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2026 IMPACT REPORT



CONTENTS



- 02 Greetings from Dagmar
- 03 Meet the Team
- 04 The Foundation of our Work
- 05 Survey & Impact
- 07 Program Spotlight
- 11 Fundraising
- 12 Financials
- 13 Donor Contributions
- 14 What it Took



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GREETINGS FROM DAGMAR

A young person walks through our doors. Maybe they are looking for a place to spend an afternoon, a meal, someone to talk to, or a place where they can be themselves. They find someone who knows their name, a place where they belong. They may discover a new skill, a job, or a challenge they did not think they were ready for.

It is hard to know which moment will stay with a young person, but we see what happens when moments become relationships, and relationships become trust.

We have seen it again and again. Relationships build confidence, create belonging, and give young people the support to discover what they are capable of. A young person who once came looking for a place to belong may become a mentor, a leader, an employee, or someone who welcomes the next young person. That is what growth looks like to us.

Growth is not simply about reaching more youth, it is about connecting with more people, organizations, and communities so more young people can thrive. Through our drop-ins, partnerships, and youth employment opportunities, young people continued to belong, connect, and lead. That same focus on connection is shaping how we work beyond our doors, helping us build stronger supports for young people across the community.



Planet Youth Mississauga is part of this work. We are working to hear from hundreds of young people about what helps them thrive and the challenges they face, and what we learn will shape prevention efforts in Cooksville, Erin Mills, and Meadowvale. *(see page 7 for more on PYM)*

This work is also helping us think about how we share what we have learned. The Community Resilience Project builds on our mentoring model, bringing our experience to parents, caregivers, and others who want to strengthen that support. *(see page 8 for more on CRP)*

None of this happens without our staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and young people who continue to lead and teach us what's possible.

Our vision remains clear: every young person should have the relationships, opportunities, skills, and sense of belonging they need to thrive.

At The Dam, we know that sometimes a small moment can be the beginning of something much bigger. Our work is to be there for that moment, and to help create what comes next.

Dagmar Morgan-Sinclair
Executive Director



MEET THE TEAM



STAFF

Alyssa Prajapat

Community Projects Coordinator

Chanel Banate

Meadowvale Youth Mentor

Chris Williams

Cooksville Program Coordinator

Dagmar Morgan-Sinclair

Executive Director

Dunia Badawi

Operations Manager

Eli Fakaua

Cooksville Youth Mentor

Florence Nakimuli

Youth Employment Coordinator

Jenelle Lambshead

Executive Assistant

Jill deJager

Meadowvale Program Coordinator

Josephine Ang Go

Cooksville Youth Mentor

Juelene Stennett

Emerging Opportunities
Research Project & Food Pantry

Khemroy Daley

Meadowvale Youth Mentor

Melodie Telfer

Marketing & Communications Lead

Simran Patel

CASP Program Administrator

BOARD

Brian Sequeira

Chair

Jabari Lindsay

Director

Jelena Momirov

Director

John Sully

Treasurer

Latasha Mcfarlane

Director

Melanie Ty

Director

Takudzwa Andrea

Vice-Chair

... but we don't do it alone
... see page 12 for more.

as of September 2026





THE FOUNDATION OF OUR WORK

CREATING SAFE SPACES

The Dam is committed to ensuring that every young person is welcomed, valued, respected and supported. We recognize our responsibility to safeguard the young people we serve and to maintain environments where youth can build trusting relationships with staff, volunteers and peers.

Our approach includes appropriate screening, training, supervision, clear boundaries and procedures for responding to concerns or challenges. We regularly review our practices and adapt them as the needs of young people and the communities we serve evolve.

Safety is more than responding to risk—it is creating the conditions where young people feel safe enough to belong, be heard, build relationships and thrive.

OUR VALUES

RELATIONSHIP Relationships first.

COMMUNITY Belonging over fitting in.

PREVENTION Act early. Build healthy soil.

SOCIAL JUSTICE Advocacy rooted in dignity.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT Their voices. Their lead. Their future.

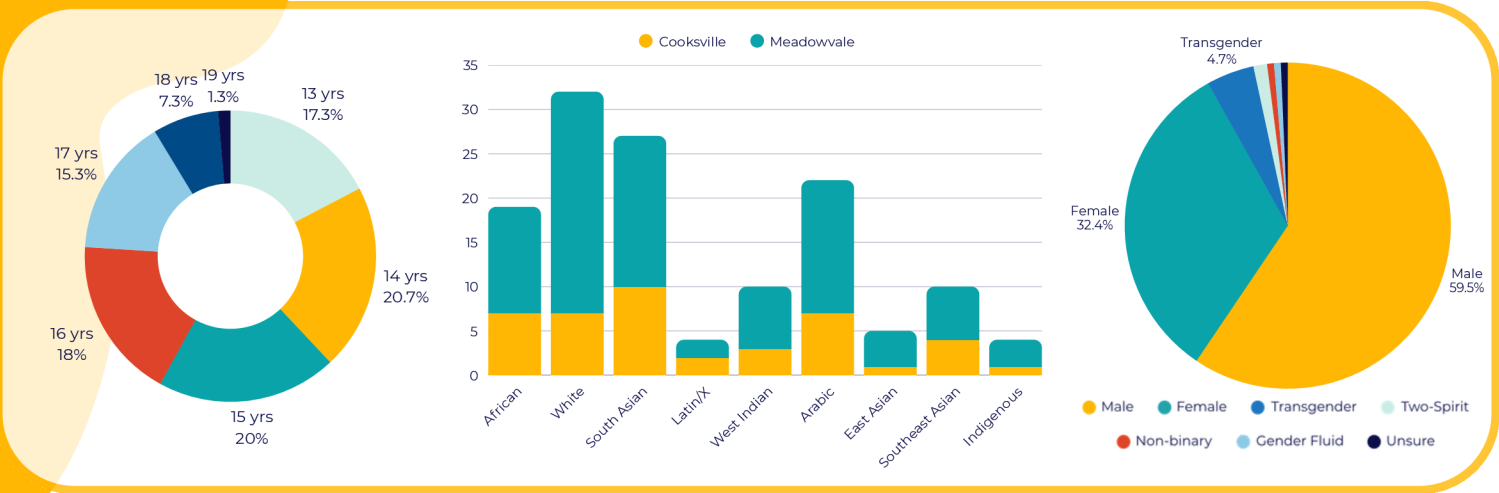
FAITH IN ACTION Love wins in practice.



SURVEY & IMPACT

WHO WE SERVE

DEMOGRAPHICS



MENTORSHIP

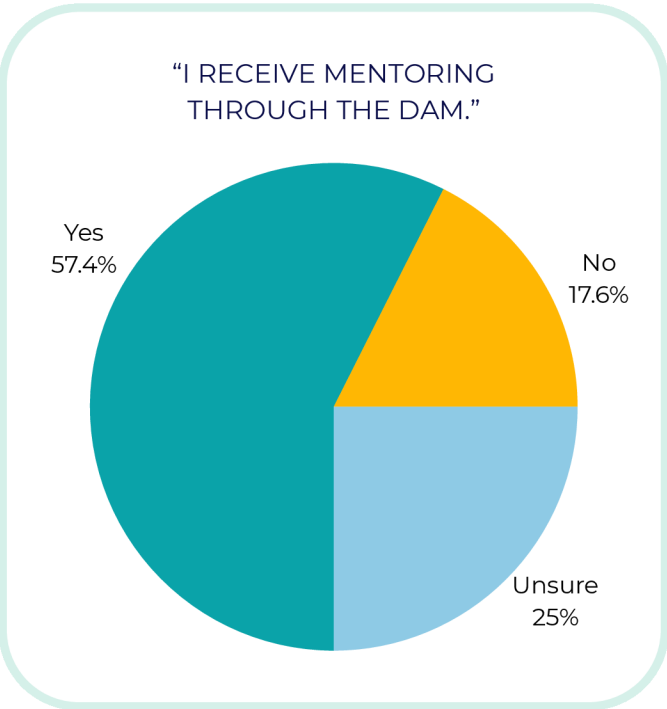
MENTORING
RELATIONSHIPS

+

RESPONSIVE
PROGRAMING

=

YOUTH
THRIVING



"All the adults at the dam are really kind and I feel like **I can share my feelings without being judged**"

— 14 year old female youth

"The mentors at The Dam have helped me get through so many difficult times in my life and they were always there for me. The Dam has given me a safe space and community that I really cherish :)"

— 16 year old non-binary youth, long-term participant

"Met a lot of good people; received helpful advice from people who are older than me or potentially had the same experience."

— 18 year old male youth



WHAT YOUTH TOLD US

"I like dam because this is **the place I started feeling comfortable in when I was a new immigrant**. Later my friends and I started hanging out here and it became a **second home**."

— 16 year old female youth who is a newcomer

The major difference that the dam has made possible is the fact that **not only do I feel accepted but now have more opportunities than ever**."

— 17 year old female youth who occasionally struggles with her mental health

"They are aware of the short time youth have in the community and try to make it the **most comfortable safe years** as possible."

— 17 year old female youth

"**I got help when I was more in need of** food and supplies and could **talk to multiple adults** about my life and what was going on"

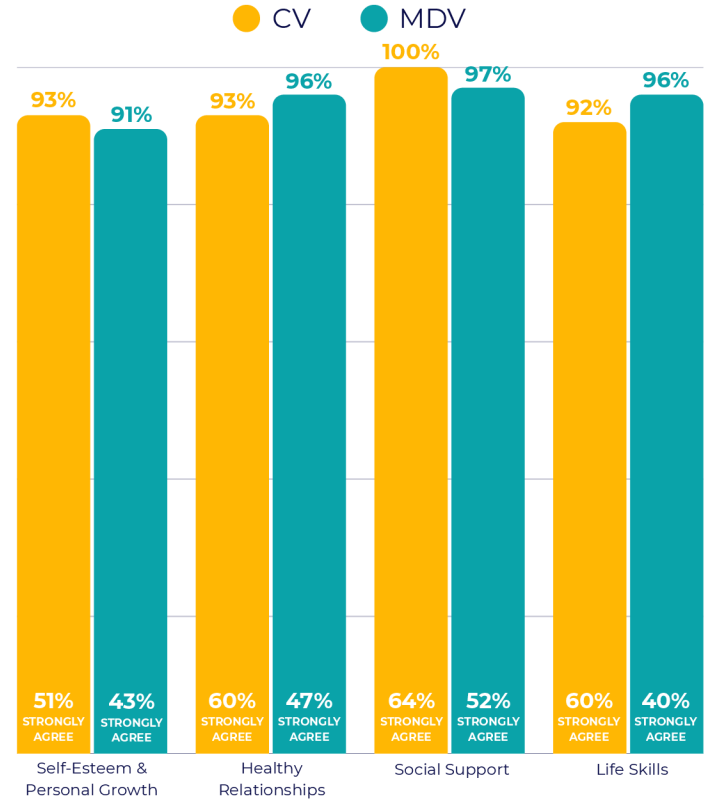
— 17 year old male youth

"They are a positive influence on my life and **I am able to be myself** at The Dam. The staff always support and help me. The **programs relate to me** and I am able to get volunteer hours here as well."

— 17 year old female youth

"It has made a difference in my life because the people here are very **supportive and inclusive**. I have met a lot of new people that I really enjoy being with. It has **helped me for the better**"

— 13 year old male youth



Impact acknowledged by youth based on their involvement with The Dam



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

At the heart of the **Youth Employment** Program (YEP) is a vision to create a clear pathway from skill development to meaningful employment, while helping youth build the confidence and preparedness to take their next steps.

Our YEP workshops go beyond simply helping youth find a job. Youth develop real-life skills to help successfully enter and navigate the workplace. The workshops are practical, interactive, and relevant to the experiences of youth focusing on opportunities to practice communicating their strengths, build confidence, prepare for interviews, understand workplace expectations, and make informed decisions about their employment journey.

“

Youth develop real-life skills to help successfully enter and navigate the workplace.

The impact of YEP is not only measured by whether a young person gets a job, but also by whether they leave the program more confident, more prepared, more aware of their strengths, and better equipped to navigate future employment opportunities independently.

As the program grows, we continue to build a bridge between youth and employers, one that equips young people with practical skills while also expanding their access to meaningful opportunities.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM [YEP]

“They **helped me get employed** doing something I felt I had a say in.”

— 17 year old female youth

Florence Nakimuli
YEP Coordinator

PLANET YOUTH MISSISSAUGA [PYM]

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Dam and Erin Mills Connects continue to co-facilitate Planet Youth Mississauga (PYM), a Public Health Agency of Canada pilot focused on **reducing youth substance use and strengthening the protective factors that support resiliency and mental health**. Ten Youth Ambassadors (PYAs) were hired to ensure youth voice remained central to the work and helped lead the surveying of hundreds of youth from Erin Mills, Meadowvale, and Cooksville to better understand their experiences and needs.

“

Ten Youth Ambassadors (PYAs) were hired to ensure youth voice remained central to the work and helped lead the surveying of hundreds of youth

PYM supported several initiatives, including Beautiful Mind Day, a mental health and well-being pilot for students in Grades 6–8; the Beyond High School pathways compendium update for Peel; Healthy Relationships Plus Enhanced for newcomer teens; an Erin Mills Youth Centre March Break workshop focused on addictions, mental health, and concurrent disorders; and the Peel District School Board anti-vaping challenge. Media resources were also developed to raise awareness of Planet Youth across Mississauga.

A key focus moving forward will be completing the survey process and using the findings to identify local priorities and implement community-based interventions that address the needs identified by youth.



PARTNER *Mississauga*

Catharine Chamberline
Erin Mills Connects 8

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Introducing the Community Resilience Project (CRP), a **youth crime prevention** program implemented by The Dam in partnership with Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy. The CRP is a prevention-based initiative that builds on the foundation established through The Dam and Erin Mills Connects' Planet Youth Mississauga (PYM). While PYM focuses on substance use prevention, the CRP expands preventative supports for youth while collaborating with local stakeholders to address rising rates of youth crime.

“

... builds on The Dam's well-established approach to mentoring, using it as a tool for prevention and positive community impact.

At the core of the CRP is a carefully curated curriculum that builds on The Dam's well-established approach to mentoring, using it as a tool for prevention and positive community impact. Grounded in evidence-based theories and practices, including trauma-informed practice, anti-oppressive practice, and structural social work theory, the curriculum serves as both a mentoring guide and a foundation for prevention efforts. These efforts include parent engagement, life-skills workshops, community outreach, and relationship building. Our hope is to create meaningful and lasting change for youth and the communities in which they live.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT [CRP]



Alyssa Prajapat
Community Projects Coordinator

COMMUNITY AGENCY SUBSIDY PROGRAM [CASP]

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Community Agency Subsidy Program (CASP), delivered in partnership with the Region of Peel, provides essential **housing subsidies** and wraparound care to help youth secure and maintain stable housing. By removing the immediate burden of housing insecurity, CASP creates a safe environment where youth can shift away from survival mode and work toward long-term self-sufficiency

In this past fiscal year, subsidies relieved the heavy stress of housing insecurity, allowing program participants to focus their energy on higher education and job training. By combining housing support with holistic guidance, including community connections and budgeting skills, the program built a strong base for lasting independence. Through this support, one youth successfully completed skills training and secured a full-time job, while another completed their diploma and is now pursuing their bachelor's degree...

“

... one youth successfully completed skills training and secured a full-time job, while another completed their diploma and is now pursuing their bachelor's degree

As some of our youth have successfully graduated from the CASP program, we are excited to reach even more young people with housing support needs. We will deepen our partnerships with local schools to identify young people in need, while leveraging our internal programs and a strong network of partners to provide comprehensive wraparound care. Using housing stability as a launching pad, we will empower young people to reach their educational goals, build independence, and thrive as confident, equipped individuals.

Simran Patel
CASP Program Administrator



FUNDRAISING

OUR BIG 3

1 DESSERT AUCTION

The Dessert Auction brought volunteers and community members together for an accessible, enjoyable fundraising activity. Volunteers donated homemade desserts, and participants placed bids, with proceeds supporting The Dam's programs and services.

Impact

The auction received 14 donated desserts and engaged 150 community members, generating **nearly \$10,000** for The Dam's programs while introducing new supporters and giving volunteers, donors, and local residents a chance to connect with our mission.

SAVE THE DATE: **OCTOBER 22, 2026**

2 10 X 10

The 10 x 10 campaign invited supporters to give \$10 and encourage 10 additional people to participate. This simple, personal approach made it easy for people to get involved while introducing The Dam's work to a wider audience.

Impact

The campaign raised **over \$10,000**, turning small individual contributions into meaningful support for The Dam's meal programs. Its personal, peer-to-peer approach also extended awareness of The Dam's work and encouraged more people to learn about and support us.

SAVE THE DATE: **SPRING 2027**

3 CNOY

The Dam's 13th Coldest Night of the Year walkathon raised funds and awareness for people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness, and was nothing short of a party. Participants, volunteers, and donors came together to support youth.

Impact

303 walkers across 42 teams walked up to 5 km and raised **\$68,262** for The Dam, made possible by the time and effort of our volunteers. CNOY generates much-needed financial support for our drop-ins and programs while raising public awareness of poverty, youth housing insecurity, and other challenges young people face.

SAVE THE DATE: **FEBRUARY 27, 2027**



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

\$ 1,580,886

- 4% Foundations
- 6% Community
- 7% Faith Communities
- 14% Individuals/Events/Other
- 21% Corporations
- 48% Government

EXPENSES

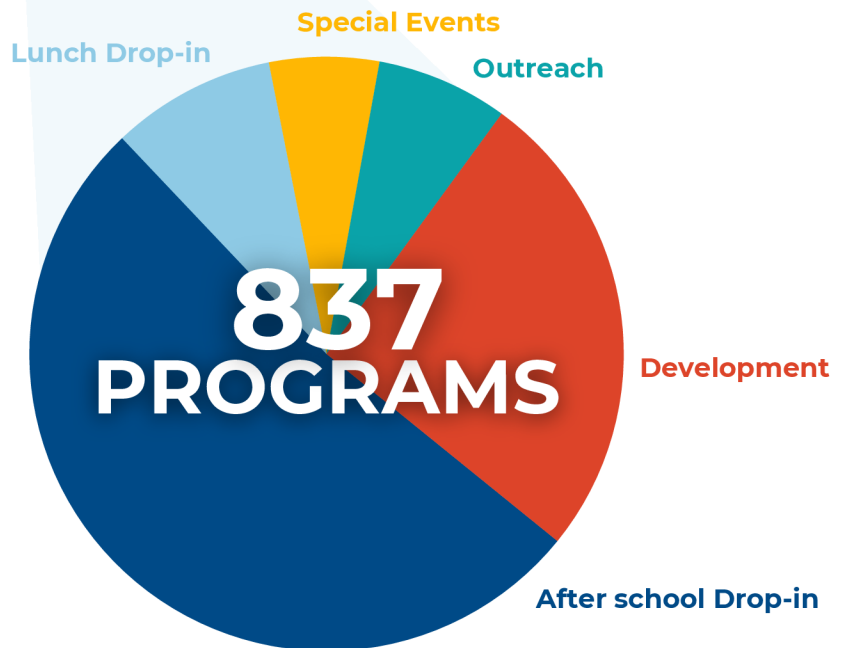
\$ 1,632,891

- 1% Fundraising
- 8% Admin
- 91% Programs

DEFICIT

= (\$ 52,005)

THAT LOOKS LIKE ...



25,386 Youth drop-in visits!

617 Unique youth served!

89 Daily average attendance!

54 Youth mentored!

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



\$25K+

- Anglican Diocese of Toronto - FaithWorks
- Blue Sea Philanthropy Inc.
- Citi Financial
- Clearbrook Developments
- Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
- Food Banks Mississauga
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- OLG Rama Gaming House - Mississauga
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Regional Municipality of Peel
- The Corporation of the City of Mississauga
- Toronto Pearson Propeller Project
- United Way of Greater Toronto

\$10K - 24,999K

- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities
- Lions Club of Streetsville
- Meadowvale Community Christian Reformed Church
- Pendle Fund at Mississauga Foundation
- Rotary Club of Mississauga Meadowvale
- Thorogood Family Foundation
- Wordham Family Fund at Mississauga Foundation

\$5K - 9,999K

- Daccord Family Foundation
- Government of Canada
- Mississauga Food Bank Support Association
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- The George Lunan Foundation
- Trinity Anglican (Streetsville)

*Thank
You!*

WHAT IT TOOK

TO IMPACT YOUNG PEOPLE

14

FULL TIME
STAFF

190

VOLUNTEERS

= 6,075 hours;
equivalent to
\$208,155.50!*

*according to the average
hourly wage in Ontario

29

HIRED
YOUTH

9

BOARD
DIRECTORS

25,386

DROP-IN
VISITS

14,673

MEALS

11

PLACEMENT
STUDENTS

8

PART TIME
STAFF

OVER

96

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

436

DROP-INS

346

FINANCIAL
PARTNERS

JOIN US.

IMPACT THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

DONATE



VOLUNTEER



SUBSCRIBE



@thedamdropin



For more information, please visit
www.thedam.org

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The Dam is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charitable organization.
Charitable #889327466 RR0001