

ACT's Year — A Look Back: A message to ACT's friends, members, and supporters

AIDS is not over. That's the message of this year's AIDS Walk. At ACT we see this truth every day.

AIDS is changing. The epidemic continues to affect gay and bisexual men as it has since the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) was founded in 1983. In recent years it has had growing impact on women, drug users, youth, recent immigrants, and Aboriginal people. Our activities over the past year have reflected our commitment to fight AIDS in the gay community, and to broaden our prevention and support programs to keep up with the changes in the face of AIDS.

This year ACT began looking at all our activities to make sure that our commitment to equity and access to our programs and services is reflected in everything we do. ACT's Board, staff, and volunteers have all participated in this work. Soon we will have a plan, including

deadlines, which will direct us as we make the changes needed to live up to our commitment and to enhance our effectiveness in reaching out to the diverse communities and individuals we aim to serve. A big thank you to all who participated in this ongoing process.

The bulk of ACT's funds come from our three fundraising events — Fashion Cares, AIDS Walk, and Dancers For Life — and through individual donations from generous people like you. We are deeply grateful to the thousands of people who join with us to make these efforts successful. This year, ACT began a new initiative designed to explore the possibility of diversifying our funding sources to help ensure stability for the future. Specifically, we will study the feasibility of starting a business venture. The study is making good progress. Next year we hope to provide more details on this new direction for ACT.

The past year saw the start of several new programs at ACT. For the first time, ACT hired a full-time Youth Coordinator who has already had success in connecting with young people, for example through the Peer Outreach Project.

Employment ACTION, an innovative new program, started up this year. Already it has had good success in helping people to return to the work force by providing support and job leads. The new Meet & Eat hot lunch program has brought people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) together for good meals in a pleasant setting where they can socialize and make friends. The new Social Support Network has organized day trips and other activities designed to reduce isolation and build mutual support among PHAs.

continued on page 2

in this issue: Just the Facts  Employment Action  Legacy of Hope Society  Financial Report



ACT: We're here for you

ACT provides the following practical services free of charge to all people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs):

MEET AND EAT — WEEKLY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM Every Friday, PHAs come together to enjoy a free, nutritious, and delicious hot meal. This program offers peer support, information sharing and a venue to simply relax and connect with others.

To register to attend a lunch, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 231.

SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK Each month a trip to a location outside the downtown core is offered to PHAs. It's an opportunity to get out of the city, meet new people, and visit interesting locations all at minimal cost.

To register for an outing, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 231.

BUDDY PROGRAM ACT is able to provide PHAs with a buddy — a volunteer trained to provide ongoing friendly support.

For more information, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 290.

FURNITURE EXCHANGE ACT solicits and stores donations of furniture for clients, who are on a "wish list" for furniture. ACT can accept donations of items such as beds, sofas, small tables, chairs, kitchen wares (cutlery, pots and pans, etc.). We are especially grateful for donations of televisions, VCRs, radios, and stereos.

For more information please call 416-340-8484 ext. 230.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ACT collects, maintain, and will lend to clients the following medical devices: canes, walkers, and scooters to clients in need. Most often, we fill the gap between the time a client first encounters a need, and the time he or she is able to get a device

through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

For more information please call 416-340-8484 ext. 230.

DRIVES PROGRAM ACT provides drives to and from HIV/AIDS-related medical appointments within Toronto for PHAs who are unable to negotiate public transit. This program also offers transit tokens for those who can negotiate public transit, but whose financial circumstances may prevent them from accessing medical appointments.



For more information please call 416-340-8484 ext. 230.

MOVES PROGRAM The ACT Moves Program is available to help PHAs on social assistance with moves to affordable/suitable housing within Toronto.

For more information please call 416-340-8484 ext. 230.

INSURANCE BENEFITS CLINIC Volunteers from the insurance industry meet one-on-one for confidential consultations with PHAs who have questions regarding insurance benefits. Topics include disability coverage, returning to work issues and benefit coverage.

For more information, or to book an appointment, call 416-340-8844.

INCOME TAX CLINIC Volunteers are available to meet one-on-one for confidential consultations to help PHAs in completing their personal income tax return.

For more information, or to book an appointment, call 416-340-8844.

HIV Health Promotion Programs

HIV Health Promotion offers workshops and programs that provide education, stress management, and networking for PHAs. Programs include:

WEEKEND RETREAT Allows men and women a chance to escape the city, participate in education programs and network with other PHAs.

ART THERAPY AT MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION A 15 week program for PHAs to explore issues through art in the relaxed environment of the Kleinberg gallery.

NATUROPATHIC CLINIC Supervised by a registered naturopathic doctor, 4th year students help clients explore treatment options that help deal with the serious side effects caused by many of the AIDS treatment drugs.

RISE PROGRAM An 8 week meditation program for stress management and lifestyle modification.

For more information about these and other programs, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 248.

Just the Facts

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 1999
THROUGH 31 MARCH 2000

ACT OUTREACH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS provided free condoms and lubricant packs to 28,264 men in bars, baths and at special events.

OUR FOURTH FLOOR ACCESS CENTRE — which includes the Library, Information Desk, and "Information-to-go" — had 11,099 visitors.

OUR WEEKLY "MEET & EAT" HOT LUNCH PROGRAM, starting in Fall 1999, served 173 hot lunches to people living with HIV/AIDS in 26 weekly sessions.

ACT HAD 693 NEW COUNSELLING CLIENTS last year. 140 (20%) of our new clients were women.

OUR FREE NATUROPATHIC CLINIC (run in partnership with the Toronto PWA Foundation) served 917 men and women living with HIV/AIDS.

WE PROVIDED 327 DRIVES to and from medical-related appointments for people living with HIV/AIDS.

730 PEOPLE used the publicly-accessible computer terminals in our Access Centre

ACT'S OUTREACH STAFF PROVIDED 126 TRAINING SESSIONS and workshops in HIV/AIDS prevention, reaching 2,948 people.

ACT'S NEW SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORK offered five social/recreation events to 63 people living with HIV/AIDS.

WE PROVIDED MOVING SERVICES FOR 53 PEOPLE living with HIV/AIDS, and provided assistive medical devices to 37 people.

WE HELD TWO WEEKEND RETREATS at "Camp Jayne" for men and women living with HIV/AIDS. 72 people attended.

EMPLOYMENT **ACTION**

A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

ACT and the Toronto PWA Foundation have developed an innovative, free, client-focused Employment Action program open to all individuals with HIV/AIDS considering (re)employment. Clients can access benefits counselling, employment planning, job trials, employment skills development, job placement assistance and other services.

Since its inception last September, ACT's Employment Action program has exceeded expectations. Over 175 people living with HIV/AIDS attended one of 47 information sessions. Of these, 125 participated in the job exploration program. Forty-four clients have accessed new skills and/or assessments. Forty clients have been placed in jobs.

For more information about this service please call 416-340-2437 and ask to speak to someone in Employment Action.

Counselling at ACT

ACT provides free, confidential counselling to men, women and youth living with HIV/AIDS, as well as people whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS in some way.

ACT counsellors can speak with you at our office, over the phone, or in other locations (like a coffee shop, for example). There is no need for a person to give her/his real name at the time of booking an appointment, if they are concerned about their confidentiality.

Counselling services are provided in English and Spanish to people from all ethno-cultural backgrounds with issues or concerns about HIV/AIDS.

To speak with a counsellor at ACT:

- Book an appointment by calling 416-340-2437 or 416-340-8844. Just say that you'd like to make an appointment to see a counsellor.
- Book an appointment in person at ACT.
- You can show up at our office and ask to talk to the 'counsellor-on-call' without making an appointment. ACT has a 'counsellor-on-call' from 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Thursday, and from 10 am to 4 pm on Fridays.

The ACT Library

Visit the largest publicly accessible library on HIV & AIDS in North America. Browse over 4500 book titles. Borrow from our collection of over 900 videos. Surf the Internet for HIV/AIDS information. Peruse over 100 current magazines, journals, & newsletters from around the world. Choose from 100 free handouts and pamphlets. Explore over 1000 up-to-date subject files. Discover our poster & brochure archives. Take a look at what we've got at www.actontario.org/library

Visit the ACT Library at 399 Church Street (at Carlton), 4th floor, Toronto. The Library is open Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday, 10 am to 5 pm.

The Library can be reached at 416-340-8484 ext. 303.

Gay Men's Community Development and Outreach Program

ACT provides HIV prevention outreach, training sessions and workshops to gay and bisexual men, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). We work closely with other health and social service organizations by providing training, consultation and workshops. And, we provide direct outreach to men in a variety of venues.

For more information about this program, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 247.

Women's Community Development and Outreach Program

ACT provides services to women at risk for HIV infection, and to service providers who work with women. We provide workshops and outreach to at-risk women and we offer training and consultation services to women-serving agencies.

For more information, please call 416-340-8484 ext. 274.

Youth Community Development Program

ACT's Youth Community Development Program works in partnership with other organizations to develop HIV prevention and educational strategies to reach youth at risk for HIV infection. We offer training and consultation services for agencies that work with youth. We also have volunteer opportunities for youth aged 15 – 26 who are interested in getting involved with our Queer Youth Peer Outreach Project and the Scarborough Community African/Caribbean Young Women's Resource Development Project.

To find out more about our services, or volunteering, call 416-340-8484 ext. 254.

Support and Discussion Groups

ACT offers a range of support groups to meet the needs of men, women and youth infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Group members share experiences, create mutual support, exchange information, explore choices about life, health and well being. Groups meet for two hours a week and usually have eight to ten members plus two volunteer group facilitators. We offer groups for men, women and youth living with HIV/AIDS, groups for friends and families affected by HIV/AIDS, groups for people who have lost someone to HIV/AIDS, and groups for HIV-negative gay men. Support Groups are offered three times a year — fall, winter and spring.

For more information about ACT support groups, call our Hotline at 416-340-8484 and book an appointment with a counsellor, or walk in to our office and speak with the counsellor-on-call.

ACT also offers "One Night Stand" discussion groups for gay and bisexual men. These one time, two- to three-hour sessions provide an opportunity to get together with other gay and bisexual men to talk openly about issues such as: sex, dating, safer sex, barebacking (just to name a few). It's a chance to bring your ideas and opinions and share them with other men. Trained volunteers facilitate each group. You don't need to commit to coming to all sessions, just the ones of interest to you.

For more information about "One Night Stands" call 416-340-8484 ext. 247, or check out ACT's regular updates in XTRA! and Now magazine.

ACT's Year — A Look Back

continued from page 1

ACT's continuing commitment to advocacy was reflected in our involvement in issues including the Federal Age of Consent law, increased City funding for AIDS prevention, global AIDS, and highlighting AIDS in the Provincial Election. Cooperation with other organizations was a major aspect of ACT's advocacy efforts.

Cooperation was also a hallmark of ACT's Community Partners Fund, which this year distributed \$243,030 of the money we raised to 29 AIDS Service Organizations across the city. The Fund is a reflection of ACT's understanding of the crucial role of other organizations in AIDS prevention and support for the diverse groups that make up Toronto, and of our commitment to support our partners in the fight against AIDS.

ACT's Naturopathic Clinic continued to draw a large number of clients. Operated in partnership with the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, the Clinic provided free Naturopathic services to over 900 PHAs last year. ACT's Library, the continent's largest publicly accessible

HIV/AIDS library, served over 1700 visitors, and many more over the Internet, via ACT's website.

Looking forward, one of our key initiatives is the development of a new strategic plan to guide our activities over the next three years. This process will continue to build on our strengths and successes, but will also point to emerging issues and determine what role ACT will play.

ACT's mission is to confront HIV/AIDS through support, education, and advocacy. That mission grows out of ACT's strong roots in the community, and can only be fulfilled with strong community support and participation. We thank and congratulate all those who offered their time, effort, and money to support ACT's programs and services. You are part of the success of ACT.

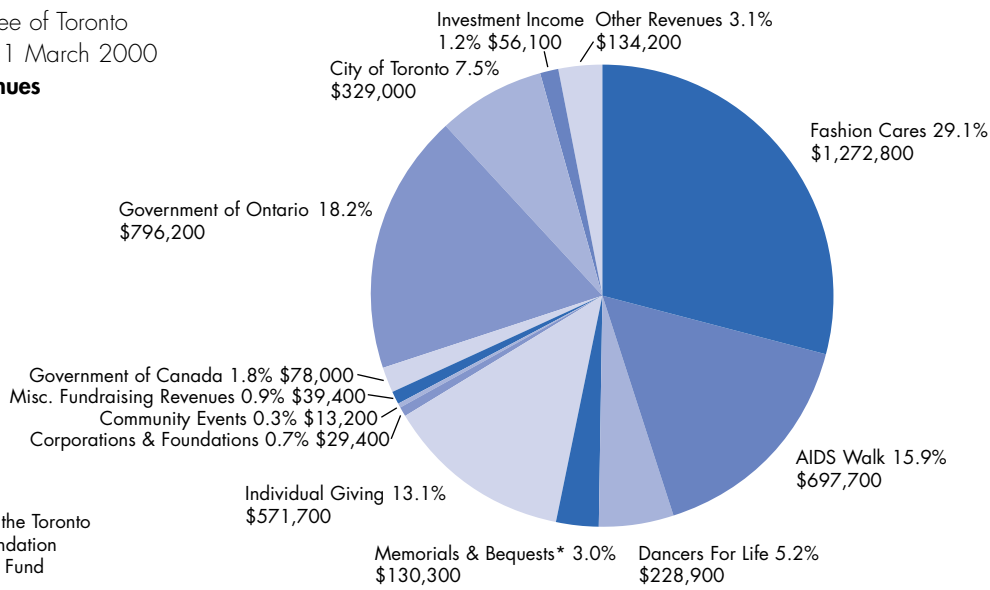
Dalton Truthwaite
Chair, Board of Directors

Charles M. Roy, D.S.W.
Executive Director



AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 2000

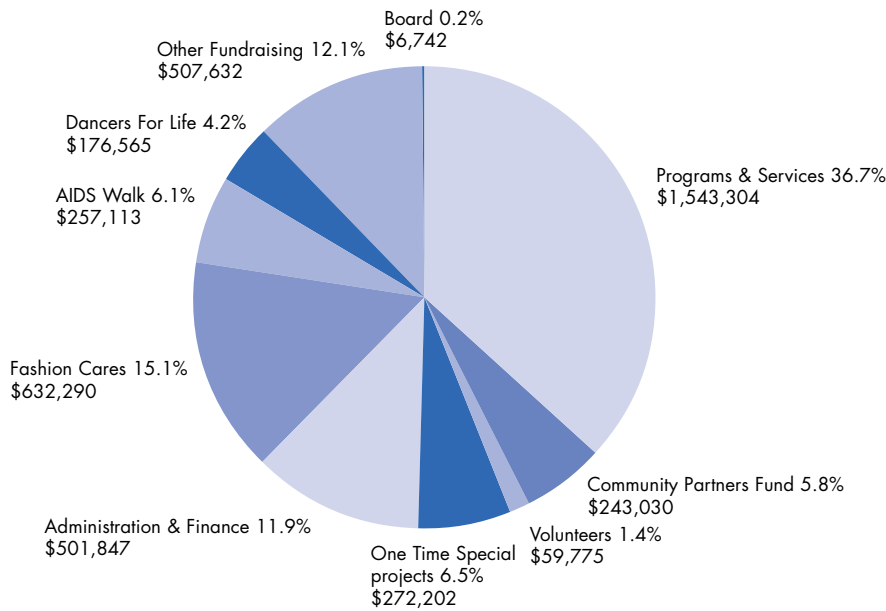
Agency Revenues
\$4,376,900



*Reinvested with the Toronto Community Foundation Legacy of Hope Fund

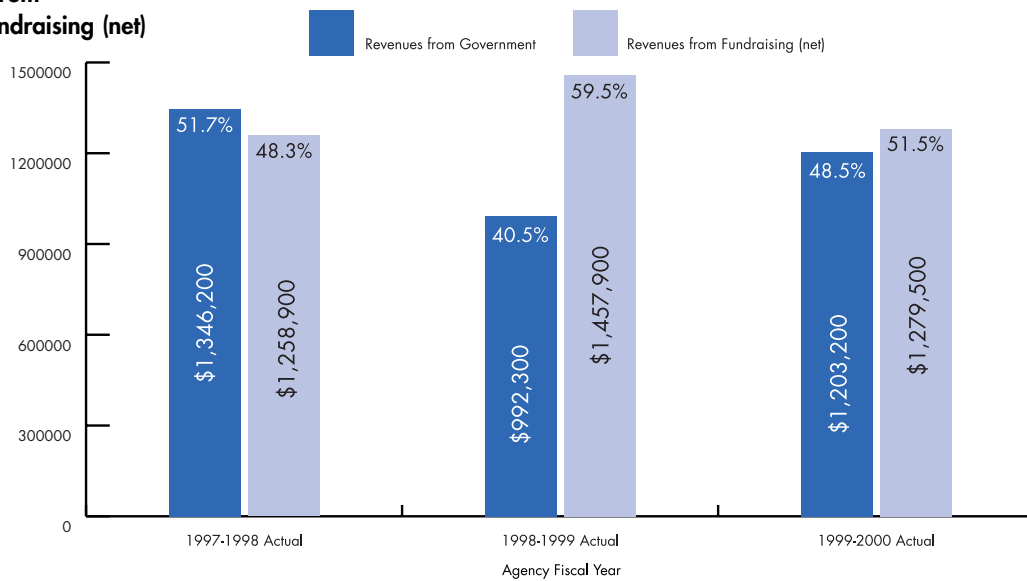
AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 2000

Agency Expenditures
\$4,200,500



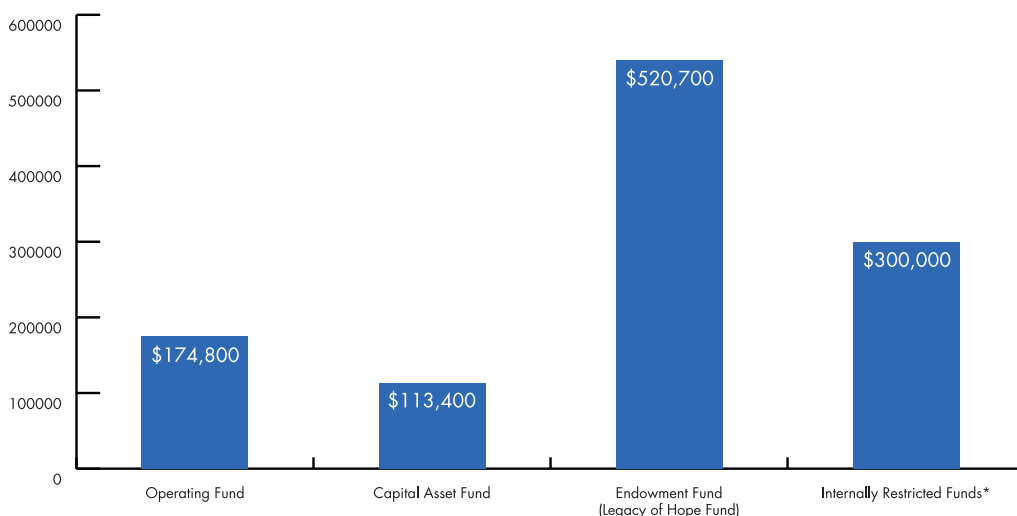
AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 2000

Agency Revenues from Government vs. Fundraising (net)



AIDS Committee of Toronto
Year Ending 31 March 2000

Net Assets



* Due to an alarming trend in federal government funding cuts, the Board has decided to establish a contingency fund to protect the agency against future reductions in government support.

Audited financial statements available on request. Phone 416-340-8484 ext. 227.

Join us at ACT's Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday, October 25, 2000,
6:00 pm

The 2000 Annual General Meeting of the AIDS Committee of Toronto will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2000 at 6 pm at the 519 Church Street Community Centre (on Church Street just north of Wellesley Street East).

To be eligible to vote for this year's Board candidates, you must be a member in good standing as of Monday, September 25, 2000. To check your membership standing, please contact Jim Billing (416-340-8484, ext. 235; jbilling@actontario.org).



Legacy of Hope Society

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to those individuals who have confirmed a legacy or planned gift to ACT as of August 2000. These gifts include bequest intentions and gifts of life insurance.

Joan Anderson	Morris Findlay	Michael McKerihen
Brian Keith Bailey	Diana M. W. Hancock	Donald McLeish
Michael Battista	Michael Hanley	Mosh Pearl
William Bedell	J.B. Hansen	Ron Rosenes
Sandi Bonini	Gerry Koolhof	Ann Rosenfield
William J. Brown	Karsten Kossmann	Charles M. Roy
Arnold Burgiss	Geoff Lawrence	Gerald Seeley
Brian G. Callaghan	Bruce Lawson	James Shakley
Mary Ellen Cassey	Cylethia Lee	Joey Shulman
Nicola Clayton	Greg Lichti	Wendy Storey
Evan Collins	Lori Lucier	Bill Wade
Mark Deacon	Enrico Mandarino	David D. Walters
Maureen de Sorcy	Barrie W. Martin	Gerald Wittenberg
Rufus B. Dickinson	John Maxwell	33 anonymous donors

Legacy of Hope Fund Bequests

Estate of Graham James Borton	Estate of Edith Burnand
Estate of James Alan Clarkson	Estate of Carle Falle
Estate of E. Leslie Fowlie	Estate of Lillian Marcus
Estate of Derek Sydney Rowe	Estate of David Jaffray Wood

Named funds

The following are named funds within ACT's Legacy of Hope fund at the Toronto Community Foundation. The principle of the funds is preserved in perpetuity with accrued interest used to support ACT's programmes.

- The Joan Anderson Fund*
- The William Bedell Fund*
- The Leo Murphy and Carle Falle Fund*
- The Ian Findlay Library Fund*
- The John Charles Helliwell Fund*
- The Enrico Mandarino Non-Discrimination, Access, and Equity Fund*
- The Ron Rosenes Health Promotion Fund*
- The Charles Roy Practical Assistance Fund for People Living with HIV/AIDS*
- The David Wood Fund*
- One anonymous fund*
- Funds in italics to be established in the future*

We apologize for any mistakes, omissions, or inaccuracies. Please contact Greg Lichti, Senior Development Officer (416-340-8484, ext. 265; glichti@actontario.org), with corrections, additions, or requests for information about leaving a gift to ACT in your will.

ACT will create named funds for gifts of sufficient size. Please contact Greg Lichti regarding the creation of a named fund.

MAC



Agouron Pharmaceuticals
Blanco Canada Inc.
Brian Rodgers
Budd Sugarman Interior Design
Carter-Horner Inc.
Chair-man Mills
Citibank Canada
Coffee Time
Cohn & Wolfe
Danier Leather

Designer Fabric Outlet
DuPont Pharma
Durex Canada
Encore
Encore Strategic Marketing Ltd.
fab Magazine
Falconbridge Ltd.
FUSIONcreative
Hugo Boss Canada Inc.
In Fashion; WTN
Isabel Sterling Frames

Janssen-Ortho Inc.
Josephson Opticians
Karcher Canada Inc.
Loyalty Management Group
Lucent Technologies Canada Corp.
McGregor Hosiery Mills
Mister Produce
NOW Magazine
Pfizer Canada
Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc.

Richard Fulton Antiques Ltd.
Rogers Cantel Inc.
Royal Bank VISA
Shadowcorp Investments Ltd.
TD Bank Financial Group
The Brainstorm Group
Tilley Endurables
Trudelle Laker
Vincor
Wildly Delicious Preserve Co. Ltd.

THANK YOU!

Donors of Goods and Services

ACT recognizes the following donors that have made extraordinary donations of goods or services:
Aboveground Art Supplies
Alert Security
Mrs. Olga Carter
Mr. Brett Christen; Filion, Wakely, & Thorup
Contract Furniture Installation Sales Inc.
Ms. Sandra Dudley; Eckler Partners Ltd.
Global Upholstery Co. Inc.
Ms. Jacqueline Hall; SCI Interiors Ltd.
Mr. Jay Hodgins; Chapman Design Group
O'Connor A Gallery
Oulton & Co. Technology Management
Mr. Paul F. Pearce; Key Learning Group
Mr. Gilberto Prioste
Mr. Arthur Sheps
Mr. Richard St. Louis
Warren Shepell Consultants

Foundations

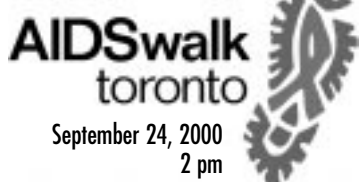
Apotex Foundation
Bennett Family Foundation
Edward Bronfman Family Foundation
Herbert Green Family Charitable Foundation
Henry N. R. Jackman Foundation
Harry & Toby Jordan Foundation
Molson Companies Donation Fund, Ontario Committee
Royal Bank of Canada Charitable Foundation
Shiff Family Charitable Foundation
Philip Smith Foundation

Groups

(includes employee groups, organizations, associations, unions, clubs, and community events)
Air Canada Payrolls; Corporate Finance & Planning
Art Gallery of Ontario
Bank of Montreal Our People Fund
Bell Canada Employees Fund for Community Service
Bombardier Aerospace Good Neighbour Fund
Camp Wahanowin Ltd.
Canada Trust Reach Out Employees' Charitable Fund
Canadian Airlines International Employees' Charitable Foundation
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3903
IBM Employees' Credit Union Ltd. Charitable Fund
Kinette Club of Pickering
London Life Employees' Charity Trust
Mississauga/Brampton Gay and Lesbian Social Group
One Voice Productions
Ontario Hydro Employees' Charity Trust
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)
Riverdale Co-operative Houses
Royal Bank Employees Charity Trust
Royal Bank Financial Group Employees' Charity Trust
Sears Employees' Charitable Fund
Singing Out!
Tarragon Theatre
Theatre Passe Muraille
The Co-operators Group Ltd.
The Second Cup (Expresso Dimensions)
TICOT
Toronto Hydro Employees' Charity Trust & Internal Fund
United Steel Workers Toronto Area Council Women's Committee
United Way Centraide
United Way of Ajax-Pickering
United Way of Greater Toronto
United Way of Peel Region
United Way of York Region
Workplace Safety & Insurance Board Staff Association Charity Trust
York Mills Collegiate Institute

Recognition is provided for donors that have given during the period from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.

We apologize for any mistakes, omissions, or inaccuracies. Please contact Anthony S. Tsoumbis, Development Officer (416-340-8484, ext. 279; atsoumbis@actontario.org), with corrections, additions, or inquiries.



SUPPORT ACT BY ATTENDING