

**BUILDING ROOTS**

# impact report 2022

[WWW.BUILDINGROOTS.CA](http://WWW.BUILDINGROOTS.CA)



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# Land Acknowledgement

Building Roots wants our actions to speak louder than our land acknowledgement. We recognize we must do more to honour the relationships we wish to build with the Indigenous organizations and community members who reside in the areas where we work. To date, our work can be categorized as general allyship. We have taken formal training and promoted and highlighted the work of Indigenous organizations. We now seek more deliberate actions to reflect our intentions and commitment to change.

We want to recognize the full intention behind a land acknowledgement that takes us beyond territorial acknowledgements. For instance, the Haudenosaunee people have been giving thanks to the land through their Thanksgiving Addresses for thousands of years. This practice acknowledges all of creation.

Building Roots honours this practice and seeks to instill our own gratitude for the land that allows us to further our mission. Our territorial acknowledgement also referred to as the land acknowledgement is; we recognize that we are on land that is currently covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, historic and present home of the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat and home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples today.

This land has sustained life for millions of years. The land continues to provide fresh, flowing water to nurture fish and water animals; all of whom have their own responsibilities. The land continues to provide a great diversity and abundance of trees and plants that continue to clean air, feed us, heal us, shade us, and provide us with shelter and warmth. The land has encouraged wild animals, birds and insects to make their homes here while teaching us how to live within the four changes of seasons.

Building Roots is grateful to the First People who are of this land and continue to uphold the sacred teachings and practices that honour and protect our Mother. Specifically, we honour the wisdom of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat people who have had a relationship to this land for thousands of years and whose cultures and practices continue to deeply reflect 'all our relations'. We also continue to learn from and celebrate the land-based knowledge of all First Nations, Inuit and Metis people.

Building Roots is committed to stepping forward to transform our work from ally to accomplice, thereby accepting the unfair advantage many of us hold in society and to use this privilege to challenge the colonial and racial injustice that continues to threaten Indigenous sovereignty and autonomy. We will continue our formal learning and embrace informal ways of connecting while working toward meaningful collaboration with Indigenous organizations and community members. We will work harder to welcome Indigenous people into all levels of our organization. Trust takes time. We will ensure our food justice work reflects that Indigenous people have an inherent right to access traditional food and have food sovereignty. Through our advocacy and practice of care, we will stand with Indigenous community organizations and community members to fight for Indigenous self-determination, including access to land, and cultural practices. We will also celebrate First Nations, Metis and Inuit presence in the Downtown East by participating in events that are open to us.

Our land acknowledgment will change as our commitments to the land and each other strengthen and grow over time. We encourage everyone to join us on this journey of healing the land and our relationships.





Caroline Clair  
Executive Director



Monique Kavanagh  
Board Chair

I'm delighted to introduce myself and say a big hello to the Building Roots community. In the fall of 2022, I was brought on board by founders Lisa Kates and Darcy Higgins as the first Executive Director for the organization.

When Lisa and Darcy began Building Roots in 2013, it was out of a desire to create better access to fresh food for people in Moss Park. They have since grown Building Roots into a robust registered charity working in Moss Park and surrounding neighbourhoods, with 10 full and part time staff as well as many volunteers. The pay-what-you-can fresh food market is the cornerstone of multiple initiatives including urban farming and community-led programming. The tremendous growth of the organization and our increased capacities to work with the community are testimonies to their vision and leadership. In early 2023, they began a new venture where they are enabling people to develop their own community and environmental programs. It's a privilege to continue on their incredible legacy, and we are happy to say they will continue to be connected to Building Roots as board members at large.

2022 saw the continued impacts of the pandemic. Amid soaring food prices and the cost of living, many folks struggled to meet basic needs. The number of food baskets we provided at the market went up from 100 to 375 per week between January 2021 and November 2022. We also saw incredible resiliency and neighbourly love, with the market being a gathering space each week to connect, share resources and have many laughs. We were happy to have many fun summer events, urban farming to feed many folks, and we also were excited to welcome a second shipping container space where programming in 2023 will be expanding.

As we look ahead to 2023 we plan to grow our market and urban farming activities, as well as bring to life more community-informed programming. All of this is possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our staff and volunteers in 2022, a heartfelt thank you to each of you. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead, and to share more of what our team is dreaming up for the future. Thank you for having me.

As the newly appointed Board Chair for Building Roots, I am honoured to be a part of carrying on the incredible work that Lisa and Darcy began ten years ago. As the pandemic began in 2020, I was moved to make connections and find ways to help make a difference locally. I found Building Roots and began to volunteer my time at the market, where I was inspired by the meaningful connections that were evident each Saturday between community members and the staff and volunteers I worked with. I enthusiastically offered my time when I saw the opportunity to be a part of the Board.

2022 continued to be a challenging time for a lot of people, with food prices continuing to soar, and fresh produce out of reach for so many. I'm proud of the entire Building Roots team of staff and volunteers who stepped up week after week to meet the exponentially increasing needs of the community. It was also a time to enjoy live events again, as well as another successful growing season at our urban farm. As we look forward to what's ahead in 2023, I am excited to soon share our strategic vision for the next 3 years, some exciting updates about our market and urban farming, and more about our community-informed programming. I also wish to express deep gratitude to all our funders and donors, without whom none of this would be possible.

## Intro

**Welcome to the Building Roots 2022 Impact Report! In the spirit of gratitude, we offer this report to demonstrate the kind of impact that is possible through community-focused collaboration and the incredible support we receive along the way. Inside, you'll be introduced to all of the Building Roots programs that occur at the Moss Park Market and at our Urban Farm. We've highlighted the impacts of each program and explained why these impacts are important to the communities we serve!**

**Did you know there are 10 times more volunteers than team members? Our work simply could not be done without them. This year we've included the responses of Volunteers and Community Leaders from our annual Volunteer survey. This way, you can learn more about what means the most to them.**

**Reciprocity is a value of Building Roots. For this reason, we've included a Paying it Forward section and a Collaborators section on this report. Each section demonstrates how we strategically work to add social and economic value to the Downtown East, while also acknowledging the many collaborators and in-kind support that allows Building Roots to further our impact.**

**Finally, we give thanks to our incredible funders and donors, whose continued support has been indispensable for Building Roots to fulfill our mission.**





## Moss Park Market

This program ensures consistent access to healthy, fresh, diverse and affordable foods by centering our focus on a Pay-What-You-Can model and creating strong relationships with our local producers and urban farms. To increase accessibility, we also provide home deliveries of our food baskets to Moss Park's TCHC apartment buildings, and to the St. James Town neighbourhood through our partner Community Matters Toronto.

Over the course of the year, the rise in food insecurity has resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of people lining up for the food baskets. This year, we have expanded fruit offerings to better support unhoused neighbours who typically do not have access to a kitchen. In addition, the Moss Park Market worked with volunteers to translate our information into five different languages so that participants can feel more welcomed. By emphasizing accessibility, we are able to support community members who are often the most challenged in meeting their food security needs.

Through our new partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University's Urban Farm, we were able to receive donations from their newly established Harvest Collective and Learning Circle. This Black Food Sovereignty initiative provided us with vibrant bundles and loads of various hot peppers, eggplants, melons, citrus, okra and other greens.







**"I would never buy berries like this. They are so expensive everywhere else. This is so cool that I can get them now. Thank you."**

**- Moss Park Market participant**

In 2022, this program:

- Purchased over \$218,000 worth of fresh food to significantly increase food security and nutrition in the Downtown East area
- Increased food purchases by 49% to accommodate both the rising costs and a significant increase in the amount of food distributed due to the growing needs of community
- Provided 36,500 food baskets to local households throughout the year
- Connected local urban farms with neighbouring communities
- Offered 64 volunteers the opportunity to share their skills and support the Moss Park Market
- Centred community care so that residents are greeted with dignity, intention, and joy

What we heard\*:

- 97% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed live within walking distance of the market
- 80% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed say that the market is their closest access to fresh food
- 10% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed say that the market is the same distance or farther from other food sources but they choose to walk further so they can afford their groceries
- 95% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed say what they like best about the market most are the friendly people
- 95% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed could use more food to meet their weekly household food needs
- 100% of Moss Park Market participants interviewed were very happy with the quality of the food

\*This information is based on the feedback of 53 Moss Park Market participants through one-on-one interviews and group circles.

Looking forward: We plan to redesign the space of the Moss Park Market over the next year to bring about a more market-like atmosphere and provide greater autonomy for participants in the selection of produce.





# Coffee & Conversations

Coffee & Conversations is a gathering space for community members to meet each other. Taking place right next to our Moss Park Market every Saturday, it also gives team members and volunteers opportunities to listen to the voices of the community and understand their needs while serving coffee, tea, hot chocolate, healthy snacks, and monthly meals. This program also hosts information sharing and access to harm-reduction products.

This year, many organizations were encouraged to table at the market. As a result, community members gained greater access to diabetes workshops, first aid training, vaccinations, voting information, clothing swaps, and general health information.

In 2022, this program:

- Connected community members to each other and to vital resources in the area
- Provided low-barrier volunteer opportunities for 35 community members to build social and networking opportunities
- Served over 10,000 hot beverages as a way to connect with community members
- Purchased 600 vegetarian or halal meals from local restaurants and cafes to support local economic development while increasing access to healthy food
- Ensured weekly access to feminine hygiene products, condoms, face masks, Covid test kits and harm reduction products.

Looking forward: Coffee and Conversations expects to expand on the number of organizations tabling at the market each week and looks forward to creating more community space for residents to socialize.

**"Thank you for what you are doing, people are loving it here. Even when they leave the shelter they keep coming back here"**

- Former community member and Coffee & Conversations participant





# Ashbridge Urban Farm

The Urban Farm is hosted by Ontario Heritage Trust at the Ashbridge Estate in Toronto's East End, where we grow and deliver fresh organic produce to the Moss Park market weekly during the season. Growing our own food supports local participation in food production and awareness of the ways in which sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food equity are interconnected. The Ojibiikaan three-sisters planting continues to teach the strength of collaborative diversity.

Our Urban Farm has had a record year in community engagement and Education through our 5 Senses Farm Tours. This is also the first year we introduced drip irrigation, a hot composter, a second herb garden and volunteer potlucks.

In 2022 this program:

- Contributed to food security in the Downtown East by providing over 20 types of culturally important, organic food to the Moss Park Market (e.g. okra, Vietnamese coriander, callaloo, tomatillos, hot peppers, Egyptian kale, and various herbs. We also harvested: peas, beans, chard, tomatoes, red currants, elderberries, tart cherries, and apples)
- Brought 10 core volunteers together each week to lead in food production, environmental education, and share potlucks together
- Introduced 100 individuals to urban agriculture through our farm tours and corporate volunteering opportunities

**"There's no end to learning - from soil biology to plant families; from assembling a drip-irrigation system to making cordage from nettles, hops, or burdock; from feeding pollinators to giving farm tours."**  
- Kate Hamilton, Urban Farm Manager

Looking forward: Ontario Heritage Trust has granted our Urban Farm access to their heritage greenhouse! This will provide opportunities for greater year-round learning and production. The Urban Farm team will also be present on Saturdays at the Moss Park Market to build connections and provide hands-on education on the food we grow.





# Feed a Pollinator!

Feed A Pollinator! is a new program offered in the Moss Park neighbourhood by our Urban Farm Manager. With the help of neighbourhood leadership, this program achieved the following goals in 2022:

- Increased local awareness of interconnections between native plants, pollinators, and sustainable food production
- Contributed to greater biodiversity in the area by adding 80 pollinator plants to 20 gardens in the Downtown East
- Enhanced neighbourhood leadership and connections

**"I have been very happy to have participated in this project for a whole lot of reasons: aiding the pollinator population, increasing biodiversity and thus visual interest, and making connections with these wonderful people, some of whom, because they live on other streets, I would never have met if not for this project. It has been fabulous to connect with like-minded souls regarding the environment, but on top of that, we have started conversations about other issues that are dear to us."**

- Program participant





# Summer Saturdays

Summer Saturdays offered weekly outdoor activities, including games and sports. Three events over the past summer were also offered: Café Caribbean, Queer Wellness Festival, and Cafe Caribbean. The Summer Saturdays program draws diverse groups together through food, music, and dance during the warmest months of the year and provides a genuine market atmosphere.

In 2022, this program:

- Provided joyful opportunities for community togetherness by encouraging all residents of the Downtown East to enjoy communal outdoor time
- Enhanced social and economic infrastructure by hiring local talents and showcasing local restaurants with diverse cuisine
- Created direct learning opportunities for 10 volunteers and 4 Community Leaders

What we heard:

**100% of community respondents\* indicated that helped to meet new and connect with old neighbours**

\*12/12 Summer Saturday Community Survey 2022

Looking forward: Through our outreach program, Building Roots will continue to listen to community members' ideas for future Summer Saturdays events



## Bookshare

Our BookShare program distributes quality books to community members free of charge. The selection is carefully curated by Building Roots staff and volunteers and reflects the diversity of the community we work with. The books we distributed are both in English and French, come in all genres and for all ages, and many are written by award-winning writers.

In 2022 this program:

- Made 800 books accessible and free to local residents
- Created a point of connection for community members to interact with each other, volunteers, and Building Roots team members

**"People in the shelter crave books and crosswords. Having access to books to share is really important."**

- Moss Park Market participant



**"[The Moss Park Market Queer Wellness Festival] is the first event we've been present at. Our efforts finally feel real and like we are a part of the community"**

- Tyler, Mutual First Aid



# Do-it-Together

Bringing people together to share and learn new skills, the “Do It Together” workshop series supports participants in making useful home products that are often cost-prohibitive when purchased. The items can then be used at home, gifted, or developed into a potential small-scale business opportunity.

In 2022, this program:

- Focused on cutlery wraps, hand salves, and door wreaths
- Provided opportunities for social connection and skill sharing with neighbours
- Increase accessibility to useful products
- Built useful skill sets that can lead to income generation or further sharing

Looking forward, Building Roots will continue to look for untapped talents within the community to share skills and build the collective abilities of the Downtown East.

# Moss Park Cooks

The goal of this program is to bring community members together to share cooking experiences that allow for favourite recipes to be shared, increase food preparation and food safety education, and deliver homemade food to the Moss Park Market.

This year, the community gathered nine times from Winter to Spring and made delicious food such as carrot cake, apple cake, mushroom barley soup, beet soup, raspberry scones, and blueberry squares.

In 2022 this program:

- Increased social opportunities for local residents
- Increased food safety awareness
- Provided 550 meals/snacks at the Moss Park Market



**"Being in a space of creation and nourishment can call in a lot of joy. This program supported the crafting of learning, laughter, and collaboration in a way that was new to me. Our collective energy in the kitchen felt like an invitation to share stories and make mistakes! The outcome was always to make delicious meals for a community we care about and I felt very fulfilled by that alone, also something magical happens in any kind of creation if you allow it."**

- Amy, Team Member





# Moss Park Coalition

Building Roots is a long-standing contributor and a strong supporter of the Moss Park Coalition. We dedicated one team member to provide coordination and outreach support to the Coalition. The purpose of this group is to bring community residents, organizations, and businesses together to advocate for common causes. Some of the advocacy work that was undertaken in 2022 includes increasing community awareness of the planned Moss Park subway station, along with the benefits and challenges that come with infrastructure development. Members of the Coalition team also encouraged local voting by helping to organize a voting pop-up and a Ward 13 All Candidates meeting in the community. During the year, new residents joined the coalition and a volunteer campaign was launched. Participation from the University of Toronto students has also increased the coalition's ability to carry out more activities and advocacy with greater support.

In 2022, this program:

- Brought Moss Park residents together to share in common causes that directly affect their community
- Increased community awareness of projects and developments occurring in the Moss Park area
- Increased citizen awareness and comfort in the democratic process of voting to have their voices heard

Looking forward: The Moss Park Coalition aims to offer more in-person meetings (rather than only virtual) and increase the number of residents engaged in the Coalition's work.

**"The coalition provides a platform for community members to connect with each other and also discuss issues that are important for the community. We encourage everyone to contribute to community improvement through their advocacy and involvement with the coalition."**

- Kais, Moss Park Coalition Coordinator, Building Roots





# The Children's Literacy & Creative Arts Workshops

The Children's Literacy and Creative Arts Workshops offer activities and material support throughout the summer to meet the needs of children and their families in the community. Workshop activities included mandala weaving, a dance workshop with live West African drumming, Indigenous storytelling, and a cartoonist teaching live portrait drawings.

In 2022 this program:

- Encouraged multi-generational space sharing in the community
- Brought \$9,000 worth of new resources into the community through in-kind donations
- Increased literacy equity by distributing 200 English and French children's books
- Reduced families' expenses by offering 400 pre-filled backpacks

Looking forward: Building Roots will be reaching out to families across the Downtown East in an ongoing effort to enhance our programming for families.

What we heard: "If you offer families some food and if there's music, we're there! We just want a chance to talk to each other and have our children entertained." - Anna, Regent Park community member

**"Thank you hugely for helping to get these kits into the hands of kids and families in the Moss Park area, and for all of the incredible work you and your team are doing!"**

- Lisa Norton, National Program Manager, DAREarts





# Volunteers

Quite simply, our Urban Farm, Moss Park Market, Summer Saturdays, and Coffee & Conversations would not be possible without the people who engage with us each week. Volunteers with Building Roots lead in food growing, food basket filling, food delivery, translation, outreach, and general market support. We also look to our volunteers for their front-line perspectives, ideas and solutions. This year, the Moss Park Market, Coffee & Conversations, and Community Leaders program collaborated on a Volunteer Appreciation Event to celebrate the contribution of nearly 100 volunteers and Community Leaders that make our work possible. The event included an evening of locally catered food, a DJ, and a lot of dancing.

In 2022 our volunteer program:

- Provided 3,400 hours of support to the Urban Farm, Moss Park Market, outreach, and events
- Engaged corporate volunteers from Cognizant and Mackenzie Financial to develop a better understanding of the social infrastructure within Moss Park and the Urban Farm
- Offered a core group of 75 volunteers an opportunity to build and contribute their skills and experience in the Moss Park Area

# Community Leaders

The Community Leaders program is a unique aspect of our volunteer program. This program honours the potential and leadership skills of community members by providing a stipend and targeted training to meet their individual goals. The Community Leaders who gift Moss Park with their gifts of social networking, community outreach and feedback, and general support. This past year, individual leaders have created their own senior's fitness program in the area, become Community Ambassadors through Sherbourne Health, received food handling certificates, and found part-time work.

In 2022 this program:

- Increased the skill set, networking, and training opportunities for 8 leaders in the community
- Contributed over 1,300 volunteer hours to the Moss Park Market and outreach
- Supported knowledge exchange between Building Roots and community members through a grassroots process

**“I am happy because I am grateful. I choose to be grateful. That gratitude allows me to be happy. Having pride in the community I was introduced to. Being a Community Leader by Building Roots is a pleasure.”**

- Elias, Community Leader





## What we've heard:

**61%** of market and outreach volunteers **live in the Downtown East**  
(Volunteer Survey, 2022)

**78%** of Urban Farm volunteers **live in the Downtown East**  
(Volunteer Survey, 2022)

**36** volunteers **speak** a language other than English or French, representing **22 different languages**  
(Volunteer Recruitment Form)

## Why Us?

Reasons volunteers chose Building Roots as their place to volunteer  
(volunteer survey 2022):

**"I like their mission of providing fresh food to the community"**

**"I love the mission and overarching goals of Building Roots. I also appreciate the hands-on/direct impact it allows me to make in the community."**

**"I wanted a physical type of community volunteering that was close to home. Building Roots had the best hours for me (Saturday afternoon shift) since I work 9-5"**

**"I wanted to give back to the community of which I was also once part of the homeless, they helped with food and other stuff"**

**"Really love the community members I get to chat with and the overall vibe of the staff and other volunteers"**

**"I live across the street and wanted to volunteer in my community and learn how to garden while making new friends."**

## What aspects of volunteering they like best

(volunteer survey 2022)

**"The conversations!"**

**"Feeling like I'm doing something useful / needed, love the people I work with"**

**"I just love being outdoors taking care of plants and watching things grow. I live in a condo with no dirt of my own."**



**"I like being able to assist the market in getting food bags out to the community. I also really appreciate the flexibility with shift scheduling"**

**"Learning about the different plants I am unfamiliar with and feeling that I am part of a bigger contribution."**

**"Feeling connected to the neighbourhood"**



# Paying It Forward

Building Roots celebrates and invests in our local communities. While we receive incredible support from our partners and collaborators, Building Roots also contributes to the Downtown East area by supporting small businesses and amplifying the work of organizations and artists in the area.

## This year, through local collaborations and partnerships:

**\$2500**

was contributed to the local community for coffee and supplies

**\$8300**

was contributed to local restaurants and cafes for monthly catering and special events

**\$2000**

worth of meals made by community cooks were delivered

**1000**

food baskets were provided to a neighbouring organization to address food access challenges for seniors

**\$1785**

was provided in paid opportunities to 15 performers and facilitators for our community programs

**21,345**

pounds of local food was rescued through our partnership with Second Harvest's food rescue program

**155**

offerings from other local organizations were highlighted through our Building Roots Newsletter to **545** subscribers

**10**

new organizations were welcomed to table and share their resources at the Moss Park Market

**200+**

events and services from neighbouring organizations were promoted through our Coffee & Conversations outreach

Looking Forward: At times Building Roots receives more volunteer applications than we can accommodate. We plan to link prospective volunteers with local organizations that could use extra help.



## Paid artist collaborations:

- Miss Tania Lou - Jamaican Folklorist ([@doraytee](#))
- Jim Adams - Storytelling
- DJ Illegal Souls ([@illegal\\_soul](#))
- Trenyce Williams-Sweeney - Steel Pannist ([@trenycesweeney](#))
- Che - vocalist/songwriter/bassist ([@pure.che](#))
- Shiloh - drummer ([@shilohocean](#))
- Kai - keyboardist ([@ka.isamu](#))
- Story Planet - facilitators ([@storyplanetto](#))
- Alpha Rhythm Roots - drummers ([@alparhythmroots](#))
- Rochelle Ellar - spoken word ([@remainingrochelle](#))
- Mother Dainty Poseida - ballroom ([@official\\_skinnyboix](#))
- Xica Xica - Emcee ([@xicadadiva](#))



## Local businesses we supported in 2022





# Collaborators

Our impact in the community is directly related to our ability to collaborate and receive in-kind support from partners across the City.

Collaborative efforts include: knowledge exchange, referrals, exchanging resources based on need, offering free space for programming, co-planning events and receiving in-kind donations.

“Working with Building Roots continues to be an amazing experience. I view the location as a vital lifeline to the community. The organization welcomed us and provided space in solidarity to support the community and partners involved to care for the residents. I'm excited to see what happens next”

- Alethia Cadore, Board Member Equitable Action for Change

## In 2022, we had 55 collaborators:

- 2 Spirits of the 1st Nations
- Allen Gardens
- Animal Liberation Kitchen
- Aviva Insurance
- Black Food Sovereignty Initiative
- CCEC
- Children’s Book Bank
- City of Toronto/Proctor & Gamble
- Clear Water Farms
- Cognizant Technology Solutions Canada Inc
- Community Matters Toronto
- DAREArts
- Equitable Action for Change
- Expand Project
- Ezra’s
- FoodShare
- GetAKit.ca
- Grandmothers Partnering with Africa
- Holy Trinity Church
- Houselink/Mainstay
- Jamaican Eats Magazine
- Kaspac Cafe
- Kristyn Wong-Tam - City Councillor
- Lazy Daisy's Cafe
- Manning Canning
- Mackenzie Financial
- Mengrai Thai
- Moss Park Coalition
- Moss Park Espresso
- Mutual First Aid
- Neighbourhood Food Hub
- Noor Halal Pizza
- Not Far From The Tree
- Ojibiikaan Indigenous Cultural Network
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Ozery Bakery
- Patagonia
- Project Food Chain
- Project Swallowtail
- Regent Park Community Health
- Roncesvalles United Church - Dinner with Dignity
- Scadding Court Community Centre
- Second Harvest
- Sherbourne Community Health
- Sojourn House
- St. James Town Community Corner
- Story Planet
- Street Health
- The 519
- The Big Carrot
- Toronto Food Film Festival
- Toronto Metropolitan Rooftop
- Toronto Metropolitan Rooftop Garden
- Toronto Community Housing
- Umi’s Kitchen
- Vibe Arts
- West Neighbourhood House
- Works-In-Progress

### In-Kind Donations to Building Roots in 2022 was \$105,980



13 partners donated this amount in groceries to the Moss Park Market

\$78,580



6 partners donated this amount in food, clothing and harm reduction supplies to Coffee & Conversations

\$13,300



3 partners donated this amount in children’s eco-kits, backpacks and sports equipment to Summer Animation and Children’s Programs & Literacy

\$8,100



1 partner donated this amount in books to Bookshare

\$6,000



# Our Funders in 2022

Our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all our funders and supporters. Without you, none of this would be possible. You help make a difference in thousands of lives.

- **Azrieli Foundation**
- **Balsam Foundation**
- **Benevity Foundation**
- **Big Carrot**
- **Canada Summer Jobs**
- **Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation**
- **City of Toronto**
- **Dillon Consulting Limited**
- **Elephant Shoes Foundation**
- **Harvey Kalles Real Estate**
- **Lewis Cohen Foundation**
- **Liuna Local 183**
- **Mackenzie Investments**
- **McCall MacBain Foundation**
- **McLean Foundation**
- **McLean Smits Family Foundation**
- **Newlands Foundation**
- **Ontario REALTORS Care® Foundation**
- **Ozery Bakery**
- **P. and L. Odette Foundation**
- **Regent Park CHC**
- **Second Harvest Canada**
- **St James Town Family Literacy**
- **TD Bank**
- **The 519**
- **The Carol Sharyn Tanenbaum Family Foundation**
- **The Sprott Foundation**
- **United Way of Greater Toronto**
- **YES -Youth Employment Services**





# Our Staff

Our work would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff team. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the Building Roots team in 2022.



**Caroline Clair - Executive Director**

**Darcy Higgins - Co- Founder**

**Kais Azad - Moss Park Coalition Coordinator**

**Kari Klassen - Communications Manager**

**Dustin Stern - Director of Creative Programming**

**Maria Uribe - Administration and Finance Coordinator**

**Kate Hamilton - Urban Farm Manager**

**Hannah Backman - Director of Community Engagement**

# Our Board

Our Board of Directors supports the work of Building Roots by focusing on areas such as high-level strategic planning, oversight, community input, and accountability of the organization. They also serve as ambassadors of our commitment to addressing community needs from the root up. We draw on the individual and collective strength of board members to drive our mission and vision.



**Verlia Stephen Community Chair**   **Thu Nguyen Board Member**   **Jessica van der Vooren Board Treasurer**   **Monique Kavanagh Board Chair**

**Lisa Kates - Co-Founder**

**Mac MacDonald - Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator**

**Mary McCusker - Moss Park Market Coordinator**

**Tooba Nasir - Community Care and Food Programs Manager**

**Amy Rumbolt - Food Programs & Community Care Manager**

**Crystal Melin Basi - Director of Community Engagement and Evaluations**

**Bayley Nargang- Communications Manager**