



serving with love



# 2019 Annual Report

## Report of the CEO



*"Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:18*

*I have been reflecting this morning as we come to the close of this decade and the changes that have taken place in my life both personally and Regeneration.*

*Kim and I are so thankful and proud of our children. Jenny, our youngest, has moved to Nairobi, Kenya to work with at risk children. Jessica and Jeff were married and we have all been blessed with little Liam, our first grandchild. I'm excited to announce that Josh just married his sweetheart, Alejandra, last week!*

*I am also very thankful that I have learned to adjust my life to living with an inoperable heart condition.*

*I am also very thankful for the work of Regeneration over the past decade. It has been a privilege to serve as the CEO for the past 8 1/2 years. I am very thankful for both your financial and volunteer support as you have been instrumental in helping impact the lives of so many people over the years.*

*You have helped us feed and clothe 1000's of individuals since Regen began 20 years ago. You have also helped us to rescue hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and get it to hungry people who are served by food banks. You have helped us house a number of individuals who were experiencing homelessness.*

*Without your support this would have been impossible.*

*I am also very thankful for the amazing staff that serve so unselfishly day in and day out and the guidance of an amazing Board of Directors.*

*We look forward to the difference that we can make together in 2020 in the lives of those who are homeless and those living in extreme poverty.*

*"You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." – Mother Teresa*

*Written on January 6, 2020*

Regeneration has so much to celebrate from 2019. We were third in the country with our Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. We purchased a refrigerated truck and recovered over 361,000 pounds of food. We opened a Thrift Store. The most important thing that we do 365 days a year is caring for some of the most amazing people in our City. I believe that 2020 will be a year of growth and change.

Respectfully submitted

Ted Brown, Chief Executive Officer



## Staff Directors' Report

"If we do **not transform** our **pain**, we **will** most assuredly **transmit** it" Richard Rohr

This simple and profound phrase has echoed in my mind daily for the last couple of years- particularly on a personal level in the past year and a half. However, it is truly a perspective on struggle and growth that can be applied as effectively on an organizational level as it can be on a personal level.

Regen, from its several hundred unique guests, hundreds of gracious volunteers and supporters, to its staff and leadership teams, has felt the heaviness of carrying this yoke of transforming pain and struggle into joy and perseverance. This can be observed in those massive organizational-shifting ways- the opening of the Regeneration Thrift Store in September 2019, the simultaneous creation of the Regeneration Warehouse and the introduction of the Medical Clinic which has been serving people in need on a weekly basis.

In reading from Hebrews 12 and a belief that every person that walks through our doors is a beloved child of God that we walk with people through some of the most challenging and discouraging times. In 2019 we experienced the death of many guests (and longtime volunteers) that left us so close to the stinging and painful reality of death. This pain did not leave us paralyzed however, but inspired the Regen team to dig deeper and walk alongside those who are facing issues of addiction, mental and physical health, and marginalization.



I have been personally blessed by the undeniable love and care that is experienced on a minute-by-minute basis at Regeneration. I think back to December 5, 2019 for our Christmas dinner. The unique combination of community leaders, our volunteers and staff served so many people who were in need- not just for food- but for a family at a very difficult time of year- a place to sit and enjoy a special time together. I included one of my favourite photos of 2019, one of our guests who struggles with addiction and mental health amongst other challenges, who was embraced lovingly by Jenna at just the right moment!

As I reflect back on 2019, it was a year that showcased the journey that we walk with people. From celebrations of new family members, graduation of sobriety, starting a new job, getting a new place to health diagnosis, grief, arrests, abuse, hospital stays and relapse. We are stood by our guests' side through it all, unwavering with our support. I think what is beautiful about our unique opportunity in this community, we are one of the only

constant in their lives. Our team is strong and dedicated and I couldn't be prouder of the care they take and the relationships that are built with our guests.

I remember going to a Teen Challenge graduation for one of our guests. The renewed life that was in as she gave her testimony, was something I will always remember - she went from years on the street, suffering from trauma and addiction, to this new person that had hope and who had found purpose! Her strength and resilience are something to be admired. There are many days where we feel defeated, people relapse or die, or just aren't ready. It is important to be grateful for the lives that have been changed, and she is one of them.

There was too much grief in 2019. "No one ever told me grief feels so like fear" (C.S Lewis), and no one should feel afraid and also be alone? It is much better to walk through grief with a community with shared experiences and love. There is a certain vulnerability when you are sitting with your guests, grieving alongside them.

There are countless stories that we could tell about our guests, and their battles and successes. The 2019 take home lesson for me is from Matthew 18:12-14. Reckless Love, by Cory Asbury says it so perfectly "it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine". That reckless love is what we strived to show our guests.

Oh, and WE THE NORTH.

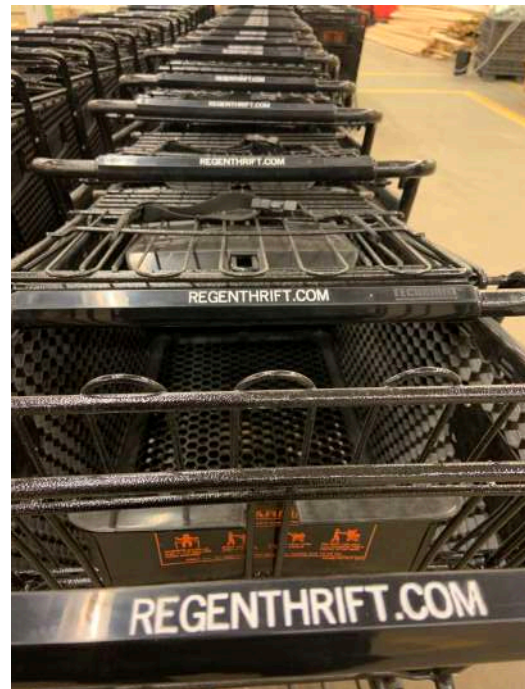


## Regeneration Thrift Store

The dream of a thrift store began a number of years ago after Rod Rice, past chair of Regeneration and Ted Brown, CEO visited a store in Kitchener Ontario. We had anticipated a drop in government funding and believed that we needed to be proactive in looking for funding solutions. After a number of years of research (that included visits to not for profit thrift stores) we took possession of 253 Queen Street East on June 27, 2019. We had many people that included board members, community members and Regen guests giving of 100's of hours as we transitioned a dirty flea market into a beautiful Thrift Store. Dan Gibson said, "The Thrift Store afforded many of our guests valuable volunteer opportunities. Some served four or five days a week in helping renovate the space." So many were very happy to give back to Regen.



The Thrift Store opened on August 30. We have had a steady flow of donations coming in and are hoping to see an increase in customers (guests). We have however been able to help a number of families. A refugee family from Uganda came into the store. "There was a mom, dad and little two year old girl. They had never experienced winter and had come to purchase some appropriate clothing. I helped the mom pick out a pair of boots for the little one. I sat her on the bench and removed her tiny nylon shoe that was soaked from all the slush outside. As I held her leg that was so cold and slipped the winter boot on her foot she looked up at me and smiled such a sweet little toothy smile. It had to be the best memory for me since the store opened" (Kim Harvey, Store Manager).







**V**olunteers are a crucial part of Regeneration Outreach Community. Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to meet the needs of our most vulnerable. When a meal is served at Regeneration that meal represents so much more than just food on a plate. It represents the love, time commitment, and care from so many people.

Though most of our volunteers are known for preparing and cooking meals, in 2019 we have expanded our volunteer opportunities beyond the kitchen. The adventure of opening Regen Thrift created more opportunities for our community to put their skills to the test. The task of getting the building ready for opening day would not have been possible without the many hands tearing down walls, rebuilding walls, cleaning, organizing donations, setting up displays and getting merchandise ready for sale.

We are so thankful for our volunteers who share their time and their skills. God has given each one their unique gifts, whether it be a child picking berries from the bottom of the bush, or a contractor repairing the top of a warehouse door—we are so grateful for each one!

Left Photo: Andria and her son, Julien, spent hours picking berries and making jam for the Regen Breakfast program. “I want to teach my kinds when they are young how important it is to serve one another.” --Andria

Middle Photo: Stan “the man” has offered his gardening expertise, teaching us how to care for and grow garlic. “I’m not physically able to do what I used to do, but I’m grateful that I can offer my knowledge of gardening to help the community.” —Stan

Right Photo: Volunteers who have brought in donations





Our welcome host



Driving a crew over to  
demolish the insides of  
the thrift store



Our new truck!



I've never worked in this  
type of environment  
before, and find the  
experience  
humbling.



Caring for our guests



Fire Hall Pick Up



One of best day with my little volunteers



**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets Year Ended December 31, 2019**  
**REVENUES**

**Revenues**

Donations and fundraising	\$ 596,817
Grants:	
Region of Peel	376,692
Foundations	43,864
Federal	39,186
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	9,833
Interest	4,591
	1,070,983

**Expenses**

Salaries and benefits	625,208
Project and program	190,714
Occupancy	106,654
Amortization of capital assets	66,337
General and administrative	17,122
Insurance	11,784
Professional fees	10,721
Technology costs	8,861
Travel	7,372
Telephone	6,731
Bank charges	2,566
	1,054,070

**EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES** **16,913**

**NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR** **178,310**

**NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR** **\$195,223**

-

## ***Our Guests Speak...***

*"I feel like I am at home here"*

*"Whenever I am having a down day, this is a good place to come. You can get help"*

*"Everything is different around here. It's not just about the meals, there is much more to it. The experience from the moment you walk in to getting your token to going to get your meal. People around here like coming here and it shows. You can work here and have a smile on your face."*

*"Don't tell anyone, but Regen is the best part of my day"*

*"The only reason I've lasted this long is because I know I'm cared for in this place"*

*"don't tell anybody, but I consider the staff here my family, even though they aren't blood related"*

*"Thanks for never giving up on me"*

*"This place is my home"*

*"A PLACE LIKE THIS KEEPS PEOPLE ALIVE, GIVES THEM FOOD AND CLOTHING, BUT ALSO PROVIDES COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE, LOVE FOR THEM"*

Regeneration Outreach Community  
156 Main Street North  
Brampton, ON L6V 1N9

[www.regenbrampton.com](http://www.regenbrampton.com)

905-796-5888