one of my groups, the kids started chit-chatting and building friendships, which is so great to see. What makes this program stand out is the one-on-one attention we can give. Unlike other volunteering I've done, like helping in classrooms or working in other settings, this program is more consistent and individualized. With the same kids each week, I can recognize their strengths and weaknesses and really focus on helping them grow. For example, one week, one of my

students was struggling with focus. We set a goal to work on it, and by the next session, I saw a real improvement. At the end of that session, I made sure to tell her how much better she had done, and that positive reinforcement made such a difference. This program has also helped me grow personally. I've built relationships with the other tutors, and it's confirmed my decision to become a teacher. It's taught me so much about recognizing what kids need and how to communicate with them effectively. I love how this program not only helps the kids academically but also teaches them to work with others. I had one student who was great at reading but needed help with spelling, and another who was the opposite. I paired them up, and they helped each other, which was so nice to see.

"It's been amazing to watch how they grow academically, socially, and as part of the community. I'm really grateful to be part of this."



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK: A Parent's Story

My kids joined the program last year, and it's been amazing to see their progress. They absolutely love the activities, which have helped them develop new skills in writing, drawing, and even crafting—like making toys and other creative projects. I've noticed a big improvement in their abilities and confidence. For my son, who has high-functioning autism (diagnosed in 2020), this program has been transformative. He used to struggle with socializing, but now he participates in group discussions and engages with other kids in meaningful ways. His doctor even commented on his progress during a recent visit, which was so exciting for us. The program not only helps with academic skills like math and writing in English but also offers physical activities that my children enjoy. Being close to home, it has become a safe and supportive space for my kids to grow, make new friends, and feel like a part of the community.

"This program has truly made a difference in our lives."



A NEIGHBOURHOOD STORY: Amara and Kid's Club

My name is Amara, and I volunteer with the Kids Club program at A4C. It's been such an incredible experience seeing the impact this program has on the kids. Every Wednesday, they come in excited and ready to participate. Even if they show up with a frown, the moment we get into the gym, you can see their mood shift—they instantly brighten up. It's clear this is something they look forward to, and it truly makes a difference in their day. What makes this program stand out for me is the sense of community. I've volunteered with other kids' programs before, but here, the kids already know each other, and I've been able to build strong relationships with them. They recognize me now and are excited to see me, which is such a great feeling. The bonds they form with each other and with us as volunteers make this program so unique. This program is so important because every child deserves something like this. Growing up, I didn't have anything like Kids Club, and I think it's amazing that these kids do. They're not just going through these experiences alone—they're with their friends, doing fun activities, and enjoying themselves. It's not just about school—it's about breaking up their routine and giving them something special to look forward to. It's such a valuable part of their growth and development. For me personally, volunteering here has been transformative. When I first started, I was nervous, shy, and unsure of myself. But over time, this experience has helped me build my confidence and grow as a person. Being with the kids, seeing their smiles, and knowing I'm contributing to their happiness puts a smile on my face, too. It's been a truly rewarding journey, and I'm so grateful to be part of this program.



Kids Camp

Our year-round programming included vibrant summer camps with themes like Art/Music, STEM, Sports, Africa Camp, and 5 Fun Days. These camps engaged children, youth, and families in activities promoting community connectedness, creativity, science, wellness, and cultural exploration.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK:

A Camp Leader's Perspective

This summer, the moments shared with campers proved just how impactful the experience was—not only for them but also for the volunteers and leaders involved.

During a nature scavenger hunt, I walked with a camper and explained the dangers of invasive plants like giant hogweed, sharing how they can cause serious skin irritation. On our way back, she stopped and said something that truly moved me, “I want to be a leader like you when I grow up so I can tell kids about how dangerous hogweed plants are.” It was a simple statement, but it reminded me of the importance of inspiring the next generation to take on leadership roles.

Another camper showed incredible generosity and connection. After bonding over basketball, he approached me the next day as we boarded the bus for Africa Camp and handed me an NBA basketball card from his personal collection. He told me it was his favorite card, but he wanted me to have it. That small act of kindness was a testament to the trust and relationships built during camp.



Another camper, shared his aspirations to become a leader. When I asked what inspired him, his answer was straightforward and humbling: “You.” Moments like these reaffirm the meaningful impact that programs like these have on young lives.

Each of these connections reflects the heart of the camp: fostering inspiration, mentorship, and a sense of community that leaves lasting impressions on everyone involved.

Mothers Programs

Our Mother's Programs offer a weekly welcoming space for connection, support, and growth. Through activities like Coffee & Conversation, Sewing Programs, Swimming Classes, Literacy Classes, and community-building events such as Dance Parties, mothers are encouraged to come together, navigate challenges, celebrate their strengths, and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.



48
LEARN TO SWIM
PARTICIPANTS



12
MOTHERS ATTEND
LITERACY CLASSES



24
ATTEND SEWING
CLASSES



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK: Mom's Sewing

Our sewing program is more than just a space to create—it's a place for moms to connect, share experiences, and practice their English in a supportive and welcoming environment. Each morning session fosters a sense of belonging and community that goes beyond sewing.

On Tuesday mornings, we focus on preparations for our upcoming events. For instance, some of the moms are working on traditional clothing from their cultures to showcase in different community events.

On Wednesdays, the moms participate in guided sewing projects, while Thursdays are dedicated to personal projects, allowing them to bring and work on items of their own choice. This winter, we welcomed a part-time staff member—a community mom—to assist with the sewing programs. Her addition has been invaluable in supporting the growth and success of these sessions. Currently, approximately 25 moms participate across the three weekly sessions, and two moms from the community generously volunteer to help facilitate the programs.

We're thrilled to see how this program continues to empower and unite our community of moms!

A NEIGHBOURHOOD STORY: Dany's Sewing

The sewing program has been such a blessing for me and for others who are newcomers to the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Back in France, where I'm from, I loved sewing. When I came to Canada with my family, I didn't have a job, but sewing remained a passion of mine. One day, I met a friend at a community center in Kitchener, and when I asked about sewing, they told me about this program.

This program isn't just about sewing—it's about community. It's a space where we meet people, share stories, and talk. You're not alone here. You get to do something you love, and even if you don't know how to sew, the materials and teaching are available to help you learn.

One of the most rewarding moments for me was making this dress—I made it myself! I've learned so many techniques here. It's not just about creating something; it's about sharing knowledge. If I know something, I can teach someone else, and if someone else knows something, they can teach me. We grow together.

This program truly embodies an Adventure4Change, and I'm so grateful to be part of it.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK: Dance Parties

Every third Friday of the month, we host a vibrant Community Female Dance Party at the Hub. This event brings together approximately 45 women from the community to celebrate their culture through food, music, traditional clothing, and dance. It's more than just a party—it's a chance for the moms to enjoy a night out, reconnect with their cultural roots, and share meaningful moments with others.

In addition to these gatherings, our staff supports the the community in hosting other significant events at the Hub including responses to natural disasters in their home countries, family bereavements, and cultural celebrations.

These moments of solidarity and connection highlight the Hub as a vital resource for our community.

A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK: Women's Swimming

Every Saturday, 48 women in the community participate in a "Learn to Swim" program, made possible through our partnership with the University of Waterloo. For many of the participants, this program marks their first opportunity to swim. It's been incredible to see their progress as they build confidence in the water and advance through the swimming levels. This program not only teaches a vital life skill but also provides a safe and supportive space for women in our community to learn and grow together.

THE LAUNCHING OF BASADI SEWING OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Mujidat's Story

I came to Canada, specifically Waterloo, as a student and arrived with very few connections. It was difficult for me to find a community where I felt I belonged—a place where I could feel seen, heard, and supported. Eventually, my family joined me, but I still struggled to find space for self-care. I felt isolated, caught up in my responsibilities, and in desperate need of community and personal connection.

One day, a mother in our neighborhood saw me with my kids and struck up a conversation. She invited me to join her at the Hub for an A4C Sewing Class. It took a few invitations, but I eventually agreed because sewing was something I loved to do back home.

When I arrived at the class, I was immediately welcomed by other moms in a way that touched me deeply. It took everything in me to hold back tears because I was overwhelmed by a profound sense of belonging—the very feeling I had been yearning for. Just as I thought I had composed myself, one of the moms, noticing that I was struggling, approached me with the warmest embrace and said, “We’ve got you.” That was it. I knew I had found my place.

Since then, I have been attending programs and sewing alongside the other moms. As sewing was something I was already skilled in, I had the opportunity to help others with their patterns. Through this, I got to know their stories and became part of the community. These ladies have become my friends, sisters, helpers and confidants. When A4C began developing a program to expand the sewing class into a social enterprise—one that would empower neighborhood moms to monetize their skills and provide for their families—I eagerly stepped up to join. I look forward to sharing the passion of sewing with others and equipping them with a skill that is not only useful, but that has brought people together. Basadi will be a place where people can learn, and where our mothers can grow.

My desire as the Social Enterprise Lead, along with Oluseun's, is to create a space at the Hub where mothers can thrive financially, see their work celebrated across the City of Waterloo, and realize their sense of belonging within our neighborhood and this city.



Youth

This year, we've witnessed remarkable growth in our Youth Programming as word of our initiatives has spread throughout the neighborhood. We remain committed to adapting and expanding our programs to meet the growing needs of our youth, with a focus on fostering sustainable and meaningful development.

Through programs like **Youth Basketball, Youth Soccer, Girls in Sports, Girls Fitness, Young Queens, Youth Tutoring, and Connect**, we've been inspired by how passionately our youth engage and strive to become strong, active members of their neighbourhoods and communities. We look forward to continuing this impactful work and supporting their growth every step of the way.



124

YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS



30

PROGRAM
VOLUNTEERS



10

VOLUNTEER
COACHES



70

SOCCER
STUDENTS

A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK:

The Sunnydale FC Story

Starting out with a small group of passionate neighbourhood kids kicking a ball around in our local parking lot during the Covid days, Sunnydale FC now boasts of 4 youth soccer teams of 70 players, a superb team of 10 coaches and growing partnerships across the region to ensure soccer is becoming accessible for many more youth in our Region. In Sunnydale and the surrounding neighborhoods, a majority of youth often do not have the finances or familial support to pursue their sports dreams. Many of our soccer players come from refugee backgrounds and accessible soccer is not in the cards for them. We have been changing that story over the past few years; but for us, it is about a lot more than soccer.

One small example is of a young man named Mohammed (name changed for privacy sake). Mohammed is a grade 9 student who recently came from Syria with a passion for soccer, but not incredible social skills, academic ability, or confidence. He would go to the local field every day with his brothers and couple friends to kick a ball around and watch other teams practice. He meandered through middle school hoping for something new. When some of his classmates were talking about starting a team (with Sunnydale FC) out of their school, he (and his teacher) advocated to join in. Mohammed not only joined the team, but quickly became a leader – becoming one of the team captains.

To this day, Mohammed is growing in his ability as a player, but more importantly is coaching his younger brothers team, is volunteering with multiple city- led initiatives and is thriving at school and home. Mohammed is an incredible gift to us, and Sunnydale FC has been an incredible gift for him.

We are so proud of our boys, but we know there is much more to their stories. We know that soccer can be the gateway to growth and development in the rest of life. When young men have a passion, and an ability to pursue it, they grow in confidence, belief, hope and their 'care-factor'. Dually, they become better students, better brothers, better neighbours and better employees as they grow and become the young men of confidence, passion, and direction. Our deepest hope is that all of these young men can transition healthily into life beyond high school, find meaningful careers, raise healthy families, and continue the cycle of contributing to their community.

Who knows, maybe some will 'make it' in soccer or as coaches, but we will expect and spur them all to 'make it' in life. That's our commitment to them and this community.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK:

Connect

At Adventure4Change, we're proud to offer 'Connect', a dynamic co-ed program for youth in grades 7 to 12. Designed with intention, Connect provides a nurturing, inclusive, and safe space for young people in North Waterloo to grow, connect, and thrive. The program encourages youth to come together to learn, have fun, and work toward making a positive impact in their neighborhoods. Its mission is to inspire hope, foster healthy relationships, and empower youth to become engaged, thriving, and contributing members of their communities.

This year, we introduced a fresh structure for Connect by splitting participants into two groups: grades 7 to 10 and grades 11 and up, including those in post-secondary education. This change has been transformative for both age groups. By tailoring activities specifically to each group's needs, we've seen remarkable engagement. Attendance in the grades 7 to 10 sessions has doubled, growing from an average of 20 youth in the winter term to 40 in the fall.

For our older youth and post-secondary participants, this restructuring has been groundbreaking. Previously, we hadn't offered dedicated programming for post-secondary community members. Now, we've reconnected with approximately 30 youth who've returned—not as volunteers in children's programs, but as participants free to embrace their role as youth once again, without supervisory responsibilities.

This evolution of Connect has not only strengthened our community but also reaffirmed the value of creating spaces where young people of all ages can truly belong.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD STORY:

Moussa and Youth Tutoring

Meet Moussa Musse. He attended a youth tutoring program at Adventure4Change. Every Wednesday, youth meet in a safe space with tutors who assist them with homework, and exam preparation to enable them to perform better in school. While in Grade 12, early this year, Moussa's amazing tutor assisted him with Physics. "I always look forward to tutoring sessions as I found support with Physics which provided a positive impact on my academics". Moussa is currently a Chemical Engineering student at the University of Waterloo, and has also become a tutor himself since September.

We are honoured to see how Moussa has used what he has been given to give back to the Neighbourhood.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD STORY: Sumaya and Young Queens

As the eldest daughter of an immigrant Muslim family, Sumaya faced immense challenges stemming from the high expectations placed on women of African descent in her position. Growing up, she carried significant domestic responsibilities—helping raise her younger siblings, cooking, cleaning, and managing the household—all while striving to be a role model in education, religion, and work. These duties, coupled with the universal struggles of adolescence, made her transitions from middle school to high school and then to post-secondary education particularly daunting.

Amid these challenges, Sumaya longed for an escape—a space where she could find support and empowerment. She discovered that in Young Queens.

The Young Queens Collective program empowers, educates, and enriches the lives of young women of colour in North Waterloo by focusing on four pillars: positive peer culture, opportunities, experiences, and mentorship. Through Young Queens, and with support from the broader Adventure4Change community, Sumaya received guidance with course selections, college applications, OSAP, and scholarships—tools that enabled her to achieve milestones she once thought impossible.

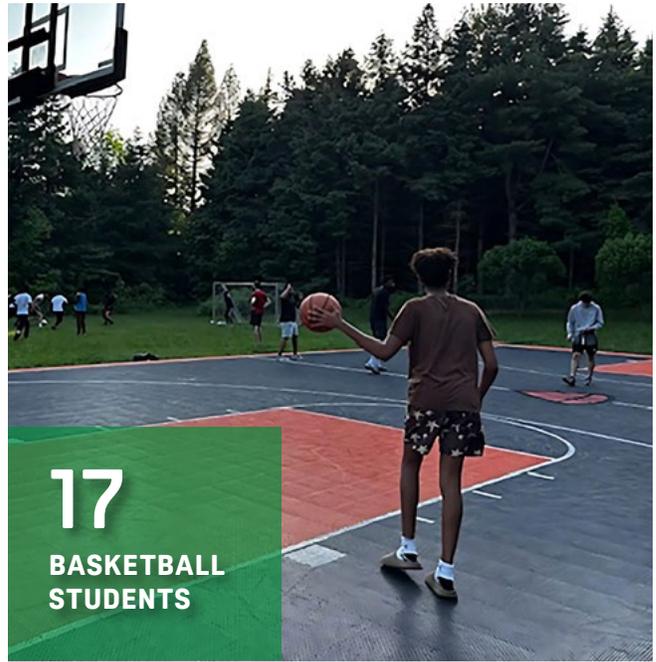
With these supports, Sumaya became the first in her family to attend college. After completing a one-year diploma in Human Services Foundations, she is now on track to graduate from the Early Childhood Education program at Conestoga College. Her journey has come full circle, as she continues to give back to the community by serving as one of Young Queens' most dedicated volunteers, inspiring and uplifting the next generation of young women.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK: Girls Fitness

As part of our peer health initiatives, we relaunched our Girls Fitness program this fall and, for the first time, introduced a year-round Girls in Sports program. The revamped Girls Fitness program focuses on shifting the perspective of our community's girls from exercising solely for weight loss to exercising for overall physical health and well-being. Historically, the program was perceived as being centered on weight loss, which discouraged some girls from participating due to concerns that their attendance might imply they needed to lose weight. This year, we successfully invited and retained participants of all body types by incorporating a variety of activities, including strength and conditioning, cardio, and culturally relevant exercises like dancing. These activities emphasize the importance of exercise for overall health and wellness. By linking the fitness program with our new Girls in Sports initiative, we've also highlighted the role of physical health in enabling full and comfortable participation in sports.

As a result, we have now seen an average of 10 girls who attend both programs weekly. This reflects the growing impact of this inclusive and empowering approach, and its necessity for the girls in our neighbourhood. We have seen them take charge of their health and continue to develop sustainable healthy habits, while having fun doing so.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOK:

Youth Basketball Update

The basketball program experienced significant growth and transformation this year, building on the foundations laid in previous years.

Facilitated by Coach Cavell through BR4ND, the program was initially designed to support and encourage youth in engaging with healthy activities while providing a platform for mentorship. The goal has always been to steer youth away from unhealthy behaviors and life trajectories, guiding them toward lives of vitality, contribution, and success. This year the program regained momentum, with participation peaking during the spring and summer months, reaching 12–17 youth per session during our busiest period.

This year, the program celebrated several key milestones:

- Two youth who have been part of the program since its inception have overcome significant challenges and are now employed full-time.
- One of our participants is now in college and another one in University, with 6 more preparing to do so.
- The program has not only fostered athletic skills but also sparked noticeable growth in the youth's camaraderie, leadership abilities, emotional management, and maturity.
- Our younger participants have gained increased confidence, while overall basketball skills have significantly improved as shown by 14 participants now playing for their high school teams and local club teams.

This year's successes reflect the program's enduring value and its role in shaping a positive future for the youth involved.

ADVENTURE4CHANGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Empowering Students for a Brighter Future

Adventure4Change is proud to have partnered with the Kindred Foundation and SHAD to provide transformative scholarship opportunities for students in our community. These initiatives are a testament to our commitment to supporting young people as they pursue their academic and personal aspirations.

For 2024, the Kindred Foundation awarded scholarships to Faiqa and Moussa, with a one-time bursary presented to Ikran. These scholarships and bursaries offer vital financial support, ensuring that students can focus on their post-secondary education without the burden of financial constraints.

Additionally, this summer, SHAD awarded two scholarships to Jaidon and Omar. These students had the unique opportunity to attend a fully immersive STEM program, spending a month away from home at two different Ontario universities. Through this experience, they explored cutting-edge STEM topics, engaged in innovative projects, and connected with like-minded peers.

All recipients of these scholarships expressed heartfelt gratitude for the financial support and life-changing opportunities they received. These partnerships with Kindred Foundation and SHAD demonstrate the power of community collaboration in creating pathways to success and empowering the next generation.

4

**SCHOLARSHIPS
GRANTED**

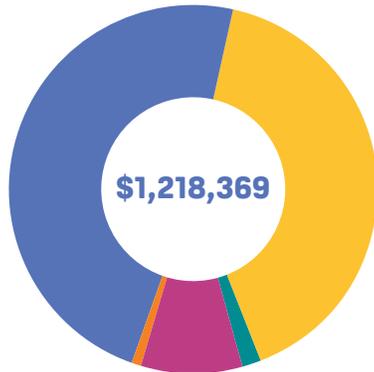
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**BURSARY
GRANTED**



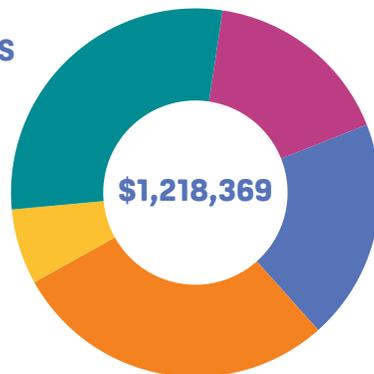
Your Support

FUNDING SOURCES



- **GIFTS FROM OTHER REGISTERED CHARITIES** \$583,904.00 (47.93%)
- **NON-RECEIPTED DONATIONS** \$11,793.00 (0.97%)
- **RECEIPTED DONATIONS** \$109,724.00 (9.01%)
- **ALL OTHER REVENUE** \$18,830.00 (1.55%)
- **GOVERNMENT FUNDING** \$494,118.00 (40.56%)

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS



- **KIDS PROGRAMS** (19%)
- **MOTHERS PROGRAMS** (17%)
- **YOUTH PROGRAMS** (29%)
- **SYSTEMS NAVIGATION** (7%)
- **GENERAL FUND** (28%)

DONATIONS

50.6%
ONE TIME GIFTS

49.4%
MONTHLY GIVERS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Adventure4Change is deeply grateful for the incredible support from our community.

The generosity of time and resources strengthen us to make a meaningful impact in our neighbourhoods. We are honored to work alongside amazing people and organizations to ensure no one is left behind, fostering a sense of inclusion where everyone feels free to grow, contribute, connect, and care.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Astley Foundation | Rangers Reach |
| BR4ND Training and Development | Region of Waterloo – Building Safer Communities Initiative |
| Bring on the Sunshine | Region of Waterloo Public Health |
| Calvary United Church | Region of Waterloo Upstream Fund |
| Camino Wellbeing + Mental Health | Rideau Hall Foundation |
| Canada Summer Jobs Grant | Rotary Waterloo |
| Capacity Canada | SHAD Canada |
| Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation | Sidewalk Center |
| Child and Youth Planning Table – Youth Impact Project | Silver Lake Mennonite Camp |
| City of Waterloo | Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab |
| City of Waterloo Neighbourhood Matching Fund | Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region |
| Conestoga College | STEMovation |
| Creekside Church | Tecasy Ranch |
| Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy | The Essentials Fund |
| Earthscape | The Food Bank of Waterloo Region |
| Epix Fashion (Pix Quilts) | Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa |
| Family and Children Services – Resilience Project | United Way Waterloo Region Communities |
| Frontlines | University of Waterloo |
| Horizon Consulting International | Wallenstein Feeds |
| House of Friendship | Waterloo Catholic District School Board |
| Kalora Interiors International Inc | Waterloo Christian Reformed Church |
| Kindred Credit Union | Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church |
| Kindred Foundation | Waterloo Minor Hockey |
| Lakeshore South Community Association | Waterloo Minor Soccer |
| Lyle S. Hallman Foundation | Waterloo Pentecostal Assembly |
| Lincoln Road Bible Chapel | Waterloo Public Library |
| Libro Credit Union | Waterloo Ravens |
| Manulife | Waterloo Region Community Foundation |
| Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment | Waterloo Region District School Board |
| Muslim Social Services | Waterloo Region Police Services |
| Nike | Waterloo Region Record Literacy Fund |
| North Mississauga Soccer Club | Watsa Camp |
| OpenText | Wilfrid Laurier University |
| Olympiakos Soccer Club | Xtra Time |
| Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant | YMCA |
| Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Funds | YWCA |
| PK Sports | |
| Premier League Futsal | |

We are also grateful to our many donors and volunteers who support us in everything we do.

* These figures are based on the audit completed for A4C as reported in April 2024.

Community Stories



Perfect Pitch

Adventure4Change (A4C) was honored to participate in Perfect Pitch 2024, hosted by Social Ventures Partner (SVP) Waterloo Region. This unique event brought together eight local organizations to pitch their missions to a wide

audience at the University of Waterloo's Federation Hall. Over six weeks of preparation, the A4C team collaborated with coaches to craft a compelling story showcasing the organization's impact. The event not only provided a platform for A4C to share its story of hope and transformation but also fostered networking and future partnership opportunities. All participating organizations, including A4C, received unrestricted cash gifts from SVP to support their vital work. A4C is deeply grateful for this opportunity to amplify its mission and continues to share stories of positive change inspired by this experience.



Voices4Youth

Eleven talented A4C youths developed an exciting and innovative project titled "Voices4Youth." The project was pitched at the Youth Impact Project (YIP) event, where their idea was evaluated by a panel of judges. We are proud to announce

that "Voices4Youth" was awarded a \$3,500 grant to design and implement the idea. This success has inspired our youths and given them a renewed sense of possibilities. With the cheque presentation done, planning meetings are underway and this idea will be launched next year.



A4C Cultural Event

On May 2nd, 2024 Adventure4Change held its first-ever cultural event. This was a chance for the organization to show its appreciation to donors, partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders who have contributed to the

organization's current growth and positioning. The cultural event was a beautiful time of networking that included a fashion show. This displayed unique cultural items sewn by moms from the A4C sewing program. It was also the night of launching an A4C all-cast movie titled "A Journey into the Diaspora". It was a night to celebrate the creativity and kinship of the amazing people in the neighborhoods that we serve. The night was also an opportunity to introduce A4C's new social enterprise - Basadi Sewing.



Black Student Associations

This year, we hosted weekly Black Student Associations at two WRDSB high schools, working with administrators to support Black students in navigating challenges, celebrating their joys, and building a stronger sense of belonging.

Together we are creating solutions that would help them explore better futures while contributing to their schools in positive ways that make them feel seen, heard, and supported. While simultaneously helping them increase their sense of belonging.



March of 1000 Umbrellas

Adventure4Change staff proudly joined United Way and other community organizations in a symbolic march with umbrellas from Uptown Waterloo to Downtown Kitchener. This event aimed to raise awareness about

the many challenges our communities face and highlight the collective efforts to address them. Together, we remain committed to supporting and improving the lives of people across the KW region.



Cedarbrae Festival

In partnership with Cedarbrae Public School, A4C hosted about 400 community members at their annual school year-end BBQ festival on Thursday, June 20, 2024. We are grateful to Cedarbrae Public School for the continued partnership

through the years and also appreciate Waterloo Pentecostal Assembly for releasing their huge Barbeque grills as well as providing volunteers to make the burgers and hotdogs for the event to celebrate the start of the summer.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2024, we are energized by the incredible growth and milestones achieved through our programs. This shapes our commitment to equity, inclusion, and creating safe, supportive spaces for the neighbourhoods we serve.

In the year ahead, our focus will center on continuing to implement our Strategic Priorities: Investing in Our People, Growing Our Impact, and Building and Expanding Community. We aim to deepen the reach of transformative programs like the Kids Tutoring, Youth Soccer, and Moms Sewing, which have already created ripples of change in the lives of our participants. For example, through our Kids Tutoring program, we've seen 56 children grow academically and socially, while our sewing initiatives have fostered self-sufficiency and connection for over 20 moms weekly.

Moving forward, we dream of creating more vibrant spaces for connection, such as expanding our neighborhood hub to meet increasing accessibility and program demands. We're inspired by stories of youth embracing leadership, moms finding community, and children thriving in their learning and innovative play. These experiences drive us to strengthen our partnerships, diversify our resources, and deliver programs that nurture belonging and resilience.

By embracing collaboration and amplifying our collective efforts, we look ahead with hope and determination at what is to come. Together, we are building a future where every individual has the opportunity to discover their potential, contribute meaningfully, and thrive within an inclusive and supportive community.



“Changing our world by inspiring people toward lives of self-worth, respect, opportunity, and contribution.”

Ways to Support Our Vision



Partner With Us

We are always looking for caring community partners to help us develop and deliver our important programs that support our communities.



Volunteer With Us

We welcome volunteers and believe that we can provide you with a very meaningful experience, while you invest in some truly amazing families.

Join our team and get to know our community!



Donate Now

We invite you to join the many other Waterloo region residents who financially support our efforts.

Help us support families!