

# South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre Information Sheet

## Background

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### **Mission:**

The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre operates as a Family, Child & Youth Community Enrichment Centre. The Centre supports and fosters the development of community based and community driven projects that nurture and enhance a healthy quality of life for residents of South London.

### **Location:**

The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre main offices are located in the South London Community Centre at 1119 Jalna Blvd.

### **Geographic Area Served:**

South London has a population, based on the 2001 census, of just over 55,455 individuals who are geographically distributed within an area generally defined as Wharncliffe Road to the west, Commissioners Road to the north, Adelaide Street south and the former rail line to the east and Exeter Road to the South.

We have expanded our boundaries for the purposes of Settlement Services for our New Settlement Worker in the Schools Services (SWIS-London). For this purpose we will be servicing the schools in Westmount and as far north as Saint Thomas Aquinas Secondary School.

### **History:**

In 1987 the Community Council of White Oaks, a neighbourhood association, sponsored the resource centre as a neighbourhood resource for the residents of South London. In December of 1995 the Ministry of Community and Social Services (COMSOC) terminated its funding of neighbourhood resource centres in London. The termination of financial support precipitated a complete change of all core positions.

Between the 1995 funding cut and 1997, in an attempt to maintain some of the programming that had been developed in the South London community, the Community Council of White Oaks secured minimal funding. In April of 1997 the council received Venture Funding through the United Way for a part-time Youth Support Worker. Again, in April of 1998 the United Way supported the council by offering Venture Funding to fill the position of Community Development Co-ordinator. With both core positions receiving part-time funding the Community Council of White Oaks was able to begin rebuilding community programs.

As the geographical boundaries expanded and the needs of the community increased it soon became obvious that the Community Council of White Oaks was unable to continue to be effective in programming for the changing community. At this point it was evident that the Community Council of White Oaks needed additional help in supporting the at-risk families of South London, and that an increased capacity was required in the social service programming. In 1989 the community members and Community Council of White Oaks began to think that for the South London area to continue to support at-risk residents in an inclusive manner the resource centre needed to separate from the Community Council of White Oaks. This shift in thinking and service delivery required the resource centre to obtain charitable status and focus solely on supporting local residents who are deemed at-risk and isolated based on barriers in their lives and community. The resource center began separating from the Community

Council of White Oaks in November of 1998 when area residents met together to plan the formation of a new organization called the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

### **Achievements**

The creation of South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre precipitated the following events:

- **June 1999** Community Development Programs began including garden programs, collective kitchens, recruitment of new board, adult drop-in programs, community clean ups- First CORE funding through City of London.
- **February 2000** South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre became incorporated
- **June 2000** the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre hosted a public meeting to establish a constitution
- **September 2000** the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre - Board of Directors assumed the responsibility of all community projects which were previously managed by the Community Council of White Oaks
- **February 2001** Locking Hands Not Fists funding secured for 3 years
- **April 2001** Became a member agency of the United Way
- **April 2001** Youth Support Worker position received CORE funding through the City of London
- **May 2001** Received funding for Youth Service Canada Project – one year
- **February 2002** Pursuit of charitable status through Revenue Canada began
- **August 2003** Received funding for Breaking the Barriers of Isolation- 3 years
- **September 2003** Received Charitable Status through Revenue Canada
- **February 2004** Received partnered funding from London Community Foundation to begin the Youth Council of Westminster- ongoing
- **March 2004** Received funding for Skills Linc from HRDC-Neighbourhoods United in South London- 15 months
- **May 2004** Completion of the Strategic Delivery of Services Plan
- **September 2004** Received funding for Community Bridges –Youth Outreach to newcomers- one year
- **March 2005** Received funding for Community Bridges-Adult Outreach to Isolated Adults and seniors-one year
- **January 2006** Received stable CORE funding for volunteer services for isolated residents and newcomer (youth/seniors)-Empowerment through Volunteering
- **September 2006** Received funding through the City of London/Public Health Agency of Canada for Families First CAPC and Families First Preschool Drop-ins.
- **March 2007** Received stable CORE funding for Executive Director, Community Development, Youth Support Services, Volunteer Services for Adult & Youth.
- **November 2007** Received funding from Citizenship and Immigration to roll out Settlement Services in south London. ISAP & JSW Services.
- **November 2008** Received funding from Citizenship and Immigration to roll out Settlement Services in south London. Library Settlement Partnership.
- **Sept 2009** Received funding for Urban Priority Highschool Fund-5 years
- **February 2010** Received funding from Citizenship and Immigration to roll out Settlement Services in Schools (SWIS-London).
- **August 2012** Accepted Co-lead role with the White Oaks Family Centre
- **February 2013** Received funding for White Oaks Family Centre Facilitator-Community Development lead with residents.-one year
- **May 2015** Doors open to the White Oaks Family Centre- SLNRC ED is the co-lead
- **July 2015** SLCC opens its doors after renovations. Settlement services finally in proper space

- **Feb 2016** established 3 year strategic plan for SLNRC
- **Feb 2016** partnered with WIL employment services for employment services at SLCC
- **April 2016** IRCC funded to support Syrian newcomers
- **May 2016** Appointed Lead agency for the Westminster Family Centre-Doors open Jan 2017
- **June 2016** partnered with RBC Centre for at risk children and families to support moderate to severe mental health care for immigrant and refugees at the SLCC
- **August 2016** Lead agency for the Hello Neighbour- integration program for new Syrian families in 9 London Neighbourhoods

The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre has been recognized as a community driven project that empowers its residents. South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre has spent the last year developing a Strategic Plan. This plan has highlighted the current and changing trends that South London is experiencing as well as how service delivery can be shaped to respond to the community trends and needs. With a population that has doubled in the last 15 years South London now represents a unique and diverse population with specific needs that are not seen other areas of the city.

The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre is a vital connection between many agencies and community residents. Currently the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre provides a variety of services including being an information network to other organizations and the greater community. Our expertise is in High-risk families with children under the age of 6, Youth Services, Volunteer Services, and newcomer Settlement Services. All of these services are tied to a Community Development approach that allows the community to participate in the development and delivery of the services.

## **Future Plans**

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The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre is the lead to the development of the Family Centre Westminster. We have also just completed our expansion to the South London Community Centre that has increased access for residents on Ontario Works to receive service support in their neighbourhood. This change will increase access to 1,500 additional Ontario Works Recipient. The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre has 53 employees and manages programs in White Oaks, Westminster and Westmount. We are located in 28 area school, In a London Housing Unit and support the neighbourhood development of a community space in the Westminster neighbourhood under the direction of the Neighbourhood Resource Association of Westminster Park (NRAWP). In 2015, during a year of construction local residents accessed our programs and services approximately 105,000 times. We are in the process of strengthening our approach to local residents managing Mental Health in their daily lives. With our centre doubling in size we are very mindful of being a welcoming centre for all residents in a way that empowers them. Our community development approach leads to a leadership support that we are bringing to other neighbourhoods.

## **How Can You Help?**

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The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre is looking for area residents that are interested in joining the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre team by:

- Bringing your family and or friends to programs or events hosted by the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Volunteering with the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Joining the Board of Directors of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

If you are interested in more program information or volunteering with South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre either come to the office at South London Community Centre, 1119 Jalna Blvd or call

686-8600. As for Heather Molen-Volunteer Co-ordinator. 686-8600 ext 7396

### **If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors**

We ask that interested candidates review the following skills that would be helpful to the future development of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

- A keen interest in serving the culturally diverse community
- A keen interest in further developing and enhancing community resources
- Participate in speaking engagements on behalf of the organization to potential funders
- Knowledge or interest in a volunteer run organization
- Knowledge or interest in a community based and community supported resource centre
- Experience on other community boards and fundraising experience are assets

### **Objectives for the Board of Directors**

- To review & understand the current operations of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- To maintain the logic model for the organization
- To generate community involvement through the recruitment and development of a Board of directors, volunteers, & community partners
- To provide the community with accessible and inclusive programming that directly impacts the issues of poverty, advances education, increases recreation, provides child minding and other services related to the environmental, cultural and mental health needs
- To raise funds through special events, corporate sponsorship/partnerships, funding and grant applications with the help of the Executive Director
- To increase the number of community members accessing the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre and its programs by maintaining quality programs that meet the community needs and continue to establish a high profile in South London.

### **Board of Director's Terms of Reference**

1. The Board of Directors will be responsible to oversee the operation of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre and maintain the policies and procedures of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

2. The Board will be managed through the implementation of the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre by-laws

3. The Board members will be available for monthly meetings excluding (July & August)

Interested persons should contact the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre office to set up a meeting time to discuss your interest in the board of directors

Contact person: Nancy Needham

Executive Director

South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

[nneedham@slnrc.ca](mailto:nneedham@slnrc.ca) or 1119 Jalna Blvd, London, N6E 3B3

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