



2025
Annual
Report

Voices of Kinbridge



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A Message From Our Co-Executive Directors and Board Chair

“Our work has been guided by the Voices of Kinbridge, including the stories shared across our neighbourhood tables, the aspirations of our youth, and the collective wisdom of our residents!”



Maresa MacAskill
Board Chair



Taylor Bulstrode
Co-Executive Director



Zeri Zigeta
Co-Executive Director

Across the City of Cambridge, the voices of our community are sharing a story of both immense challenge and profound resilience. Seniors are experiencing increasing isolation, youth continue to face barriers to employment and opportunity, and many newcomers are searching for spaces where they feel welcomed and connected. As these challenges grow, so too does the importance of neighbourhood-based organizations deeply rooted in the communities they serve. Kinbridge acts as a steady anchor for those navigating these uncertain times.

In 2025, Kinbridge remained a trusted presence, responding to these realities through programs grounded in belonging and wellbeing. Our work has been guided by the Voices of Kinbridge, including the stories shared across our neighbourhood tables, the aspirations of our youth, and the collective wisdom of our residents.

The Cambridge Neighbourhood Table (CNT) reflects this spirit of connection best. This year, CNT welcomed 5,350 guests and served 8,800 community meals across four locations. While food access is a critical necessity, CNT has evolved into much more than a meal program. It is a symphony of diverse voices, building relationships, and reducing isolation through the powerful act of sharing a table together.

Similarly, the Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program (CNOP) engaged 3,807 participants this year. By providing essential spaces where residents feel supported and heard as they navigate their new lives in Canada, CNOP ensures every newcomer has a platform to share their story. These initiatives strive to help residents feel more connected, supported, and actively engaged within the vibrant life of our community.

“As Cambridge continues to grow and evolve, so does the opportunity to strengthen how we work together across neighbourhoods to better support residents and respond to emerging community needs.”

We also heard a clear call for opportunity from our young people. Through YouthForce, we received 382 applications for just 25 available positions, highlighting a vital need to invest in accessible employment pathways. While our core community programs engaged 10,075 individuals, Kinbridge spaces welcomed more than 23,000 visits this year through programs, services, and community events that brought residents together across our neighbourhoods. Each individual brought a unique voice to our centers.

This impact is only possible because of the collective effort behind it. From our partnership with Greenway-Chaplin to the dedication of nearly 500 volunteers contributing 5,000 hours, this year demonstrated what becomes possible when communities choose connection, collaboration, and shared purpose. Kinbridge also employed 102 staff throughout the year, with more than 50% identifying as youth and over 75% living directly within the communities we serve, reflecting our continued commitment to investing in local leadership and neighbourhood capacity.

As Cambridge continues to grow and evolve, so does the opportunity to strengthen how we work together across neighbourhoods to better support residents and respond to emerging community needs. Kinbridge remains committed to helping build a more connected, inclusive, and resilient city where every resident feels welcomed, supported, connected, and valued.

With gratitude,

Maresa MacAskill

Board Chair

Taylor Bulstrode & Zeri Zigeta

Co-Executive Directors



Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program – Young Mothers Group



Slam Dunk at the Youth Basketball Tournament

Who We Are:

Mission

We facilitate sustainable social supports that help our neighbours reach their full potential, fostering vibrant, healthy communities in which no one is left behind.

Vision

Our neighbourhood is a community that is connected through relationships, is full of opportunities, celebrates diversity, and provides a safe and inclusive environment.

Values

1. People
2. Celebration
3. Relationships
4. Welcome
5. Inclusion
6. Adaptability



Overall Achievements of 2025



23,450 Community Connections

18,450 Neighbours supported through programming

3,000 Neighbours fed by our resource centre food cupboards and program snacks

102 Community members employed through Kinbridge, with **50%** of positions filled by youth.

1,713 Neighbours attended 4 community events



Neighbourhood Day



Capacity Canada Awards

Kinbridge was honoured to receive the Youth Employment Award from the Bhayana Family Foundation at the Capacity Canada Board Governance BootCamp in recognition of the impact of YouthForce.

Volunteer Spotlight


Barbara Hesch contributed **433 volunteer hours** to Kinbridge's fundraising efforts through bingo, helping support a more connected and supportive community.



Barbara Hesch

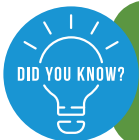
In 2025, the Cambridge Neighbourhood Table (CNT) continued to bring neighbours together across Cambridge through free, low-barrier community dinners focused on food, connection, and belonging. CNT creates welcoming spaces where community members can enjoy nutritious meals, build relationships, access supports, and participate in neighbourhood programming. Throughout the year, CNT served **5,350 guests** across multiple locations, including more than **1,070 children** and **1,569 seniors**. With the support of volunteers, funders, and community partners like the **Cambridge Foodbank, Langs, The Freedom Centre, and St. Andrew's Hespeler**, CNT continued to strengthen neighbourhood connections and foster a stronger sense of community across Cambridge.

Enhancing Community Engagement + Supporting Youth & Families

A total of **5,350** participants  **1 in 5** participants were children

Promoting Health & Well-being

More than **500** volunteers contributed over **3,200** hours to support all CNT sites.



Nearly **30%** of CNT participants in 2025 were seniors

Connection in Action

"Sandra's" connection to CNT is one of consistency, resilience, and quiet strength. Living out of her vehicle, Sandra finds value in each CNT meal location across Cambridge, where she can access nutritious food, restrooms, familiar faces, meaningful conversation, and a welcoming space where she is known and supported.

Connection in Action

Following a significant family loss, "Daniel" continued attending CNT each week, offering support to others through small acts of kindness, helping with teardown, and contributing to the welcoming atmosphere. His story reflects the power of community connection and the importance of spaces that provide nourishment, belonging, and consistency during difficult times.



Highlight of Achievements



Cambridge Chamber's Community Impact: People's Choice Award

Continued Growth Across Cambridge: Expansion to Hespeler Neighbourhood

December 2025



Fresh Brand Identity Through Creative Day for Good



Our Partners



St. Andrew's Hespeler

Our Funders



88 Meals

4 Locations

5,350 Guests

18 Volunteer Groups

855 CNT Volunteers

5,312 CNT Volunteer Hours





Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program

The Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program (CNOP) supported newcomers across Cambridge in 2025 through community connection, settlement support, and employment readiness programs. Funded through Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, CNOP helps newcomers build confidence, reduce isolation, strengthen social connections, and access supports that foster successful settlement and integration.

Support Through Community Programs

32 Senior Program sessions with **709** Participant visits

56 Youth Program Sessions with **977** Participant visits

24 Young Mother Program Sessions with **190** Participant visits



Newcomer Connections Event

Fostering Belonging and Inclusion Across Cambridge

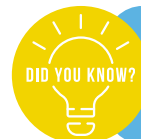
Job Fairs: **170** Job Seekers

Newcomer Picnic: **314** Neighbours

Neighbourhood Day: **928** Neighbours

Connection in Action

“Mahderit,” a newcomer young mother, joined Kinbridge while facing isolation and language barriers. Through programs like the Newcomer Mothers Group, she built confidence, improved her English, and strengthened community connections. While staying engaged at Kinbridge, she completed her PSW training and secured a summer job after attending Kinbridge’s Newcomer Job Fair.



Kinbridge became directly funded for CNOP in 2025!



CNOP Youth Skating Program

Community Impact

Employment Connections

- Hosted **2** Newcomer Job Fairs with **170** attendees
- **281** Newcomers supported through Employment Workshops
- **238** Newcomers engaged in employment counselling through one-on-one individual support



CNOP Employment Workshop

“Moving to a new country was overwhelming for our family, but Kinbridge helped us feel less alone.”
– Newcomer Program Participant



CNOP Older Adults Session



3,807 Participants

17 Programs

4 Events

Connection in Action

“Salim”, a refugee and participant in the Newcomer Older Adults Program, reconnected with his passion for drawing and calligraphy after years of not practicing due to civil war in his home country. With access to space, materials, and support, he rebuilt his skills and confidence.

In 2025, Salim was selected to participate in Cambridge Studio Tour and Sale, where he showcased his artwork and welcomed visitors into his backyard.

Salim’s journey reflects how the program supports older adults in rediscovering their talents, rebuilding confidence and connection, while engaging meaningfully in the community.

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada


Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada





YouthForce Employment Program

YouthForce continued to create meaningful employment, leadership, and skill-building opportunities for youth across Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo in 2025. Participants gained hands-on work experience while supporting neighbourhood beautification, tenant engagement, and community development projects in partnership with **Waterloo Region Housing (WRH)**, **Camino Wellbeing + Mental Health, Langs**, and **Adventure 4 Change**. Special thanks go to the **Astley Family Foundation** and **WRH**, whose 2025 investment strengthened YouthForce programming, training, and certifications, expanding opportunities for youth participants. YouthForce's supportive mentorship, weekly training, and real-world work experience help young people build confidence, develop workplace skills, and strengthen their connection to the community.

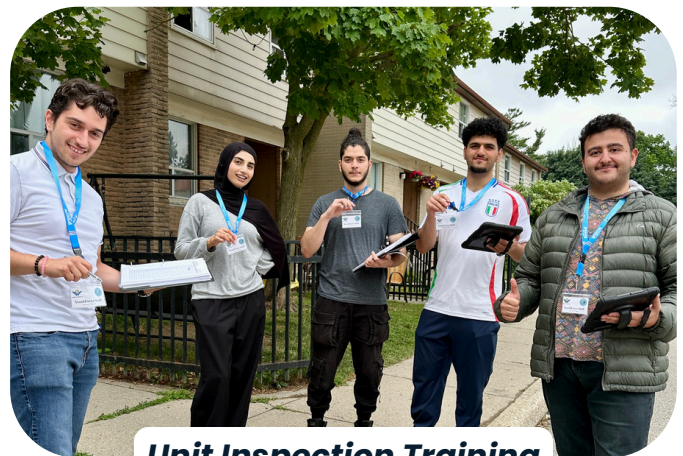
Participant Impact

 **Connection to Housing**
40% of YouthForce staff currently live in WRH communities, while **50%** live in or around other affordable housing communities or have lived in similar housing within the past five years. The remaining **10%** identified other barriers to employment.

 **First Job**
62.5% of participants indicated that YouthForce is their first formal employment opportunity.

 **Job Readiness**
100% of staff reported feeling more confident and better prepared to apply for jobs, succeed in interviews, and sustain future employment opportunities.

 **Physical & Mental Health + Social Connections**
90% of YouthForce participants experienced improved physical health through outdoor work, movement, and daily routines, while **80%** reported improved mental health connected to teamwork, mentorship, and consistent peer support. In addition, **100%** of participants identified social benefits, including stronger communication skills, new friendships, and expanded community connections.



Unit Inspection Training

Connection in Action

“Through YouthForce, I grew into a more confident leader and learned that leadership is about supporting others through challenges and working together as a team.”

– YouthForce Language
Project Supervisor

YouthForce Community Impact



**Garden Training & Plant Identification
with Grand River Food Forestry**

Community Impact in Waterloo Region Housing (WRH)

- Completed **2,693 unit** inspections and maintained **84** housing sites
- Supported **147** tenant gardens and developed new spaces
- **5,868** cumulative hours worked in the summer of 2025
- **40%** of YouthForce Staff are from WRH



New Work Boots



382 Applicants



25 Participants

Project Highlight

Language Survey

YouthForce knocked on **2,710** doors across **82** WRH properties and collected **1,779** surveys with a **70%** response rate. With this work, they identified **75 languages** spoken by tenants.



100% of YouthForce Staff reported feeling more confident and better prepared for future employment

Our Partners



Our Funders



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

Community Programs

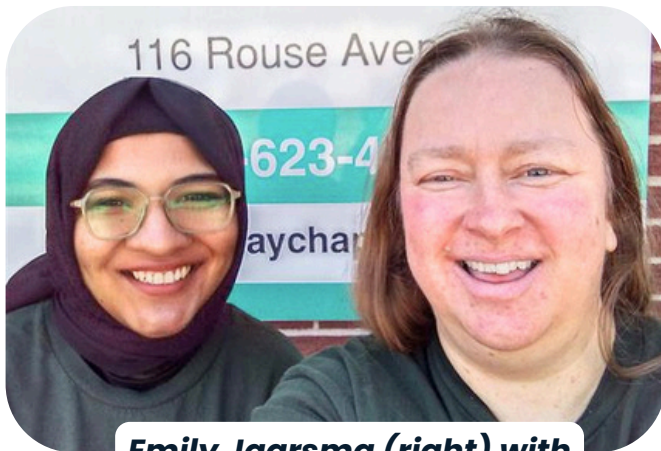
Kinbridge’s community programs provide welcoming, place-based opportunities for children, youth, adults, and families to connect, learn, and belong. In 2025, Kinbridge began a new partnership with Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre to deliver more cohesive programming across all three neighbourhoods, strengthening collaboration and improving access to community-driven supports. This year was one of learning and growth as both organizations worked together to align programs, share resources, and respond to emerging community needs. Through recreation, youth, wellness, leadership, newcomer, and community connection initiatives, Kinbridge welcomed more than **23,834** neighbourhood visits in 2025, reflecting the ongoing need for accessible and welcoming community spaces.

“Working alongside Kinbridge has brought incredible resources, opportunities, and connections into the Greenway neighbourhood. I truly believe we are stronger together, and the more connected our neighbourhoods become, the stronger and more supportive our community will be.”

– Emily Jaarsma, Executive Director, Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre



Greenway Basketball Program



Emily Jaarsma (right) with Conestoga Student Placement

Locations

Four (4) locations in three (3) neighbourhoods



Christopher Champlain Resource Centre



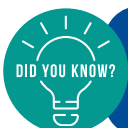
Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre



Kinbridge Community Association



Southwood Resource Centre



Both Kinbridge and Greenway are HIGHFIVE Accredited



Events Highlight

Neighbourhood Day

Welcomed **928** community members, alongside **29** community resource booths and **42** volunteers. More than **2,000** complimentary food items and beverages were distributed, while **110** residents accessed the event through the complimentary bus service.



Neighbourhood Day Volunteer

Breakfast with Santa

With **615** guests in attendance, **32** volunteers and **18** staff members helped bring the community together to enjoy **1,070** pancakes, share **326** gifts, and capture **976** moments with Santa.



Our Funders



2,027 Recreation Participants

4,085 Youth Participants

1,402 Adult Participants

497 Volunteers

5,000 Volunteer Hours



Partnership Programs

System Navigator

System Navigators act as trusted advocates, guiding participants through complex systems and connecting them to vital resources.

Focused outreach supports Black, Racialized, and underserved families. Strong partnerships with health, housing, and social services strengthen this work.

265 individuals were supported by our System Navigator, Osman Salih, this year.



After School Program

- **2 After School Programs** operating **5 days** a week in Waterloo Region Housing communities
- Supporting **30 children** through healthy snacks and positive role models
- Creating consistent, engaging spaces that foster belonging, connection, and growth



“*The healthy snacks are great, and we always feel heard and supported. The group gives us space to talk about mental health and stress, and Sheri is always understanding, supportive, and willing to help. The group is fun!*”

– Peer Program Participant

Peer Health Program

The Peer Health Program of Waterloo Region continued to create welcoming spaces for connection, wellness, and mental health support across the community. In 2025, Kinbridge facilitated **17 peer-led programs** through a team of **4 Peer Health Workers**, resulting in more than **1,400 community connections**. Through conversation, activities, healthy snacks, and peer support, participants built friendships, reduced isolation, and strengthened their mental wellness in a supportive and inclusive environment.



Region of Waterloo



Sheri's Peer Program

Financial Audit

Revenue:

Grants	1,523,890
Registration Fees/Rental	139,480
Fundraising/Donations	110,234
Deferred Capital/Interest	39,676

TOTAL: 1,813,280

Expenses:

Human Resources	1,507,443
Programs	142,402
Facility Costs	21,838
General Administration	75,090
Insurance	12,480
Amortization	48,804

TOTAL: 1,808,057

Excess of Revenue over Expense for year	5,223
Net Assets beginning of year	235,187
Net Assets end of year	240,410



Fundraising and Donations



**Food Collection for CNT
by Upper Cuts**

To our donors,

Thank you for believing in Kinbridge and the power of community. Every dollar and in-kind donation you give supports our upstream approach to building a more connected, supportive, and inclusive community where every neighbour has the opportunity to thrive. Your support creates spaces of belonging, connection, and hope across our neighbourhoods every single day.

- Kinbridge Team and Board of Directors



**Backpack Donations Through Waterloo
Region Police Services**



73 INDIVIDUAL DONORS



\$36,000.00

Through over **64 hours** of volunteer support, Kinbridge's bingo fundraising efforts generated over **\$70,000** to help build a more connected and supportive community.



“*We are delighted to support the work of Kinbridge on the behalf of the “Sisters of Notre Dame Legacy Fund” administrator by the Waterloo Region Community Foundation. Thank you to the leadership team and volunteers for your care and commitment to supporting children and families in our community.*”

- **Carl and Debbie Furtado
Community Donor**

Scan the QR code to learn how you can provide your support to Kinbridge programs!



Thank You to Our Community Partners & Funders

Government & Foundations

- Astley Family Foundation
- Cambridge Bingo and Gaming Centre
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities
- Capacity Canada
- City of Cambridge
- Employment and Social Development Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
- Family and Children Services Foundation
- Government of Canada
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Lyle S. Hallman Foundation
- Mandarin Charitable Foundation
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Ministry of Sport
- Region of Waterloo
- Rivers Family Charitable Fund
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc.
- United Way Waterloo Region Communities
- Waterloo Region Community Foundation
- Canada Revenue Agency

Community Services & Agencies

- Adventure 4 Change
- African Family Revival Organization (AFRO)
- Allison Neighbourhood Community Centre
- Big Brother and Big Sister of Waterloo Region
- Cambridge Food Bank
- Cambridge Muslim Women
- Camino Wellbeing + Mental Health
- Children and Youth Planning Table
- Citizens and Businesses of Cambridge
- City of Cambridge Fire Department
- Coalition of Muslim Women of KW
- Community Justice Initiatives
- Conestoga College
- Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir
- Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region
- Fiddlesticks Community Centre
- Food Bank of Waterloo Region
- Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre
- Hespeler Village Neighbourhood Association
- House of Friendship
- Idea Exchange
- Langs
- Launch
- Ontario Health Team
- Porchlight Counselling and Addiction Services
- Preston Heights Community Group
- Rangers Reach
- Reception House Waterloo Region
- Resiliency Project
- Region of Waterloo
- Rhythm and Blues Cambridge
- Silver Heights Neighbourhood Association
- Somali Canadian Association of Waterloo Region
- Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
- Spectrum
- Starling Community Services
- Strong Start
- The Hummingbird Centre for HOPE
- Waterloo Regional Immigration Partnership
- Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Waterloo Region Housing
- Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- YWCA Cambridge
- YMCA of Three Rivers
- YWHO Langs

Schools & Faith-Based Groups

- Cambridge Community Church
- Cedar Hill Church
- Forward Church
- Freedom Centre
- The Salvation Army Cambridge Citadel
- St. Andrew's Hespeler
- Trillium United Church
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Islamic Centre of Cambridge
- Galt Collegiate Institute

