



2024

Annual Report

Stories of growth and impact,
showcasing the communities of
Kinbridge Community Association.



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A Message from Co-Executive Directors and Board Chair

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,



Maresa MacAskill
Board Chair



Taylor Bulstrode
Co-Executive Director



Zeri Zigeta
Co-Executive Director

It is with deep gratitude and reflection that we share our 2024 Annual General Meeting Report. This year has been a testament to the strength of our community and the power of intentional, community-led work. At Kinbridge, we've always believed in meeting people where they are. In 2024, we leaned into that more than ever.

Kinbridge welcomed over 25,000 visitors across our spaces, demonstrating the trust we've built across Cambridge. Nearly 5,000 meals were served through the Cambridge Neighbourhood Table across multiple sites, turning shared meals into spaces of connection and belonging.

Our support for newcomers continued to grow. The Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program (CNOP) served thousands, offering personalized support through trusted staff. What began with funding from the City of Cambridge has now expanded into a three-year federal commitment from Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship Canada ensuring continued support for families building their futures here. We also brought over 2,000 people together throughout the year through community events, moments of culture, connection, and joy. This included nearly 800 participants at our Newcomer Picnic.

2024 marked the first full year of our co-leadership model. While we continue to grow, this approach has helped deepen collaboration and guide values-based decisions. Our commitment to equity remained strong, as Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) continued to shape our culture, hiring practices, and programming. We strive to create inclusive, culturally responsive spaces rooted in dignity and care.

Through this lens, Kinbridge ran hundreds of programs: from after-school supports and youth engagement to leadership development and recreation. These offered opportunities for people of all ages to connect, grow, and thrive. Kinbridge provided over 9 weeks of summer camp with 700 camp registrations, nurturing confidence and creativity through play, art, and exploration.

Youth remained at the center of much of our work. Kinbridge provided over 4,000 youth drop-in opportunities to connect with mentors. Our employment initiative, YouthForce, employed 24 young people in building skills, confidence, and experience. This demonstrated what's possible when youth are equipped and encouraged.

This year, more than 13,000 people participated in Kinbridge programs. Behind every number is a story: of newcomers finding their footing, youth discovering purpose, and neighbours coming together over a shared meal. Each connection is part of a larger movement toward belonging.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity and care. Thank you to our team, volunteers, board, funders, and partners for walking alongside us. Together we are nurturing a stronger, more compassionate Kinbridge, and we're just getting started!

With gratitude,

Maresa MacAskill

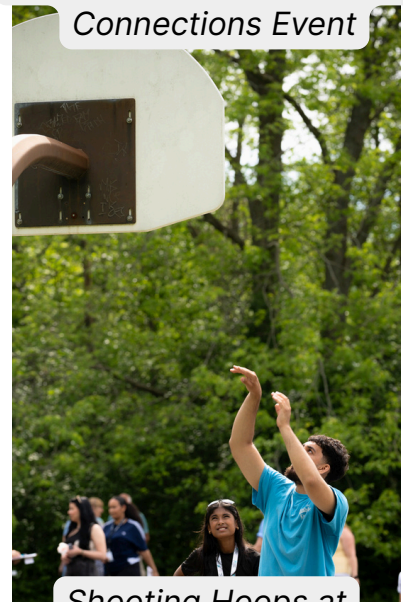
Board Chair

Taylor Bulstrode & Zeri Zigeta

Co-Executive Directors



Face painting at Newcomer Connections Event



Shooting Hoops at Neighbourhood Day

Who We Are:

Mission

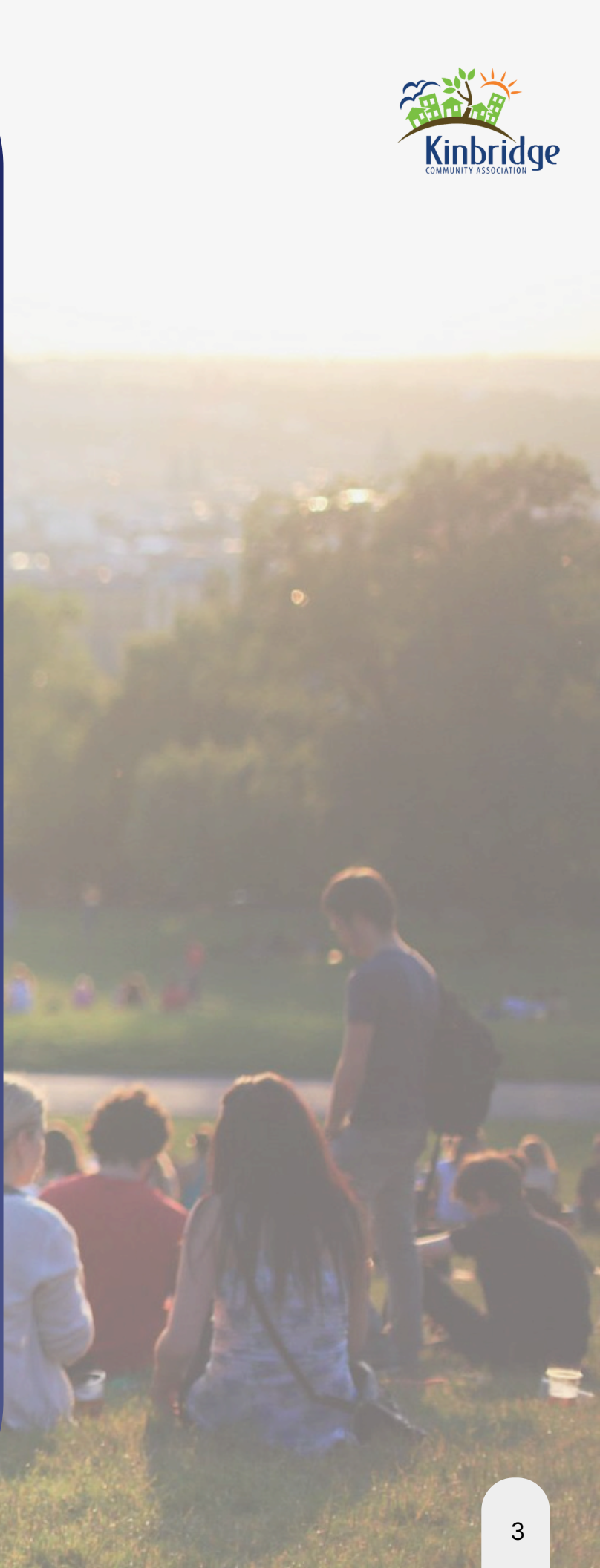
We facilitate sustainable social supports that help our neighbours reach their full potential, fostering vibrant, healthy communities in which no one is left behind.

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 | 4. Welcome |
| 2. Celebration | 5. Inclusion |
| 3. Relationships | 6. Adaptability |



Strategic Plan Overview:

Deepening
Our Focus

Sustaining
Our Work

Growing our
Community

Measuring &
Communicating
Our Impact



Cambridge Neighbourhood Table

Food insecurity and social isolation are growing crises in Cambridge, forcing families to choose between essentials, leaving older adults isolated and children hungry. In response, the Cambridge Neighbourhood Table (CNT) launched in 2023 with support from the City of Cambridge, the Region of Waterloo, and the United Way Waterloo Region Communities, providing free, nutritious meals and a welcoming space in Galt and Preston. Since then, CNT has served thousands, proving that a shared meal can transform a community. More than just a meal program, CNT fosters connections and access to essential resources. CNT is essential to ensuring no one in Cambridge goes hungry and that all neighbours feel supported.



Cambridge
Neighbourhood
Table



Volunteers from RBC



YouthForce Supporting CNT



Volunteers serving dinner!

CNT Impact in 2024

Building a Stronger Community

3 Locations in 2 Neighbourhoods



Kinbridge



Langs



Freedom Centre

Alleviating Food Insecurity

44 Dinners in
Galt Region



48 Dinners in
Preston Region

Enhancing Community Engagement + Supporting Youth & Families

A total of 4,918
participants



1 in 4 participants
were children

Providing Economic Relief

14%

of Cambridge residents
skip meals due to
financial constraints



Promoting Health & Well-being

141 volunteers contributed 3,032 hours to
supporting the Cambridge Neighbourhood Table



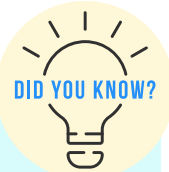
Cambridge
Neighbourhood
Table

Monique's story

My name is Monique. I am a single mother to two teen boys. I currently work part-time. The Cambridge Neighborhood Table has been a great support for my family.

With the cost of food these days, the grocery bill is quite high! Great to have a place to get a great cooked meal and socialize with other community members.

My boys love hanging out in the Youth room. We also enjoy the games and people that come to share information on things that could benefit us in the community. Thank you. From my family.



CNT nights offer a warm meal, informational sessions depending on the season, resources and activities for youth and children.
#MoreThanAMeal

Thank you to our partners!



Rotary Club Volunteering



Monique's Family



BBQing at CNT



Kinbridge Programs

At Kinbridge, our place-based approach to community development ensures that every program, service, and initiative is rooted in the needs and strengths of our neighbourhoods. Whether it's youth drop-in basketball, peer-led cooking, pickleball in the afternoon, or recreation programs for all ages, our work is designed to bring people together through shared experiences. As a HIGH FIVE accredited organization, we are committed to delivering supportive, inclusive, and engaging programs that build belonging and resilience. These programs are the foundation for vibrant, healthy communities where everyone can reach their full potential.





Beginners Lacrosse Camp

Kinbridge Programs:

In 2024, we received 25,381 Community Centre visits at our Southwood and Christopher-Champlain communities.

Recreation (Aged 2-14):

Our recreational programs received 8,407 visits!

"I love coming to Kinbridge, I have learned how to play so many sports, lacrosse, hockey and soccer. I always have so much fun here."

- 8 Year Old Recreation Participant



Summer Camp Day Trip

Youth (Aged 12-17)

3,820 local Youth supported by drop-in programming
76 Youth aged 15-30 hired by Kinbridge

Check out a Youth Basketball Project underway!

City teams up with youth group to restore community sports space

CAMBRIDGETODAY.ca



Events

Over 1,500 Community members attended 3 major events in 2024! Neighbourhood Day, Newcomer Connections Picnic, and Breakfast with Santa.



Newcomer Fall Picnic

Volunteers

- 365 Volunteers
- 9,008 recorded hours
- 216 hours provided by our board members

Services

- 153 OESP applications completed
- 872 Food Cupboard & Snack pick-ups

Kinbridge Programs:

Program Highlight - Community Garden

15 dedicated Garden Volunteers with over 11,495 hours in the Community Garden.

"I hadn't had the chance to garden since I left my home country many years ago. Being able to dig my hands into the soil and watch the plants grow reminded me of my family's farm back home. This program helped me feel connected to my roots and to my new community here."

- Newcomer Senior Participant



Newcomer Older Adult Gardening Group



Sadia Farheen

Staff Spotlight - Community Center Host & Peer Health Worker

Sadia Farheen has been a dedicated member of our team for 10 years, serving as both a Community Center Host and Peer Health Worker. Known for her warmth, empathy, and ability to truly listen, Sadia ensures every community member feels heard and supported. Her commitment and heartfelt approach reflect the very best of our values.

Newcomer Programs

At Kinbridge, our community-rooted approach guides how we serve newcomers through the Cambridge Newcomer Outreach Program (CNOP) and Newcomer Employment Outreach Program. Whether through peer-led support groups, skills training, or one-on-one guidance, we focus on connection, belonging, and helping every newcomer feel seen and supported.





Newcomer Youth
Ice Skating Program



Newcomer Older Adults Baking



Soft Skills Solutions course

Newcomer Program

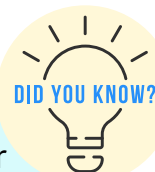
In 2024, we received 3,587 total Newcomer program visits. This includes Newcomer Older Adults, Young Mothers, Newcomer Youth, and Newcomer Employment participants.

“I felt lost when I arrived, but CNOP helped me meet others, gain confidence, and build skills to move forward.”

– Newcomer Youth Participant

Events

Community Connections	9 Mini Events	Neighbourhood Day & Newcomer Connection Picnic
250	955	1,285



Newcomer Events are a great place for fostering real connection, and sharing our support and resources through our programming. #BuildingBelonging

More on our Programs!

Our Newcomer Programs delivered 24 eight-week series: 8 for youth, 4 for seniors, and 12 focused on information and orientation.

Additionally, 946 participants have been supported through the Employment Program.

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.

Nearly 250 individuals have been supported through the program.



System Navigator: Osman Salih

”
The System Navigator helped me access housing, school registration, and healthcare. I finally felt supported.

– Newcomer Community Member

Explore the Impact of System Navigators in the Region



Thank you to our partner



YouthForce Employment

YouthForce takes an upstream approach to employment, hiring young people from equity-deserving communities who face barriers to mainstream opportunities. Through skill development, mentorship, mental health support, and hands-on experience, YouthForce offers more than jobs. It builds youth capacity, confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Many youth participants live within Waterloo Region Housing (WRH) communities supported by Kinbridge and our network of Community Partners.



YouthForce Employment



Planting in the garden



YF staff with Garden Hespler Trainers



YF staff receive their work shoes

In 2024, 24 YouthForce staff gave back to their neighbourhoods in powerful ways. They completed over 60 community projects, performed 2,769 unit inspections, and maintained 65 garden beds, transforming shared spaces while gaining pride in their work and home. YouthForce's wraparound support creates a foundation for success with industry-recognized certifications and countless moments of connection. YouthForce is a community-driven program that changes lives and strengthens neighbourhoods. With continued support, we can ensure that every young person has a chance to thrive.

”

Impact Story:

At first, we were nervous to talk to the tenants, but as we got more comfortable, we had some pretty amazing conversations. There was one lady who told us it was her birthday during one of our visits. We didn't want her to be alone, so during our lunch break, we got her a small cake and an orchid with our own money. When we came back, she cried and told us she wasn't alone anymore. She even said we could consider her family if we needed one. That moment showed us that YouthForce isn't just about work, it's about making real connections and being there for people.

-YouthForce Team Member, Cambridge

In One Summer...

- 307 Youth Applicants
- 24 Youth Employed
- 60 Projects Completed
- 65 Tenant Garden Beds Maintained
- 2,769 Exterior Unit Inspections Completed

Revenue

Grants	1,758,884
Registration Fees	119,827
Fundraising/Donations	86,711
Deferred Capital	36,434

TOTAL:	2,001,856
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Expenses

Human Resources	1,515,534
Programs	283,824
Facility Costs	24,139
General Administration	116,577
Insurance	11,053
Amortization	47,387

TOTAL:	1,998,514
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Excess of Revenue over Expense for Year	3,342
Net Assets beginning of year	231,841
Net Assets end of year	235,183

Fundraising

A Special Thank You to the Hood Family Foundation

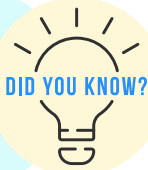
Thanks to a generous \$6,000 donation from the Hood Family Foundation, Kinbridge was able to purchase an industrial-grade sanitizer to complete our public health certification for the community kitchen. This vital support allowed us to bring the Cambridge Neighbourhood Table program in-house, where we now serve between 70 to 120 meals each week. We are deeply grateful for their investment in community health and connection.



"I believe a monthly donation to Kinbridge means one more child gets the snack they might otherwise go without, a senior finds connection at a community meal, or a newcomer discovers a sense of belonging at one of the centres. With Kinbridge, I know community always comes first. That's something I'm proud to support."

- Cathie Hough, Monthly Donor

In 2024, we received 10 NEW event sponsorships



With **\$86,711** raised through fundraising and donations, Kinbridge is committed to deepen our impact and grow our network of community builders. The question is, are you ready to be part of it?



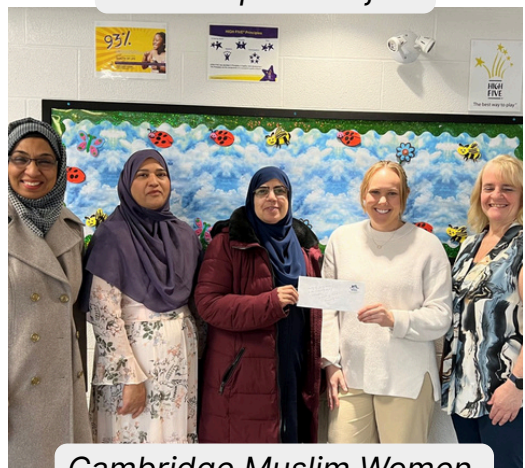
\$25 for 2025 Campaign



Rotary Club of Cambridge (P-H)



Youth Impact Project



Cambridge Muslim Women



Thank You to Our Community Partners & Funders

Government & Foundations

- Cambridge Bingo and Gaming Centre
- Canadian Red Cross
- City of Cambridge
- City of Kitchener
- Cowan Community Foundation
- Employment and Social Development Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
- Family and Children Services Foundation
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Lyle S. Hallman Foundation
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
- Region of Waterloo
- United Way Waterloo Region Communities
- Waterloo Region Community Foundation

Community Services & Agencies

- Adventure 4 Change
- AFRO
- Allison Neighbourhood Community Centre
- Blair Road Neighbourhood Association
- Big Brother and Big Sister of Waterloo Region.
- Cambridge Food Bank
- Cambridge Muslim Women
- Camino Wellbeing + Mental Health
- Children and Youth Planning Table
- Citizens 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
- 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 Police Service
- Waterloo Region Housing
- Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- YWCA Cambridge
- YMCA of Three Rivers

Schools & Faith-Based Groups

- Cedar Hill Church
- Forward Church
- Freedom Centre
- The Salvation Army Cambridge Citadel
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board
- Wilfrid Laurier University

Design and layout: Hanna Negussie, Marketing and Communication Coordinator

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