



Making a positive difference.

Annual Report

2023 -2024

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Land Acknowledgement

The Toronto PWA Foundation recognizes that the work we do within the modern-day City of Toronto, takes place on the historical and traditional territory of many Indigenous nations including the Anishinaabe, and Wendat peoples, and more recently the Mississauga's and Haudenosaunee nations, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit people from across Turtle Island. By making this acknowledgment, we strive to be allies and take an active part in reconciliation by honoring the land, history and unique Indigenous heritage and culture within the City of Toronto. This fosters our commitment to the recommendations set forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Letter from the Board Co-Chairs



PWA is proud to be community-led in everything we do. Two of our greatest successes this year would not have been possible without you and the rest of our community.

The first was our big move to our new home here at 163 Queen Street E, enabled by the generosity of our philanthropic partner. As a community, you shared with us your hopes and dreams for this new home and dozens of volunteers worked alongside our staff to turn those into reality. Together, we have already built a space to be proud of where we can embrace each other and look out for one another.

The Board also wants to give a big Bike Rally shoutout and thank you to everyone who was involved in the 25th Friends for Life Bike Rally. The Bike Rally is the sustaining fundraiser of PWA and the spirit of this event is an extension of PWA's mission and community beyond the walls 163 Queen Street. As a Board, we were honoured to stand with you in celebrating this significant milestone and the Bike Rally's profound legacy.

As we look to the year ahead, the Board maintains that our Board's first purpose is to re-imagine Board governance and uproot and dismantle anti-Black racism, colonization and other forms of racism and oppression so that the PWA Board reflects and comes from the community in order to centre and serve the community.

As a Board, our recent experiences and learnings have reshaped this work and our journey is not yet done. But there are three things we remain focused on and we recommit to the following statements and affirmations:

1. We recognize that embedding African-centred and Indigenous ways of knowing and being must be central to the work we do as an agency, and not just be a response to crisis.
2. We acknowledge that addressing racism cannot be the responsibility of those who are most impacted by it. Each of us, every Board member, staff member, volunteer and community member has a role to play and we take up this commitment with enthusiasm and hope.
3. We understand that we hold privilege and power and that we need to use them to address colonialism in all that we do as an agency.

With these values and you, the community, leading us into the next year, the Board is confident that we are walking the right path and we are grateful that you have joined us on the journey.

In Service,

**David Morris and Albert Williams PWA
Board Co-Chair**

Letter from the Executive Director



2023-24 will be remembered as a turning point for PWA. It marked the year PWA moved into its new permanent home – the Hub at 163 Queen Street E. It also marked the year we honoured and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Friends for Life Bike Rally. As we paused and remembered the incredible history that begot and forged the Bike Rally, we stood looking ahead at our incredible future at the Hub.

In early 2023, an extraordinary event happened – a private donor bought a 40,000 sq foot building at 163 Queen St E to create a Hub for people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS. In fulfillment of PWA's strategic plan to create a Hub for people living with HIV/AIDS, this building became our permanent home.

To prepare for our move into the Hub at 163 Queen St E, we did more than pack our belongings—we engaged our community. From August – October, we engaged close to 300 people living with and affected by HIV from across not only PWA, but also other HIV organizations interested in moving into the building. A resounding theme that emerged from community centered on the Hub being a place of "Truth, Love and Healing".

With this new vision, we moved into 163 Queen St E in early November 2023. With the help of our incredible volunteers, we unpacked and opened our doors for the first time on Monday, November 13th. As soon as we opened our doors, the magic of the Hub came to life. The 40,000 square feet of the building, large floor to ceiling windows, outdoor patio and incredible 4th floor skyline views created the perfect setting for our community to have a place of safety, welcoming, healing and creativity.

In addition to having more space our regular PWA programs, we started a new daily sit-down lunch program on the first floor. For the first time, we hosted over 300 people for our annual Holiday Community party in our own building. We even installed a bouncy castle on the first floor for our annual Holiday Children's Party!

We began to see that the extraordinary space that Hub provided created a stage for community to share their extraordinary gifts from leather-making, sewing, singing, dancing and coming together to tell our truths. The Hub is a dynamic catalyst of community, belonging, support and empowerment.

But just months before we moved into the Hub, we celebrated an unbelievable milestone—the 25th Anniversary of the Friends for Life Bike Rally. In 1998, desperate to keep PWA's doors open, David Linton and Danny Nashman came up with the audacious idea to raise funds by riding their bikes from Toronto to Montreal. The passion to supporting people living with HIV/AIDS inspired them and 25 other brave souls to complete the first ever Friends for Life Bike Rally. 25 years later, thousands of people have ridden their bikes and volunteered on our many crew teams to raise a total of \$25 million. PWA has been and continues to be so extraordinarily blessed to our Bike Rally community now which also supports Trellis HIV Care in Kingston and the AIDS Committee of Montreal. We send our deep heartfelt gratitude to all the extraordinary Bike Rally community for their unbelievable achievements!

2023-24 stands as an unbelievable year – a testimony to the passion and love for people living with HIV that created the Bike Rally and now the new Hub. Our past lives within us as we boldly and bravely move ever forward until there is cure.

Until then, thank you everyone for making a positive difference!

**All my love,
Suzanne Paddock
Executive Director**





“

Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. We must have it because without it we become weak and faint. Without love our self-esteem weakens. Without it our courage fails. Without love we can no longer look out confidently at the world.

Chief Dan George, 1972

”

VISION

We live in affirming, sustaining communities where we find inspiration and support for our dreams, health, well-being and meaningful contributions.



MISSION

We engage people living with HIV/AIDS in enhancing their health and well-being through practical and therapeutic support services and broader social change, and we inspire them to live into their dreams and discoveries. mission to people living with HIV.

PHILOSOPHY

People living with HIV/AIDS play a crucial role in the governance and operation of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, but, most important, are its heart and soul. Although the Foundation seeks supportive partnerships in fulfilling our mission, our response to HIV/AIDS is, more than anything else, inspired by the voices and experience of people living with HIV/AIDS.



Programs and Services statistics for 2023-24



16,807 visits to
access the essentials
market

“

Sometimes I wish that the volunteers who serve me in the essentials market, could see the smiles on the faces of my children when when I come home with the groceries every week. They are seeing me bring home things that they can recognize from back home. We are all glad and it helps to make our diets better.

Beatrice is a 57 year old migrant mother of three children

”



810 individuals
accessed therapeutic
care services

Programs and Services statistics for 2023-24:



1,130 individuals
accessed financial
services

“

I was born right here in Canada and never thought this could happen to me, a white Canadian. This is a huge wake up call that makes me understand what others are going through. I had absolutely no money whatsoever....none...My PWA financial assistance cheque helped to pay for those damn medications that the Government does not cover. How would I have survived without it? Damn!!!

Tyrone is a 35 year old gay man

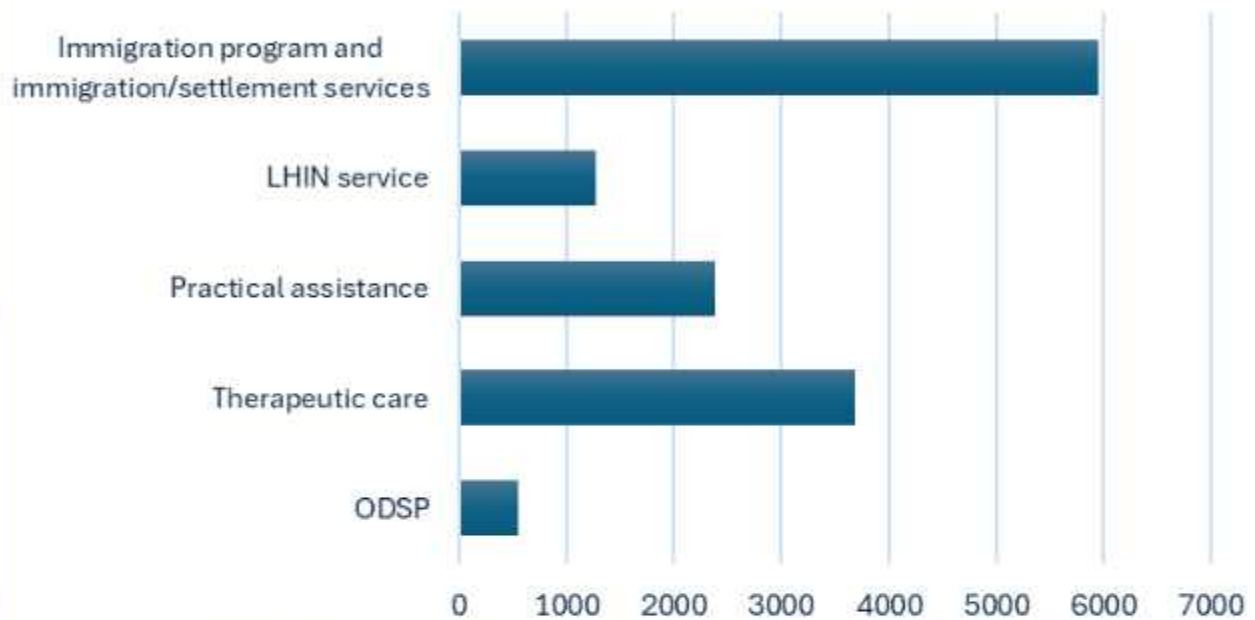
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581 individuals
accessed immigration
services

Services conducted statistics for 2023-24

Total number of sessions conducted

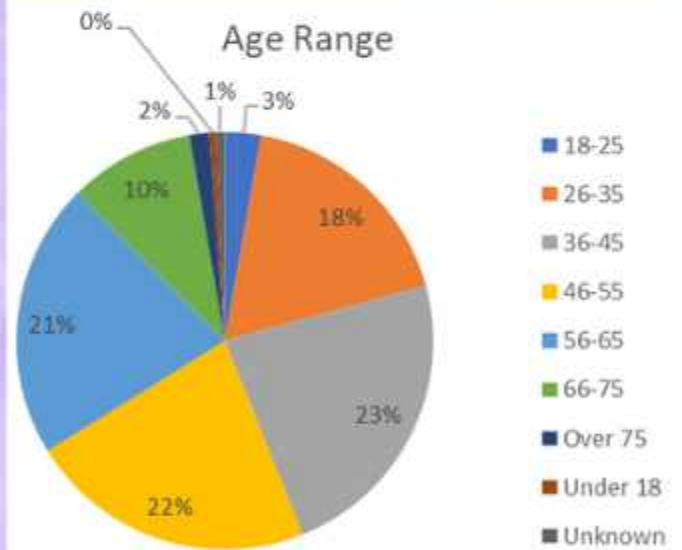


Gender



■ Male ■ Female ■ Not listed ■ Trans woman ■ Trans man

Age Range



■ 18-25
 ■ 26-35
 ■ 36-45
 ■ 46-55
 ■ 56-65
 ■ 66-75
 ■ Over 75
 ■ Under 18
 ■ Unknown



Exciting Developments at PWA: The 163 Queen East Community HIV Health & Justice Hub

For PWA, the 2023-2024 year has been a transformational year as we proudly opened the 163 Queen East Community HIV Health & Justice Hub. That program brought 40,000 square feet of new life to previously uninhabited office space in Toronto, coming together with needed services related to HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, transgender care, and refugee/migrant supports.

Born in 2018 from the collaboration of seven HIV/AIDS organizations coming together to share a service hub focused on culturally responsive health and social support, this vision has become a vibrant community space in this newly opened hub in November 2023, welcoming hundreds of visitors weekly.

We have forged strategic partnerships with organizations serving Black, Indigenous, Trans, and refugee communities. Most recently, our partnership with Sentry Health and Cabbagetown Pharmacy established the first-ever rapid access program for medications used in HIV and Trans care, reaching over 100 clients to date.



Exciting Developments at PWA: The 163 Queen East Community HIV Health & Justice Hub

Food justice is one of the leading activities in our work; all this is made possible by the Pride and Remembrance Foundation. Our daily lunch program provides food for more than 100 people every week, building community around culturally relevant meals. The work continues to show meaningful art on display in our gallery, ensuring diverse cultural expression and creativity.

Moving forward, we will create safe spaces for our marginalized and commit ourselves to the needs of our diverse community. Ongoing efforts work toward revitalizing Queen East in order to make sure our hub remains a source and beacon of support, resiliency, and community empowerment.

For more information or to share your ideas, please feel free to reach out via email at

ggrant@pwatoronto.org



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



I got to learn about PWA from my friend Gerald who is an artist. I volunteer in the Lunch Program where I help prepare the food with guidance from the chefs, serving folks, registration and washing dishes afterwards according to the number of volunteers around at that time.

The interesting part of my role is that I get to work with chefs from different countries or cultures and in this way I learn to prepare different types of dishes that I never knew even existed. Another interesting thing is that during the registration process of the lunch program you learned how to talk with folks while explaining to them what the program is all about and why they have to register.

The volunteer program has really changed my life in many ways, first of all things I've learned time keeping and patience while preparing food/ serving the community members. I must come to work in time which will give you enough time to prepare the food.

SAMSON KIGENYI



I have also learned to respect and follow what the person in charge wants me to do even though am older than them which has helped work on my anger management issues.

Furthermore, when am volunteering I always forget my disturbing thoughts of what happened to me back in my country because at PWA am welcome and always meet happy people who are open to talk to.

I encourage folks out there not to sit back and sink in their thoughts or troubles. You should at least sign up for a volunteer program and in this way you can have someone to talk to who has passed through the same experience and they can render you help.

“
I have greatly appreciated the services at PWA, particularly the professionalism of the massage therapists, which motivates me to consistently book appointments.
”
John Peter



Finances at a Glance

Year ended March 31	2024	2023
Revenue		
Fundraising and donations - bike rally	\$ 1,712,954	\$ 1,494,728
Fundraising and donations - general	1,320,705	846,456
Grants	1,275,624	932,792
Other income	103,965	65,515
Bequests		131,002
Total revenue	4,413,248	3,470,493
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Practical support	835,536	728,449
Dreaming and engagement	461,823	449,150
Community access	238,564	180,814
Health and therapeutic care	105,999	76,547
Financial assistance	381,643	395,712
Total program expenses	2,023,565	1,830,672
General expenses		
Fundraising - bike rally	707,688	542,221
Occupancy	545,196	471,153
Administration	476,622	300,600
Fundraising and communication	462,597	626,575
Amortization	105,772	125,100
	2,297,875	2,065,649
Strategic investment		
PHA Hub at 163 Queen Street East	469,278	-
Other one-time strategic investments	135,618	207,610
	604,896	207,610
Total program expenses		4,103,931
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$(513,088)	\$(633,438)



Community Member Experience



My name is Hemder Trujillo. I arrived in Canada in 2023 having fled Colombia because of violence and physical, verbal and psychological abuse by an armed illegal group that attacked me because of my sexual orientation and in search of finding myself to begin a process of healing and personal liberation, I found PWA.

Last December, a friend told me that there were several support centers for people in my situation. I started searching online and found PWA; from that day, I met Ower, who has since become an angel for me, introducing me to all the services PWA offers.

In addition to the support and services provided by this organization, they also care that every day each person feels good, like family. I remember one day I arrived feeling depressed at the Community kitchen; I was served lunch, and when I finished, a lovely lady approached me and told me that it didn't matter what I had gone through or was going through, to remember that here at PWA we are all family.

Those words made me feel very good, seeing that all the volunteers do their different tasks with so much love that is felt in every activity they carry out: the conferences, workshops, and, in general, all the work being done. I never imagined the reach of PWA, the moral support, and the opportunity for comprehensive growth for all the people who are part of PWA today. As I mentioned earlier, the services of hairdressing, clothing distribution, the food bank, Community kitchen, support for refugee applications, and all the logistics.

I believe that a special service PWA could offer would be to have a family doctor and a lawyer specialized in immigration law with their interns. This would make it much easier to expedite the different processes for the integration of newcomers to Toronto. It would be interesting to include emotional restoration therapies for newcomers.

Many of us leave our home countries traumatized by different circumstances of abuse and violence of various kinds, and these therapies could help heal our souls. Since I arrived at PWA, I have learned that the barrier is not the language but how people are treated. And in this way, PWA has helped me move forward with my life projects.

Nowadays, I am studying, growing as a person, and trying to help others who have gone through the same situation as I did. I am grateful to all the people who are part of PWA.

Hemder Trujillo





Bike Rally at

25 years



The Bike Rally supports PWA, as well as our partners in Kingston (Trellis HIV & Community Care) and Montreal (ACCM - AIDS Community Care Montréal).

We get to support our local communities and help these AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) do their critical work: providing essential services, advocating for equality in access, and fighting stigma.

The 25th Year was an outstanding year; together we raised \$1.8 million! With Heartfelt thanks for the commitment and dedication of all the participants, sponsors, and donors who choose to be part of the Friends for Life Bike Rally and make a difference!

**Gaby Harvey & Robb Walker,
Co-Chairs, Friends for Life Bike Rally**

What started as an idea by Danny Nashman and David Linton to address a funding crisis for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA) The Friends for Life Bike Rally has since become a life changing and transformative event - for the community members served and all participants.

This year we celebrated our 25th year of the Bike Rally - a huge accomplishment! Throughout the year we came together to celebrate the history of the Bike Rally and how we maintained this legacy of giving.

Our community has come so far; raising awareness for HIV/AIDS and the associated challenges and barriers, overcoming stigma and adversity, all to help people in need.

BIKE RALLY



“
As long as
there’s a
reason,
there’s a ride
”



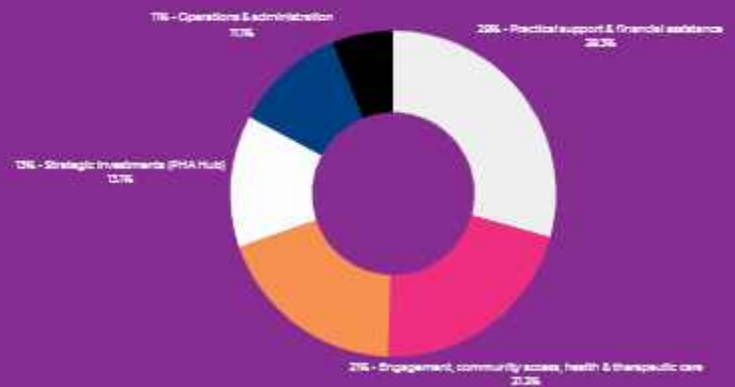
DONORS CONTRIBUTIONS 2023-2024

In 2023-2024, the combined support of government grants and the incredible generosity of our private donors enabled PWA (Toronto People With AIDS Foundation) to achieve a remarkable milestone surpassing \$4.4 million in total funding. This vital financial backing allowed us to continue delivering life-changing services and programming to people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Toronto, with a significant portion of our resources directed toward initiatives that empower PHAs to pursue their dreams and embrace new opportunities. Importantly, 30% of our general funds were sourced from individual donors, which highlights the strength of our community's commitment to supporting PHAs. These contributions were made possible through individual donations, our highly successful End of Year Campaign, and the inspiring Love in Action Campaign, which specifically supports our Essentials Market an essential service providing food and practical supplies to clients.

REVENUE BY FUND TYPE



EXPENSES

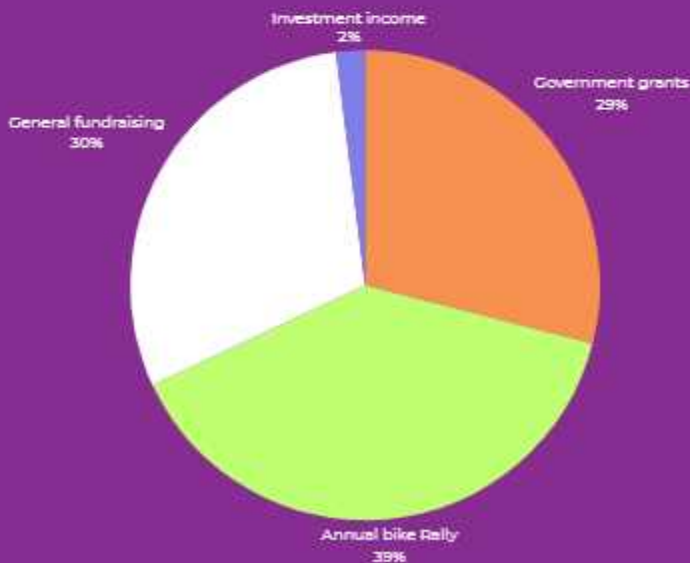


DONORS CONTRIBUTIONS 2023-2024

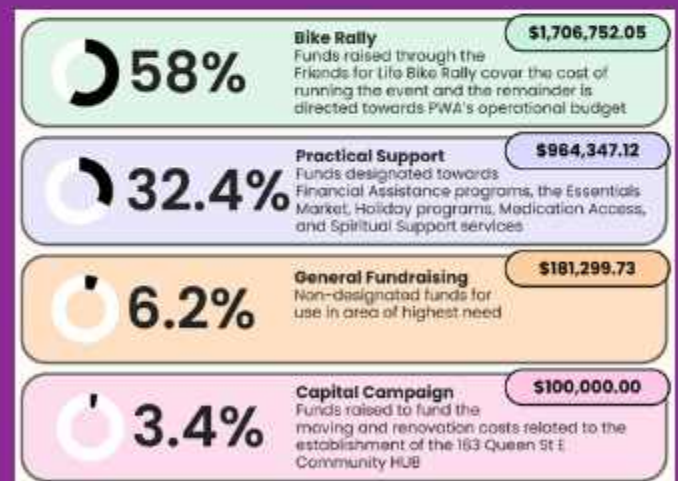
This generous funding has been crucial in enabling PWA to provide a wide range of practical support services, including health and therapeutic programs, financial assistance, PWA's Essentials Market, along with other programs. By fostering this strong partnership between government funding and private donations, PWA is able to focus on initiatives that directly impact the lives of PHAs, ensuring they receive the care and support they need to thrive.

Another highlight of the year was the continued success of our annual Friends for Life Bike Rally. This signature event remains a cornerstone of PWA's fundraising efforts, raising \$1.7 million in unrestricted funds in 2023-2024. Beyond the critical financial support it generates, the rally plays a vital role in raising awareness and fostering a sense of community and solidarity around the cause of supporting PHAs in Toronto.

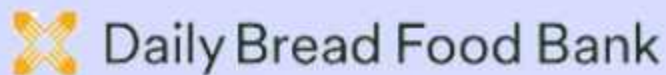
REVENUE



REVENUE BY FUND



Thank you our supporters







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Toronto People With AIDS Foundation



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