



“Neighbourhood Link is a vital part of our community. From providing affordable housing in our increasingly expensive city, to offering employment training for new immigrants, Neighbourhood Link makes East Toronto a more equitable and hospitable community.”

– Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLINK

SPECIAL SPRING EDITION

KNOW A NEIGHBOURHOOD HERO?

UNLEASH YOUR SUPERPOWERS

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. There's the hero who rescues a child from a burning building or saves someone from drowning. There's the hero who stops to help a stranger change a tire or saves a choking victim. Less visible are the 'under-the-radar' heroes; those who are first in line to answer the call of the community.



These are our “neighbourhood heroes”, heroes who toil away at all sorts of tasks everyday, with efforts often going unnoticed. They volunteer their time or donate money so that meals get to seniors, students attend after-school programs,

“Heroic volunteers are the backbone of neighbourhood support agencies...”

newcomers are helped with conversational English, young athletes receive coaching and valuable résumé advice is given to job seekers. They are neighbours helping neighbours.

Heroic volunteers are the backbone of agencies like ours. Heroes pick up where operational funding leaves off, enabling many programs to flourish in a climate of budget restraint. Without them, we would not survive.

Over 600 volunteers give of their time and talents to Neighbourhood Link in the course of a year. Although funded by three levels of government and the United Way, Neighbourhood Link struggles to meet the ever growing needs of our community.

Heroes like these make up the difference.

A QUIET HERO

Peggy W was one such hero.

Peggy lived simply and worked as an executive secretary with the same firm for over 40 years. Back when it was affordable, she purchased a small bungalow in the upper Beach. There, she gained first-hand appreciation of support agencies through her next-door neighbours, Ethyl and Bill. Both were seniors and participants in many of the programs offered by Neighbourhood Link, especially the handy transportation service. Through these and other services, Ethyl and Bill were able to remain in their own home and maintain their independence for many more years than would have been otherwise possible.

Peggy was inspired and decided to make a pledge. Over the course of 15 years, she faithfully gave \$10 a month to support the work of Neighbourhood Link. During the last two years of her life she was in need of the agency's services. Upon her death her commitment to the community continued with a sizable bequest to Neighbourhood Link.

A true neighbourhood hero.



THE MEALS ON WHEELS HEROES



When **Eleanor Stephen's** husband Jim retired they both wanted to spend their new-found time doing something meaningful for their community. At church they learned about **True Davidson Meals on Wheels** and the need for Sunday drivers. They volunteered their services as a driver and a runner and as well, helped with fund raising efforts. Jim has since passed but Eleanor continues on and is now in her 26th year delivering meals.



Supportive Housing & In-Home Services

has moved into new quarters at 688 Coxwell, bringing it to the centre of the community it serves. From here, they provide assistance with personal care, light housecleaning, respite, escort services and supportive housing to seniors and disabled individuals. A dedicated team of personal and home support workers along with registered nurses make it possible for clients—otherwise at risk—to continue an independent life.

OUR NEW DIGS!



“Community services bind us together and Neighbourhood Link is providing exceptional services to residents of Beaches/East York. Building stronger, compassionate and more accessible communities is fundamental to the prosperity of Toronto.”

– Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

NEIGHBOURHOODS WORKING TOGETHER

TWO GREAT AGENCIES COME TOGETHER

2014 saw the amalgamation of **Neighbourhood Link Support Services** with **Central Neighbourhood House**, a formidable social services agency with a proud history dating back to 1911. Each organization continues to operate under its own name, but our combined resources and shared goals allow our respective communities to reap greater benefits. More to come in 2015!

BE A HERO. MAKE A PLEDGE.

JOIN FORCES with our volunteer heroes or, even easier, make a **HERO PLEDGE**. For as little as **\$12.50** a month (the cost of a home-delivered dinner for two) you can help make a difference in the community. Pledging is simple. Go to the link below and follow the prompts, or in person at our **3036 Danforth** office. For further information call us at **416.691.7407**.



NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK
SUPPORT SERVICES

NEIGHBOURHOODLINK.ORG/DONATE

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