

Clothing, Connections, Community

by Jane Craig, Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who has donated clothing, financial resources and time over the last few months.

New Circles continues to greatly enhance the overall quality of life for Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park and Victoria Village residents as well as many living in other parts of the City of Toronto. As a multi-service organization, we are dedicated to increasing access to information and community resources for our clients by referrals to other social service agencies. When we collaborate with other agencies, everyone is strengthened.

Recently we have started two programs new to us. First, we are offering free family law advice for clients thanks to the pro bono work of Lisa Gelman & Associates. As part of our vision of collaboration we are also accepting clients for this program from the Flemingdon Health Centre and Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services. These sessions are held once a month and have been fully booked from the beginning. Second, in conjunction with Toronto Public Health, we are hosting Living & Learning with Baby. These seminars teach new moms how to look after themselves and their babies. This is a win-win situation for our staff and volunteers as we get to hold the babies that are six weeks to six months old and mothers receive baby clothing and equipment from us!

I am most grateful to the volunteers on our Marketing sub-committee who put together a new tagline for us, Clothing Connections Community and created a brochure outlining the many programs we offer. Please check out newcircles.ca as you will see the many changes recommended by the Marketing committee. We thank them for their ideas for our new brochure, tagline and updated website.

I am constantly amazed by the courage of all clients, the willingness and resourcefulness of our volunteers and the skills of the staff. Every day is a new day at



Staff member Francisc Balogh puts up a Back to School display

New Circles and energy abounds. We are the only independent clothing program in Toronto that responds to the full range of community based needs with a primary focus of reducing the cycle of poverty and 10 Gateway Blvd. is a very exciting place to be. Please know you are always welcome to come to New Circles for a tour!

Volunteer update

Congratulations Tzyy!

Friendly, reliable, approachable and always willing to teach others...these are the words that fellow volunteers have told me about our very own Tzyy Laak.

Tzyy began volunteering with New Circles in March 2010. Having recently arrived in Canada from Malaysia in December 2009, Tzyy decided to find a volunteer position in the hopes of meeting new people. He learned about New Circles through the Volunteer Toronto website and decided to pursue the opportunity.

Since then, Tzyy has proven to be an excellent addition to the New Circles team. We are proud to announce that he has recently accepted a full-time employment position with the Bank of Montreal.

Despite working full-time, Tzyy remains a volunteer with us on his days off. When asked why he continues to volunteer, Tzyy stated that "this service makes people feel good about themselves in turn makes me feel good about being at New Circles"
... *Way to go Tzyy!*

New Circles is proud of all our community volunteers' successes

This year, seven of our community volunteers have found full or part-time employment. We are very excited for all of them and wish them well.

Welcome

New Circles is pleased to welcome two new staff members, Nita Saini, Coordinator of Volunteers and Linda East, Administrative Assistant.

Nita joins us from her position as Job Counselor/Community Engagement with the Etobicoke, YMCA and is studying for her Master of Art - Immigration and Settlement Studies degree at Ryerson. Our volunteer base continues to grow and will benefit from Nita's leadership.

Linda's many years in administration at RBC make her well qualified to provide administrative support.



TOP; Tzyy at the door of New Circles. BOTTOM; Nita Saini speaking at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Thornhill.



TOP; New Circles at the Mobile Mall from left, Zahra Yaghoubi, Joanna Armstrong, Mariela Puerta, Alma Popovic, Cathy Hunt, Francisc Balogh, Nita Saina and Catherine Bernales. BOTTOM; the Cocktails for Coats volunteers From left, Nita Saini, Caroline Langill, Dot Tuer, Aricie Batcha, Carolyn Langill, party host, Gisele Quesnell-Oke and Cindy Blakely.

Mobile Mall

We come to you.

In September, we visited the seniors living in Glenyan Manor. The Mobile Mall meets a great need as many seniors are not able to do their own shopping due to language or mobility issues. Volunteers and staff do a remarkable job and everyone looks forward to these events.

Cocktails for Coats

New Circles is the beneficiary of many gifts in the form of time, clothing and financial resources. We also receive many thank you notes from our clients and our volunteers. We want to share an email that Carolyn Langill, host of Cocktails for Coats, sent to all her guests, to emphasize again that New Circles is not just about clothes. We are enormously indebted to Carolyn for her initiative in bringing together such a

wonderful group of friends for an exceptional evening. Carolyn writes,

"It struck me...as I sat down to write all of you ...and give you the amazing results of the evening here at my home ...that I actually did not need to send any results at all! No number count of coats ...or tally of bags of clothing and shoes ...would do justice to what transpired here this evening. I think for all of us here ...we were truly able to grasp that changing lives is what New Circles is all about. And I thank Jane and Cindy and Nita and especially Aricie for helping us all realize that."

"I know that some of you were not able to be here this evening...and yet, you dropped off clothing...or promised to do so in the next handful of days...and so you are a part of the incredible success that this evening was about. For those of you who were here...who brought bags of clothing...winter coats ...boots ...shoes ...food ...wine ...flowers ...smiles ...friendship ...I thank you. I really had a sense this evening that the total was far greater than a sum of the parts ...and I hope you all felt the same way as you left my home."

"I read a very interesting piece a few days ago ...and I want to share the gist of it with you. The message was that human beings have a knack for coming together in the face of tragedy ...during times of natural disasters and acts of violence ...and that these times bring us out of ourselves and into the world, ready to lend a hand to those in need. This experience is often life changing for those who are willing to step into the position of helper. We feel as if we are finally doing something really importantand we often feel more connected to the people we are helping ...and to humanity in general. The article went on to say that considering the many benefits of this kind of gesture, it is surprising that more of us don't devote our lives, or at least some portion of our time, to serving people in need. We don't have to wait for a tragedy to come together as a community. Sometimes it is easier to respond to an event that has just happened rather than to ongoing problems like homelessness, poverty, and illness. But the truth of this world is that there is always someone in need of our best efforts to rally a group of helpers and healersand perhaps an effort to change this is one way to change the world. I want to thank all of you for being everyday heroes this week. You have changed hundreds of lives. I am filled with profound gratitude to all of you for your part in that"

Thank you Carolyn.

Our clients

The inside scoop.

Kinder Kits and Halloween Costumes

Because of your generosity we are able to offer the most incredible variety of items to our clients.

In August, New Circles was very excited about receiving 300 Kinder Kits from Ve'ahavta – The Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee. Each backpack contained a binder, workbooks and pens and pencils and other school supplies.



LEFT; Meroji, 8, and Miriam, 4, Abdulsamadkhon model their newly acquired costumes. RIGHT; Here is one happy client ready to go off to school.

This year's Wish List

- Mens' and womens' clothing
- Shoes of all sizes and kinds
- All children's clothes
- Teen clothing for male and female
- Plus size women's clothing
- New underwear for all ages
- Socks for ladies and kids ages 2-10 years
- Professional wear
- Winter coats, mitts and boots - all sizes
- Hats and scarves
- Towels & bedding for all mattress sizes
- Prom dresses

*We only accept new or gently used clothing;
clothing that you would still be proud
to wear yourself.*

Since January 2010, 633 new families have become clients.

Most are from Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti and Mexico.

A large number of our clients live in priority neighbourhoods within the city of Toronto.

- We are seeing an average of 52 people a day, and giving away approximately 546 items per day. To the end of September, we have given away 32% more items than in 2009 and are serving 20% more people.
- In the summer, we surveyed three stores (i.e. Goodwill, Value Village and Zellers) to try and estimate what people would have to pay if they had to buy all of the items on the New Circles clothing list. As a result we were able to estimate that the value of the clothes distributed to date totals in excess of \$3 million. Again the needs continue to increase and we have risen to the challenge thanks to all our donors, volunteers and staff.
- Our volunteer program continues to grow and since the beginning of August we have welcomed 30 new volunteers. Some are young people wanting community service hours. New Circles is a 'happening place' for volunteers!

Thank You for your wonderful donations !

We are extremely grateful to the following Foundations who have given so generously to New Circles this year. Because of the generosity of everyone, New Circles is building a program that ensures our clients get the services they need.

The Arrell Family Foundation
The Caring Foundation
The Mariano Elia Foundation
The Sir Joseph Flavelle Foundation
The Henry White Kinnear Foundation
Prichard-Wilson Family Foundation
at the Toronto Community Foundation

The RBC Foundation
The Sprott Foundation
The G. H. Wood Foundation
Anonymous (3)

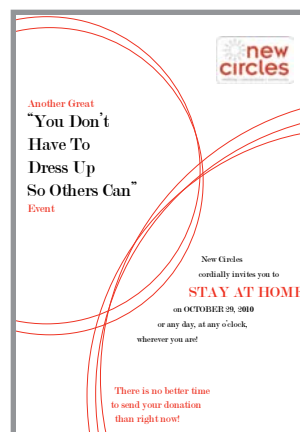
We also very much appreciate the large quantity of clothing that has been received from individuals, schools, churches and corporations since the spring newsletter.

Bannockburn School
Bond Street Nursery School
Bishop Strachan School
Crescent School
Crestwood College
Earl Haig SS
Hartman Public School
Havergal College
Hillcrest Community School
Hodgson Senior School
Jackman Ave. Jr. School
John Ross Robertson School
Leo Baeck School
Norman Ingram School
Oriole Nursery School
Ridley Orchard School
Secord School
Sir Adam Beck Jr. School
St. Clement's School
Upper Canada College

CINTAS
Davis & Henderson
Dress for Success
Ex-toggery
FACE
Heart to Hand
Joe Fresh
Marilyn's
Melmira Bra Boutique
Novotel, North York
One Warm Coat
Pennington's-Reitman's
Play 'n' Wear
Rego Bespoke Clothiers Limited
Residence Inn by Marriott
Residence Linens
RightSleeve.com
The Running Room – Wellington Street
Sald Industries
Second Nature
Ve'ahavta – The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee
Windfall

All Saints Church (Anglican)
Aurora Church (United)
Church of St. Leonard (Anglican)
Eglinton St. George's Church (United)
Gateway Community Church
Holy Blossom Temple
Leaside Church (United)
Paramount Drive Alliance Church
St. Cuthbert's Church (Anglican)
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church (United)

CBC Affiliate Marketing & Distribution
Children's Pillage in the Village



Don't forget about
our now famous
Stay-at-Home
Fundraising Event!
Visit our new website
for the full invitation.

Your donations are making a huge difference.

Refugees, newcomers and people living in poverty are able to come to New Circles for basic needs and information that helps develop self-confidence, fosters dignity and offers needed resources for day to day living.

Your donations support our many programs including clothing distribution, Seniors Mobile Malls, annual prom event, Holiday Angels, volunteer employment opportunities and agency referrals. We are building our programs to ensure that the clients who need our services get them. Your donations allow us to provide services for free.

Careful consideration is always given to the use of your donations.

Having a Celebration?

Anniversaries or birthdays can be celebrated with a donation to New Circles.

Memorial Gifts

Family and friends remember their loved ones through memorial gifts to New Circles.

BE AN ANGEL!

How You Can Help
More Families In-Need this
HOLIDAY SEASON.

Becoming a Holiday Angel yourself
–and adopting a family.

Enlist more holiday angels
– your friends and colleagues who might like to
become an Angel

Why?

Your kids will learn a lot about helping other families who can't afford much of what we take for granted.

For further information
check out our website at newcircles.ca or
call Linda East at 416-422-2591.

Deadline to sign-up is November 1.

YES,
I want to help . . .

I want to support the work of New Circles Community Services.

I have enclosed a cheque payable to New Circles in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$300 Other \$ _____

Please charge my donation to: VISA Mastercard:

Card No. _____ Name _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

Name _____ Address _____ Unit _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Charity Business Number 83634 3673 RR0001

Mail to: New Circles Community Services, 10 Gateway Blvd., Suite 100, Toronto, ON M3C 3A1

T 416-422-2591; F 416-422-5946