

# GREEN WOOD COALITION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



### RECONNECTING COMMUNITY

- Successful pilot of Art Thrive mental health group
- Productive re-visioning of Community Garden including a collaborative mural project
- Expansion of Port Hope Art Hive to Grace Church
- Opening of Cobourg Art Hive as a creative, accessible community space

- Community Dinner gathering in March, Christmas Party
- Summer Solstice celebration and dinner hosted by Julie Bothwell Alderville First Nation at thriving Community Garden
- Over 2000 meals and 400 food boxes home delivered to individuals through street outreach and harm reduction visits
- Resumption of memorials, Redpath and learning groups
- Hot dogs for all at Road to Cultivate free summer music series

### CREATING ABUNDANCE

### ACTIVATING CITIZENS

- 'Understanding Homelessness in Canada' award-winning open source e-book, co-authored by GWC's Nicole Whitmore
- 'Shelter in Peace' and community listening sessions
- Greenhouse-ing of grassroots projects: Cramahe Food Share, Northumberland Sleeping Cabin Collective
- Citizen activation through Community 101 leading to community fridge, emergency warming room, NSCC
- 'The Connected Community' reading/discussion groups

# THE SPIRIT OF WHAT WE DO

## A CHAT WITH OUR BOARD CHAIR

*Caleb Carisse has been contributing, most often behind-the-scenes, to Green Wood for the past 8 years and has Chaired our Board of Directors for half that time. We recently chatted with him about that experience.*

### **What motivated you to get involved with Green Wood?**

I'm born and raised in Port Hope and returning as an adult with my family, I was introduced to Green Wood through friends. Ultimately this has evolved into a passion project for me. The enjoyment that I get from serving Green Wood is a stark difference from my work life and being able to do something that I feel is meaningful for people, and impacting others, is really rewarding for me.

### **What are some accomplishments that stand out, over your time on Green Wood's Board?**

I'm really proud that we've been able to hire more people, and to take care of those who are taking care of others. It's not easy work, being on the streets, seeing people struggling on a day-to-day basis. We've prioritized more care for our team through retreats, training, and various means that have been extremely rewarding. Partnerships with businesses, with the municipalities, with individuals on the street, with our neighbors, are going to be how we continue to grow and connect on so many levels. As we've hosted learning events, we've seen different groups of people embrace what Green Wood is trying to do. That working together is one way that's going to help us move the needle on building a strong, inclusive community.

### **Has it been difficult to navigate some of the challenging 'issues' in the community?**

Green Wood has done an amazing job with bringing these issues to the forefront. My hope is that more people in the community can look at us as, not a solution or an answer to all of the problems, but can see Green Wood as a positive influence, bringing people together to do the right thing. Our activities and events really laser focus some attention--even controversial attention--on the issues that we have in our community. I think that more eyes, and more compassionate people are seeing that there's a path forward and that's what is really driving Green Wood's growth.

### **Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of Green Wood?**

My biggest hope for Green Wood is that the spirit of what we do, how we carry ourselves, and our presence in the community stays whole and is sustained. Rather than just react to problems my hope is that we have the means to actually generate something that's more forward looking. Our ultimate goal is to connect our community from top to bottom, so that when issues do arise in the future we have a source, and we have the strength as a community to be able to weather the storms.

**"It doesn't matter where you come from or your experiences, there's a common love and language that we use here that is all encompassing. I think that's part of the spirit and the attraction to being involved in something like Green Wood Coalition."**





# FINDING HOPE TOGETHER

**DAVID SHEFFIELD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Many thanks to each and every person that has supported Green Wood financially, and in so many other ways, throughout 2022. With each of us playing our role, Green Wood has continued to stand in the gap between "what is" and "what could be". While the odds seem stacked against some of our neighbours, we're encouraged by the way that caring community members have responded to our initiatives around community activation. The magic of Green Wood has always been about uncovering our community's hidden strengths and rallying around things we collectively care about.

As 2022 unfolded, we could read the welcome signs that urgent COVID-19 concerns were subsiding and it was becoming clearer what was left behind by that receding tide. When we started to resume some of our regular programming around social and emotional healing, it was obvious that there would be a slow recovery as the community redefined ideas like safety and trust.

More and more, we realize that we should rely less on systems that fall short for those who struggling the most, and more on neighbours who care, and are willing to offer their gifts, skills and heart.

That's the spirit behind the community activation that we are planting and tending. Change can be exciting but it's not easy. Shifting away from relying on institutions in favour of new ideas and urgent responses can be uncomfortable or disruptive, but the alternative is an increasing number of people left behind by housing, health and social wellbeing. Let's not allow that to continue.

In addition to creating new learning opportunities for community members, we're very encouraged by some of the significant partnerships that have formed, and the trust granted to us. Grace Church offered space to expand our Port Hope Art Hive. Cultivate Community works creatively with us on a number of year-round connecting activities. TMX Group reached out to us for a conversation that led to funding our second location at 20 King St. E. in Cobourg. Tattoos4Trauma, which provided funding for new street level initiatives, has emerged with a focus on healing from trauma and is rooted in our community.

Thank you, once more to everyone that gave, walked, cheered us on or joined with us in 2022 to make such an impact.

**"Art Group is my family, they know who I am, my struggles, my strengths, they know me. Being in a group of people that genuinely care about me is sometimes just what I need in my week, and sometimes that's the only time when I get that."**

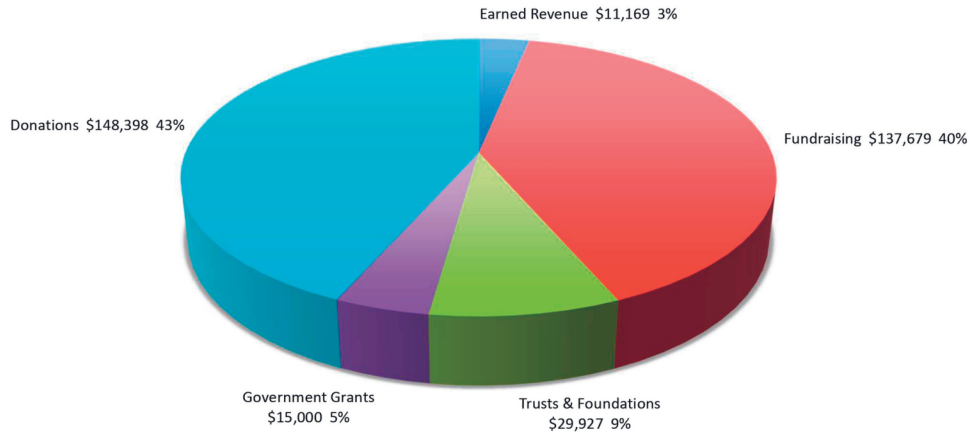
**--Linzie Mark, Art Hive**



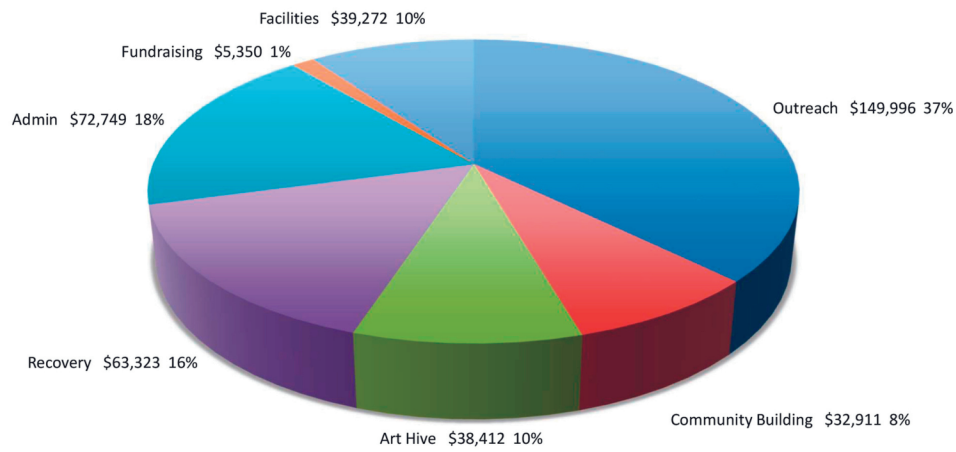
# FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

## Income 2022 - Total \$342,173



## Expenses 2022 - Total \$402,013



Our financial statements for Fiscal Year 2022 were prepared by Lynch Rutherford Tozer, Chartered Professional Accountants

