THOROLD COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES GROUP

2025 ANNUAL REPORT











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WHERE'S CAMPER?

We've hidden our mascot, Camper the Frog, throughout this year's annual report. There are **15 total** including this one - can you spot them all? Count every Camper you find as you explore the stories, milestones, and impact inside.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Thorold is located on lands that have been inhabited by Indigenous people for millennia, and we honour all the centuries of Indigenous Peoples who have walked on these lands before us. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and play here in Niagara and we give thanks to the ancestors who have served as stewards of this special place. We gather here to bring our minds as one...and to remember that we have a responsibility to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things, so that our 7th generation will be able to enjoy these beautiful lands as well!



Vision

A community where everyone feels welcome, connected and able to grow.

Mission

We bring our community together through welcoming places and inclusive programs.

Values

The Thorold Community Activities Group leads with care as a place for everyone, and we believe in the following shared values:

Community	We work alongside our members and partners to strengthen our community.
Access	We remove barriers so that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can participate fully.
Responsive	We act with integrity, fairness and accountability in the decisions we make and the people we serve.
Environment	We act with care in our spaces and programs, recognizing that a healthy environment and a healthy community go hand in hand.
Stewardship	We care for our people, places and resources so that TCAG remains strong and relevant for the generations that follow.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

2025 was a year of tremendous growth for the Thorold Community Activities Group (TCAG). Matching the rapid expansion of our municipality and the surrounding Niagara Region, almost every measure of engagement with our community increased as well - from program attendance, to community events, to requests for subsidy, food security and literacy initiatives, we consistently saw increased demand for our services.

Of course, growth stretches us in new, and sometimes uncomfortable, ways. Sustainable long-term financial health is a goal for any organization, and the TCAG is no exception. Ensuring a balance between the expanding needs of the community, the necessity of building capital, and staff capacity is a challenge particularly in times of economic and geo-political uncertainty.

Recognizing these challenges, and the necessity of growth to support our community, our leadership direction this year focused on engaging with our stakeholders and the larger population in the greater Niagara Region. We assessed our strengths and challenges, and how we can chart a course for sustainable growth. We are very appreciative of the individuals, community partners and funders who took the time to provide their thoughts, feedback and ideas for the TCAG's future - learn more about our updated strategic priorities on page 29.

We are incredibly proud of the impact we have had in the past year, and hope you will take the time to read about some of our successes on the following pages. We couldn't do it without our remarkable Staff, Volunteers, Board Members, Community Partners and Funders - and of course, the many individuals and families who make the TCAG the incredible place it is. We are thankful for all of you, and look forward to another year of working towards a community where everyone feels welcome, connected, and able to grow!

-Megan Gilchrist, Executive Director &
TCAG Board of Directors



OUR IMPACT

13,138 **children, families, and individuals served** in Niagara

690 

people relied on our Pop-Up Markets





60% of TCAG users **received subsidization**



4,080 lbs **of food and hygiene supplies** distributed through our 24/7 Community Pantry

59 **incredible volunteers** made a difference

$10,400



worth of **free & low-cost fresh, local produce** shared



850 **community group participants** relied on the TCAG for accessible meeting space.

$12,000



of free books & literacy supports in the hands of kids & families

1,467 children & youth experienced the **joy of camp**



OUR IMPACT

8,280 **members of the TCAG** enjoyed hundreds of programs and classes

550
participants led with sportsmanship in our **volleyball league**

91
dedicated staff made the TCAG a **welcoming place for all**

33%
of campers **received subsidy support**

960 lbs
of food redistributed to residents at Birchway Niagara

260 kids
learned new skills through **free sports programming**

$36,300
of accessibility updates made to our facility so **everyone feels welcome**

290
families and individuals connected with **community partners at our Open House**

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Sports & Recreation

We provide 2,600+ diverse sport, recreation, and arts classes annually that cater to individuals of all ages, mobility levels, and fitness abilities, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy!



Camps

From PD Day to March Break to Summer camps, we inspire growth in over 1,400 children annually. Through fun activities, experiential learning, and weekly fieldtrips, our camps create memories that last a lifetime.



Youth Leadership

We ignite future leaders through our unique Leaders-in-Training program, providing scaffolded pathways for youth ages 12-15 to learn and practice leadership skills, gain certifications, and feel ready for their futures.



Community Partnership

We value collaboration. Last year we supported 850 community group participants, partners, and fellow charities through free space, partnerships, joint programming, and public events.



Childcare

We nurture a safe and stimulating environment for 120 children annually through our licensed and CWELCC-enrolled childcare facility, with a second location in South Niagara to open in 2027.



Food Security

We distribute shelf-stable food and hygiene products year-round through our 24/7 Free Community Pantry; our Pop-Up Produce Markets provide affordable, fresh produce to the public every month.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

NEW YOUTH PROGRAMS

This year, we were proud to expand the variety of programs offered for youth, creating more opportunities for young people to learn, connect, and grow within our community. By introducing seven new classes, we were able to engage youth in experiences exploring different interests, talents, and goals that help them feel included, supported, and confident.

Youth Beach Volleyball

This skills-development program is open to the public and includes co-ed and female/female-identifying groups for youth ages 6-12. Kids build volleyball skills in a non-competitive environment focusing on fun and fitness with an experienced volleyball instructor.





Racquet Sports

Our program gives youth ages 7 and older the opportunity to learn and explore tennis, badminton, and pickleball in a safe and inclusive environment. Trying a variety of racquet sports helps kids discover what they truly enjoy while building a lifelong appreciation for sport.

Junior Art Club

Our Junior Art Club invites kids ages 9 and up to experiment with their creativity through various art projects. This program is a great opportunity for youth to unleash their imagination and create fun and expressive projects while growing as artists.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

MULTIGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Our multigenerational programming brings together participants of all ages! These programs foster social connection and strengthen community bonds by encouraging generations to work together toward shared goals. They also support aging in place by helping older adults remain engaged in their communities, while creating opportunities for younger generations to learn from their experience and knowledge.



Multigenerational Anime Art Class

This program gives participants ages 10+ the opportunity to learn to draw their favourite characters in a fun and inclusive setting. While building their drawing skills through creative projects, participants of all ages learn from each other and build connections with other who have similar interests and passions.

Woodcarving

Woodcarving classes for ages 9+ teach the basics of woodcarving in a fun, relaxing, and creative space. Many participants have entered into competitions and received recognition for their artwork.





Multigenerational Puppy Yoga

In partnership with Bridgewater Yoga, we invite participants ages 6 and up for a cuddly Puppy Yoga class! This multigenerational program offers an inclusive class for all experience levels, surrounded by adorable puppies.

Multi-Gen Art Class

Our program is designed for pairs of individuals of all ages to build connections and express their creativity while learning about diverse art styles and techniques together. As the class progresses, participants' creativity and interpretations develop into different and beautiful works of art.



EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE

FREE YOUTH PROGRAMMING



DID YOU KNOW...?

260 kids were empowered through free, fun sports skills programs in 2025! After participating in these programs, kids feel more confident and prepared to participate in school and community sports leagues.

This year we were fortunate to receive grant funding to provide **free YOUth in Sport programs** open to all children in our community, regardless of socioeconomic circumstance, membership status, or affiliation with our facility. **By removing financial and participation barriers**, these programs create opportunities to participate in quality sport and recreation experiences that may otherwise be out of reach, helping **ensure every child has the chance to learn, grow, and be active in a supportive environment**.

Jumpstart Bon départ

GOLFONTARIO

JAYS CARE FOUNDATION



"We were struggling to find a sport our daughter really has interest in and we tried basketball and now she LOVES it!"

"We didn't have the budget to register him before, and thanks to this program he had the opportunity to. My son attended for the first time to a basketball class and he realized he likes it and enjoys it!"



Jumpstart Canada - Basketball

Thanks to Jumpstart Canada, the TCAG offered four classes - Co-Ed and Female and Female-Identifying - for ages 6 to 12 years old. This program was geared towards youth of all skill and experience levels and helped kids develop basic Basketball skills through hands-on experience in a positive and engaging environment.

EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE

FREE YOUTH PROGRAMMING



Golf Ontario

The TCAG partnered with Golf Ontario to provide **four free golf programs to over 90 youth ages 6 to 17**. Kids learn the fundamentals of golf through fun games and activities while developing important character traits and values like leadership and confidence. These sessions remove barriers and **provide a safe, diverse, and inclusive environment for youth of all ages and abilities.**

> *My children had the opportunity to participate in a sport that they've never tried. They loved learning new skills and making friends. Because I cannot work, things can get tight financially. This experience helped us keep our children active and socializing with same age peers. We usually stick to one sport because of the cost. This allowed for experiencing something new.*

Jays Care Baseball Skills Program



Thanks to the Jays Care Foundation, we were able to offer a Girls at Bat and Co-Ed RBI program with over 20 participants ages 6 to 12 years old.

The Girls at Bat program, aimed at female and female-identifying youth, is designed to **empower and develop the leadership skills of girls in sport**.



The Co-Ed RBI program for youth of all ages **creates an inclusive, mixed-ability, and safe environment for everyone to participate**. This program ensures youth feel included in sport programming, and empowers learning and connection with teammates through friendship and teamwork. With an emphasis on leadership skills, participants develop self-confidence and a love of sport.

INCLUSION IN ACTION

PROGRAMS DESIGNED WITH INCLUSION AT THE CORE

The Inclusion Instructor role was created as a permanent position on our recreation staff 3 years ago and has had a tremendous impact on the children and families the TCAG supports, as well as our program instructors.

The Inclusion Instructor collaborates closely with the program instructors to offer expertise in social-emotional practices and strategies, and are available in every youth recreation program to **work 1:1 with children who need extra support**. They understand the diverse needs of all participants and provide guidance on how to modify activities and materials **to create an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive**.

By fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating diversity, the **inclusion role helps kids build confidence, develop new skills, and form meaningful connections with peers.**

















INCLUSION IN ACTION

INCLUSION INSTRUCTORS



As an inclusion instructor with TCAG, I support youth with diverse needs including Autism, Down Syndrome, and other developmental and emotional challenges, in fully participating in sports, cooking, baking, art, and community programs. By getting to know the youth who come to our community centre, I use inclusive individualized strategies such as movement breaks, breathing techniques, and redirection to help participants build confidence, develop emotional regulation skills and engage meaningfully alongside their peers.

My role is not only to support access but also empower youth with tools they can apply in their everyday lives, fostering independence and a strong sense of belonging. Although I support youth with diverse needs, my role extends beyond this as I support all youth who come to the TCAG. This work is deeply important to me because it reflects my commitment to kindness, compassion, and inclusion, ensuring every child feels valued and supported.

- Jaden, TCAG Inclusion Instructor

SUMMERS THAT SHAPE FUTURES

CAMPS AT THE TCAG

Campers Each Week	Camp Staff	Total Campers in 2025
165	37	1,467

TCAG camps are unique because we offer a variety of new weekly day trips, along with daily swimming at the City of Thorold pool. We feature exciting weekly themes that families get to enjoy seeing come to life, such as our music video premiere, and we recognize camper responsibility and engagement through our Camper of the Week program. Counsellor participation is a big part of the fun as well, including a fashion show where campers create the outfits!

Our day camp programming has grown significantly over the years **from 50 to 165 campers daily**, largely due to the dedication and hard work of Jennifer in the early stages, and later supported by her team-Stephanie, Alex, Julia, and Danielle. Their commitment as camp supervisors and, for some, growth into camp director roles has played a key part in this success.






It has grown **from a camp with 50 campers run entirely indoors** in our gym with little to no structure, limited activities, and minimal outdoor play **to a highly sought-after and engaging program for 165 kids weekly**. Every year parents eagerly anticipate registration day hoping to secure all the weeks because their kids absolutely LOVE TCAG Camp!

- Charlene, Front Services Supervisor

No family should have to choose between camp and cost. Donate today to help ease the financial burden on families when they need it most.

SUMMERS THAT SHAPE FUTURES

CAMP STAFF






Since 2017 when the new camp leadership team was hired, **we had a vision of growing the camp program through structured programs and activities** created around fun, educational topics in a variety of genres. We have:

- Created new training modules for staff.
- Included all staff in the program planning portion of our camps.
- Developed a strong foundation to build off of for future camps.
- Introduced a new structure, including policies and procedures that were incorporated into all camp programs (PD Day, Holiday, and March Break) at the TCAG.

The core leaders have remained and still oversee the program today. They are committed individuals that have grown and shaped our program, **always putting the children first and offering them an experience they will always remember**. They focus on values and morals, being role models and teaching in a positive manner, building the trusting relationships. With a focus on fun and learning, the camp program has grown far beyond what we could have imagined. **We stay focused on quality not quantity and continue to shape the program from our strong foundation built by an amazing team.**

- Jennifer, Director of Recreation

> *My children attended summer camp through the subsidy program. Without the funding support, we would not have been able to participate. My child built confidence, made new friends, and were excited to try activities that we wouldn't normally have access to. Every day they came home full of stories about their adventures.*
>
> *Camp gave my child a sense of belonging, joy, and independence during the summer months. For our family, the subsidy meant that finances were not a barrier to these important experiences. It really made a difference to us, and we are deeply grateful.*
>
> *- Parent of a 2025 Summer Camper*



GROWING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

LEADERS-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM

The TCAG's Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program empowers youth ages 12+ to build leadership, teamwork, and community engagement skills through interactive, hands-on learning. Beginning in June, with most training taking place from July to August, **the six-level program offers scaffolded sessions featuring workshops, mentorship, training, team projects, and community service**. Throughout the year, participants continue developing and applying their skills through community events and activities, with opportunities to progress toward leading younger participants and career-readiness upon completion.









Career-Readiness

Our program addresses youth employment barriers by providing integrated trainings as a core part of the program.

Participants gain:

- Certifications (First Aid/CPR, High Five-Principles of Healthy Child Development, Babysitting Certification).
- Jobs-based skills-building training (interviewing skills, public speaking, 5 Keys to Resiliency).
- Experience job shadowing to ensure career readiness as they reach the minimum age of work.





Mentorship & Hands-On Experience

As LITs progress through the program, they apply their learning within our summer camps by taking on leadership roles with younger campers while supervised and mentored by camp staff. Through a combination of practical exercises, workshops, and training, our LIT counselors guide participants through a transformative experience.

Donate today to help nurture the next generation of local leaders by providing training, resources, and mentorship for those ready to make a difference.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

CHILD CARE FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

The TCAG's Child Care opened in 1988, originally located within Thorold High School. **We provide a safe and nurturing environment for 154 children annually so they can explore, learn, and grow**, while also fostering meaningful connections among families within the community.

Our registered Early Childhood Educators are selected for their passion for working with children and their commitment to supporting each child's growth and success. We take pride in our culturally diverse staff and families. We celebrate this diversity through a variety of activities and events, including Diversity Day, Orange Shirt Day, and Black History Month.

- Shelly, Director of Child Care

After our son suffered a life-threatening injury at a home daycare, we were understandably reluctant to trust another childcare provider. However, after several conversations with Shelly, the director, and hearing consistently positive reviews about TCAG's daycare program, we felt reassured enough to give it another chance.

Re-enrolling him has truly been one of the best decisions we've made. The staff are exceptional—compassionate, attentive, and incredibly supportive—not just to our son and daughter, but to every child in their care. Kudos to the leadership and staff at the TCAG for making this space a very positive space for our children to grow and flourish.

- Amanda Siconolfi









HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES THAT MATTER

PLACEMENT & CO-OP STUDENTS

Early childhood education students gain significant benefits from practicing in our child care centre because it allows them to connect theory with real-world experience. By working directly with children, students develop practical skills such as communication, classroom management, and the ability to plan and implement age-appropriate activities.



The TCAG's hands-on environment also helps them understand child development more deeply, as they observe different learning styles, behaviors, and developmental stages in action. Additionally, practicing in a childcare centre builds confidence and professionalism, as **students learn how to interact with families, collaborate with experienced educators, and respond to unexpected situations.**



Overall, this experience **prepares students to become more competent, reflective, and effective early childhood educators**. This partnership is mutually beneficial for both the students and our organization as it not only supports their professional growth, but also creates a valuable opportunity for us to identify and recruit skilled graduates already familiar with our environment and practices.

Before we joined, our niece was already a student in their program and we saw first-hand the positive experience she had being there. And so, as we said when we learned we had a spot at the centre, joining the TCAG felt like "winning the lottery." Now, as a grateful family in the TCAG, we would recommend them for absolutely anyone.

The TCAG is truly next level as a childcare centre. Thanks to the remarkable staff at the TCAG, I not only have the peace of mind knowing she is safe, protected, and cared for, but I know she is experiencing truly above-and-beyond care from everyone working there. As a working parent, I know that my daughter will spend so much of these early, formative years in childcare. I am beyond thrilled that she gets to do so at a place where she is truly supported and I know that her days are full of love, laughter, and learning because she is at the TCAG.

- Brittany Reid

FUELDED BY COMMUNITY

FOOD SECURITY

As a community hub, **we have the opportunity to help alleviate the unique geographical and financial challenges** our booming community faces daily while struggling with food insecurity. **Since 2023**, when we established our TCAG Community Garden, **the demand for food security programs has been growing at a rapid pace.**

Our low-cost **Pop-Up Produce Markets** have grown **182% in three years**, serving almost **700 individuals in 2025 alone**. Open to everyone in the community, attendees can fill a small ($2) or large ($5) basket with healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables. We are grateful to United Way Niagara and Mazon Canada for their support, as well as our friends at The Bridge who donate food from Tim Horton's and the Meridian Centre throughout the year which we distribute for free at our markets. In an effort to connect our community members to services outside of Thorold, **we also welcome non-profits and charities to our markets every month**.

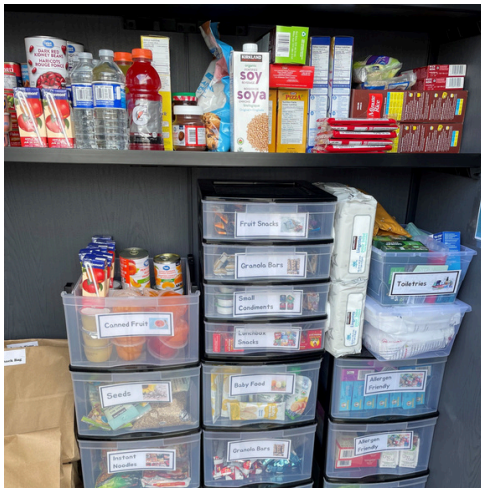


DID YOU KNOW...?

Our zero waste policy means **every month we donate excess produce, baked goods, and snacks to Birchway Niagara** - a local support organization for survivors of intimate partner violence.



Last year, our **24/7 free Community Pantry** provided **4,080lb of free shelf-stable food and hygiene supplies** to families with children of all ages, newcomers to Canada who have recently moved to Thorold, unhoused people, post-secondary students, and more. In order to reduce barriers to access such as literacy levels and/or language barriers, we include labels with both words and pictures for the items (e.g. drawers for snacks include both photos and words).







WE GROW TOGETHER

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing that **we can serve our community better when we work together**, we are incredibly grateful for the many community partnerships that have formed over the past few years. Our organizational partners work with us to bring services to the Thorold community, help us source donations, spread the word about our programs, and share in any extras to keep our food security programs zero-waste.

Our funders help us ensure we have the means to continue serving our community through affordable and/or free programs and resources for families. Of course, we can't forget our volunteers - from the garden to the Santa Claus Parade, they are the heart of the TCAG. **We appreciate the many people and organizations who help us help others!**



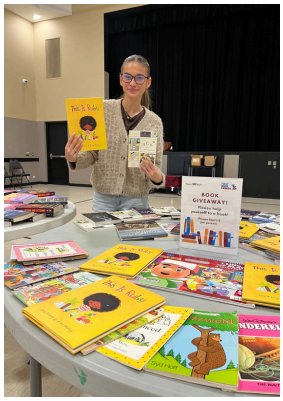






DID YOU KNOW...?

The TCAG is a community hub - last year alone **850 community group participants** relied on us for meeting rooms, event space, community-access services, events, and more. We also support community collection drives (Community Care, Toolbox Niagara)!









THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT

STAFF, INSTRUCTORS, & VOLUNTEERS

Our strength lies in our people - the dedication and compassion of our staff, instructors, and volunteers is the glue that holds the TCAG together. Every day, our dedicated professionals create welcoming and inclusive spaces for the Niagara community. Thanks to their expertise, care, and passion for community service, they embody the TCAG's mission of bringing people together through accessible and meaningful programs and services.



DID YOU KNOW...?

The TCAG is a **Certified Living Wage Employer**! A living wage is the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses within their community. All direct full time, part-time, and contract TCAG employees are hired at or above the Living Wage standard for Niagara!

WE ARE A LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER
livingwage.ca













FROM LEARNER TO LEADER

RECREATION COORDINATOR



I began at the TCAG as a placement student for Brock University, and from there was hired on as a youth instructor. Eventually, the TCAG created a part-time role of Recreation Coordinator to handle social media and promotional content, summer programming, and events. Over the next year, I was given many opportunities to build partnerships with local organizations, develop professionally, head organizational events, and manage volunteers.

During the turnover of our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, it was recognized that my role was to transition into a full-time position due to the high demand for grant programs, a growing volunteer base, and an increase in events. I love working for the TCAG because my role allows me to work with a wide array of people, both inside the organization and outside in the community. I find the programming I do very rewarding, such as offering free sports programs to youth who face financial barriers or helping with the pop-up produce markets to combat food insecurity in our community.

I have learned and developed in many areas of my professional and personal life in this role, and I am so grateful to have such a positive and welcoming work environment to succeed in every day.

- Emily, Recreation Coordinator

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

TCAG's growing volunteer program brings together people from diverse backgrounds; these fantastic individuals generously **contribute their skills across a wide range of community initiatives**, including pop-up produce markets, our community garden, local events, and organizational leadership through the Board of Directors.

In 2025, 59 fantastic volunteers built connections with various community partners while helping children, families, older adults, and individuals in impactful ways. Our volunteers play a key role in supporting affordable food access, maintaining spaces that provide fresh produce, and helping with inclusive events like the annual Movie & Swim Night and the Thorold Santa Claus Parade. Through these experiences, they not only make a meaningful impact on children, families, and older adults in Niagara, but also **develop new skills, build valuable connections with community partners, and strengthen their sense of belonging in the community.**

> *I wanted to volunteer with TCAG because I am passionate about supporting my community and contributing to meaningful programs that bring people together... TCAG stood out to me because of its commitment to arts and culture, and I saw it as a great opportunity to both give back and grow personally. Volunteering with TCAG will make me feel fulfilled and connected to the community. It will give me a sense of purpose, knowing that I am contributing to something meaningful and helping create a welcoming space for others.*
>
> *- A New TCAG Volunteer*







FINANCIALS

Growth invites us to adapt in new and meaningful ways. Building sustainable long-term financial strength remains an important priority for every organization, and the TCAG is no exception.

As the community's needs continue to evolve, the TCAG is committed to thoughtfully balancing those opportunities with strategic capital growth and strong staff support, particularly during times of economic and geopolitical change.

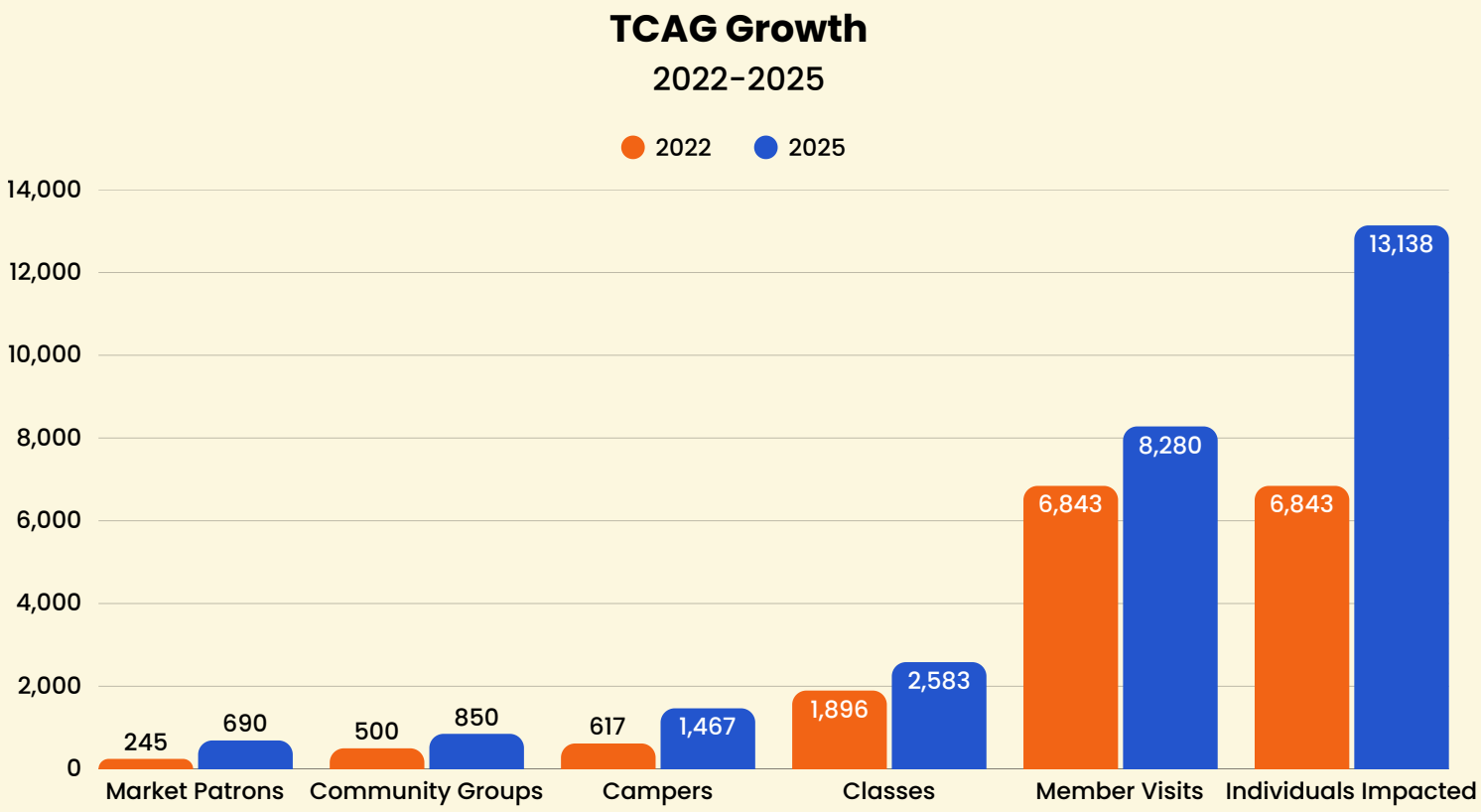
Member Visits Increased
21%

TCAG Subsidies for Families
$11,693

Number of Individuals Impacted Increased
52%

Instructors Increased
103%

More Classes Annually
687

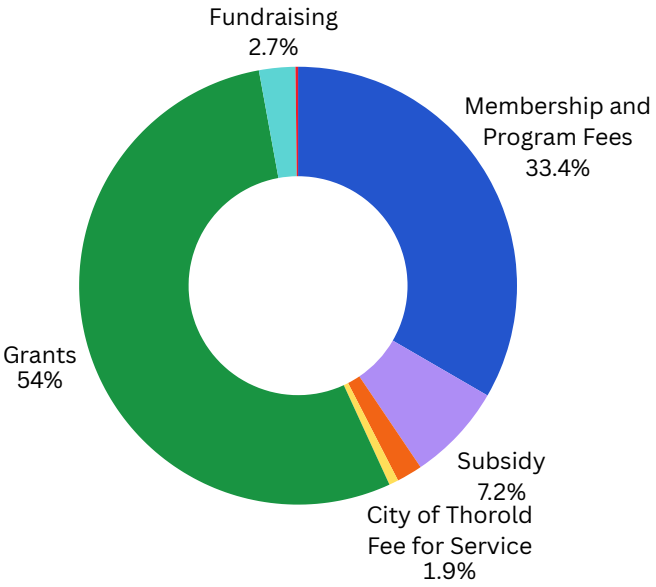


FINANCIALS

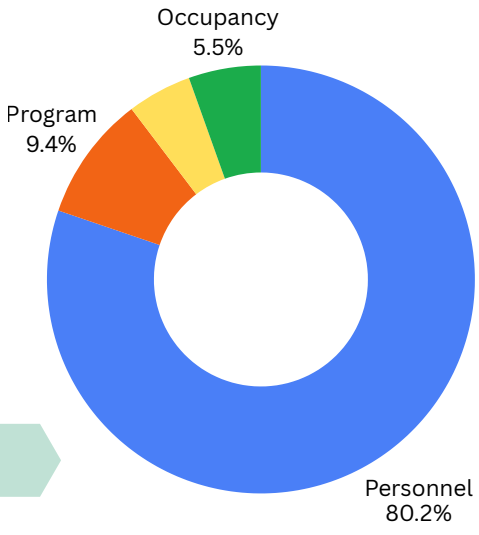
With a total operating budget of over 2.2 million per year, 91 employees and 53 contracted instructors, the **TCAG is one of Thorold's largest Nonprofit employers.** In 2025, **the TCAG's activities generated over $2.8 million in economic impact**, and operated with a **140% ROI for every dollar of grant funding received**.

2025 REVENUE SOURCES

Grants	Program Revenue	Capital/Other	Fundraising	City of Thorld Fee for Service
51.5%	39.4%	4.8%	2.5%	1.8%



STATEMENT OF REVENUE	2025	2024
Membership & Program Fees	$649,931	$546,506
Subsidy Funding	$140,048	$109,741
Fee for Service - City of Thorold	$37,060	$36,530
Supplemental Fees	$12,667	$8,597
Grants	$1,051,689	$1,133,212
Fundraisings	$52,211	$21,236
Other Income	$3,699	$11,472
	$1,947,305	**$1,867,293**



STATEMENT OF EXPENSES	2025	2024
Personnel	$1,710,052	$1,536,973
Program Expenses	$201,372	$240,174
Administrative Expenses	$103,828	$91,537
Occupancy Expenses	$116,395	$217,131
	$2,131,646	**$2,085,815**
	-$184,341	**-$218,522**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN ACTION

2025 EVENTS

Throughout 2025, the TCAG played a meaningful role in bringing the community together through engaging and impactful events. By creating opportunities for connection, collaboration, and shared experiences, **the TCAG fosters stronger relationships among residents, local businesses, and community partners**. From monthly markets to networking gatherings to family-friendly celebrations, these events provide lasting value and help strengthen our sense of community throughout the year.

Pancake Run



Our **1st Annual Pancake Run** took place in June as part of the ParticipACTION Community Challenge. We had **100 adults and youth** who had a blast eating **350 delicious pancakes** while helping us raise **$1,500 for community programming.**

Carouse Players



Thanks to the generosity of Kelly Liddycoat and Rick Westlake of Bocchinfuso Funeral Home, **over 130 kids and adults enjoyed two free performances of Carousel Players' *Hare & Tortoise*!**

Pasta Night



More than 100 people came together to celebrate the Thorold community at our Pasta Night, helping **raise $1,700 for community programming**. We're incredibly grateful to Scott Glover and our friends at Meridian Credit Union for sponsoring the event!

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN ACTION

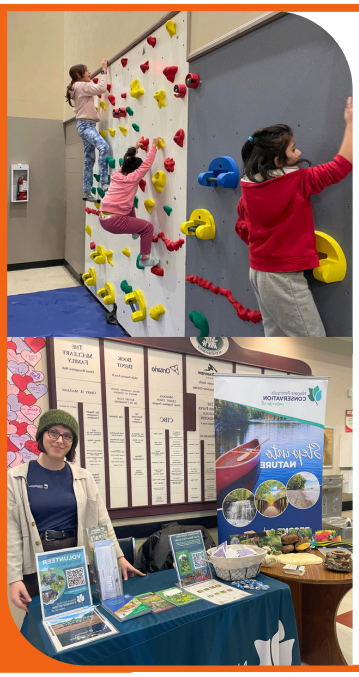
2025 EVENTS

Garage Sale



For the first time, the TCAG took part in the **22nd Annual Thorold-Wide Garage Sale**! This was a great opportunity to empty out some of our storage areas and raise money for the organization. We're grateful for the many community members who came out and helped us **raise over $800 to replace older fitness and recreation equipment.**

Annual Open House



The TCAG's **Annual Open House** began as a way for the community to explore our facility and learn about the programs and services we provide, and it has since grown into a vibrant community event focused on connection, learning, and fun for all ages. **Through partnerships with organizations** such as PFLAG, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Health, and Brock Penguins, **attendees access valuable resources, activities, and services while organizations build stronger connections to better support the community.** These collaborations allow us to offer giveaways of free books and LEGO from First Book Canada, and experiences like a fire truck visit from Thorold Fire and Emergency Services.

HBOG



Every spring our **Honourary Board of Governors** is invited back to the TCAG. We loved welcoming them in May to connect with one another, hear about the new things happening at the TCAG, and share their knowledge with us. **Thank you, HBOG members, for continuing to support the TCAG**!

PARTNERS IN PURPOSE

VOLUNTEERS & STAFF







BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Symons (Chair)
Amy McCulloch (Vice-Chair)
Sher Foster (Treasurer)
Jodi Quinlan (Secretary)
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Karen Schilstra (Director)
Madison Samuel-Barclay (Director)
Rachel Wright (Director)
Sabrina Schepiel (Director)
Val Pighin Marcantonio (Director)

VOLUNTEERS

Adejoke T.
Adetunji O.
Alicia F.
Alamilla R.
Allison C.
Andrew V.
Anna P.
Basil S.
Caroline B.
Cassidy
Charlie G.
Christopher O.
David G.
Dexter D.
Dylan F.
Elisa T.
Ellie K.
Emilia A.
Emily N.
Eric W.
Julia M.
Lakshay J.
Lexi L.
Linda P.
Madison B.
Glicelyn V.
Gunjan C.
Ishaan S.
Ivy E.
Mamata G.
Mamata G.
Manisha R.
Megan R.
Michelle P.
Nanami Y.
Nova F.
Oyin A.
Rayna I.
Rita D.
Robbie D.
Sameer J.
Sawa O.
Sihan L.
Sue S.
Sultana D.
Swapna I.
Tammie G.
Weihang H.
Xiaoyu S.
Yujia H.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Megan Gilchrist (Executive Director)
Jennifer Douthwaite (Director of Recreation)
Shelly Damude (Director of Child Care)
Elizabeth Pereira (Development Coordinator)
Emily Prior (Recreation Coordinator)
Rylee Willms (Child Care Supervisor)
Charlene McMillan (Front Services Supervisor)
Rhonda Paton (Bookkeeper)

PARTNERS IN PURPOSE

OUR SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alaina A.
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Joanne F.
Katie M.
Kelly L.
Kyle U.
Linda P.
Lou Anne W.
Michael C.
Mike L.
Nancy & Paul S.
Peter J.
Sara B.
Shams A.
Shannon F.
Wendy W.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Armstrong Strategy Group
City of Thorold
Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines
Niagara Peninsula Conservation
Nutrients for Life Canada
Renewed Computer Technology
ReStore - Habitat for Humanity Niagara
Shaw Festival
The Bridge

CORPORATE DONORS

Mountainview Building Group
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Bird Kingdom
CAA Niagara
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COBS Bread Ridley Square
Commisso's Fresh Foods
Costco St. Catharines Business Centre
E.D. Smith
Food Basics (Hartzel Rd, St. Catharines)
Niagara Inflatables
Niagara River Lions
Niagara Transit
Starbucks (4030 Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls)
Village Media
Windland Foods Inc. (E.D. Smith)
Zehrs (Pen Centre, St. Catharines)

GRANTORS

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Ontario Trillium Foundation / Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario / Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario
NCF Niagara Community Foundation
ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge
TC Energy
mazon Canada
Jumpstart
Jays Care Foundation
First Book Canada – Eliminating Barriers. Inspiring Young Minds.
United Way

SPONSORS

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In All One Cleaning Supplies & Paper Products Ltd.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN
2026-2031

As a nonprofit charity, Strategic Planning is imperative to our organization's long-term sustainability and serves as the guiding compass that steers us toward our vision, mission, and goals each year. **After having successfully achieved 98% of our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan goals, we are excited to look ahead to the next 5 years.**

Thanks to a generous donor and long-time supporter of the TCAG, **we brought together TCAG Board members with 18 staff representatives** in childcare, front services, recreation, fundraising, and administration for a day filled with meaningful planning at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. Facilitated by Graham Love of Armstrong Strategy Group, we spent seven hours brainstorming our plans, goals, and dreams for the TCAG's 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. **Our new mission, vision, and values (page 2)**, along with the following priorities, will guide us in the creation of an operational plan to direct our next stage of growth.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION & GOALS

SPACE & PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
TCAG's facilities and physical footprint will support inclusive programming, sustainable growth and long-term stability

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
TCAG will build stable and diversified revenue to support sustainable growth and mission delivery.

SUPPORT THE SYSTEMS & PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK
TCAG will invest in the people and systems that sustain its programs.

COMMUNITY ROLE, MEMBERSHIP, & ADVOCACY
TCAG will strengthen its voice, visibility and relationships within the greater Thorold community.

PROGRAM FOCUS & IMPACT
TCAG will deliver programs that are mission-aligned, responsive to community need and intentionally prioritized.



MORE THAN JUST A COMMUNITY CENTRE

A HEARTFELT TESTIMONIAL

My daughter was so sad that she would not be able to go to the camp anymore because we were not able to pay for it. My daughter was disappointed because she loved the first week of camp and she wanted to continue going throughout the summer...

But the supporters of the camp helped us with our payments and my daughter was able to go to every camping week! We were also struggling to be able to pay for swimming classes for her. At the camp she had wonderful experiences and even learned how to swim!

And we want to say thank you for the help. Without it, this wonderful experiences would not be possible.

- Parent of a 2025 Camper





THANK YOU!

THOROLD COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES GROUP
131 Richmond St
Thorold, ON L2V 3H3
(905) 227-0545
www.thoroldgroup.org

Follow Us!
@thoroldgroup

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