



PWA NEWSLETTER

JUNE TO AUGUST 2023

EDITORIAL



Dear members of the PWA family,

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits as we enter the month of September while we reflect on the months of June, July, and August. We want to provide you with some updates and important information regarding our collective journey.

Firstly, it is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the loss of some of our beloved community members over the past months. We stand together and commemorate their lives and remember their contributions to the community. Let us continue to support their family members and one another during these difficult times just ensuring that their memories live on through our collective strength.

Secondly, we are thrilled to celebrate the tremendous success of this year's Bike Rally. This year marked the Bike Rally's 25th anniversary, and we honour 25 years of unbelievable HIV activism and fundraising by thousands of Bike Rally participants dedicated to our cause.

We also want to ask that you please participate in the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt) Day 2023 on 29 September 2023 as we continue to support the Indigenous community.

Of great importance is the announcement that we are moving from our present location which has been sold. We are moving to 163 Queen Street. As we try to figure out all the implications of this, we want you, our extended family, to be involved in decision-making and give us your input. Therefore, please look out for our town hall meeting which will give us an opportunity to do so.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of our community. Together, we can create a future where every individual affected by HIV/AIDS is embraced with compassion and understanding.

Wishing you all safe and fulfilling months ahead!

Warm regards,

Suzanne Paddock
Executive Director



Land Acknowledgement

The **Toronto PWA Foundation** recognizes that the work we do within the modern day City of Toronto, takes place on the historical and traditional territory of many Indigenous nations including the Anishnawbe, and Wendat peoples, and more recently the Mississaugas and Haudenasaunee nations, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit people from across Turtle Island.

By making this acknowledgment, we strive to be allies and take an active part in reconciliation by honoring the land, history and unique Indigenous heritage and culture within the City of Toronto. This fosters our commitment to the recommendations set forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.





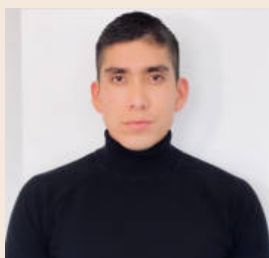
STAFF CHANGES



As of 1st September 2023, we are bidding a fond farewell to our esteemed colleague, Somdatt, as he embarks on a new chapter in his professional journey. Over the past two years, Somdatt has been an invaluable member of our team, consistently delivering exceptional work and inspiring us with his dedication and passion for his role. It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye, as we will miss his presence, expertise, and positive attitude within our organization.



It is with great joy and relief that we welcome back our dear colleague, Kyle, to our team as our Service Access Manager. After a difficult and challenging period, it is heartwarming to see Kyle return to work with renewed energy and good health. We are grateful for your contributions and excited for the positive impact we know you will continue to make. Welcome back, Kyle!



Effective of September 1, 2023, Eduardo Herrera will be our Men's Engagement Coordinator (formerly known as the PHA Engagement Coordinator). Eduardo first started with PWA as a Fronk Desk and Essentials Market volunteer in 2019. In the same year, he became a Peer with Latinos Positivos. Eduardo has dutifully coordinated PWA's men's peer-related work since February 2023, where he has already made a great impression. Please welcome and support him to do a great job in this role.

TITLE CHANGES

1. The POWER Project Peer Engagement Coordinator will now be called the **Women's Engagement Coordinator**.
2. PHA Engagement Coordinator will now be called the **Men's Engagement Coordinator**.
3. Peers will now be referred to as **Community Mobilizers**.
4. Income and Community Liaisons (ICLs) will be known as **Case Worker**.

COMMUNITY AT THE HEART



FROM WHEELS TO WONDERS: FRIENDS FOR LIFE BIKE RALLY SOARS WITH AN INCREDIBLE \$1.8 MILLION MILESTONE



The Friends For Life Bike Rally sets the bar high when it comes to making a difference and this year marked the 25th anniversary of the bike rally! Year after year, this incredible event brings together participants from all walks of life, pedaling their way towards a common goal of supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS. And boy, did they exceed expectations this year! Hold onto your seats, because they raised a whopping \$1.8 million! The bike rally supports PWA, the AIDS Committee of Montreal, and Trellis in Kingdom.

This rally is more than just a fundraiser, it's a powerful force empowering those impacted by HIV/AIDS and shining a spotlight on PWA. Talk about inspiring! With every pedal stroke, participants and supporters are making a real impact, forever changing the landscape of support and advocacy. Together, we're creating a world free from the burdens of HIV/AIDS! Let's keep the momentum going and celebrate the incredible spirit of community and compassion that fuels this rally. Get ready, because we're making a difference and showing the world what we can achieve when we come together!

"SHINING A LIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE: HONORING THOSE WE'VE LOST IN THE HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY THROUGH A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL"



The AIDS Candlelight Vigil 2023, held at the Barbra Hall Park on June 20, was a poignant and significant event that took place as part of the Pride celebrations. This vigil provided a special moment for the community to come together and commemorate the lives of those who passed away due to AIDS-related complications, as well as to honor and support individuals living with HIV.

The attendees, including many members of the PWA family, joined in solidarity during this solemn occasion. Additionally, the PWA family actively participated in a media campaign associated with the vigil, amplifying the message of remembrance and advocating for awareness and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

"CHANGING LIVES AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE: MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT PWA"

Hi. I am AKINBOLU ELEMIDE from Nigeria.

As a newcomer living in a shelter, someone told me about PWA saying that it would be a good place for me to volunteer, learn new skills and use my expertise. I went, registered, was trained and started working. What I thought was going to benefit others actually turned out to benefit me.

What a big big source of inspiration this has been for my own life! I have been doing lots of different tasks but mainly working in the Essentials Market serving community members. This has not only brought joy to my own life, but it has helped to improve the quality of the lives of people whom we serve. It warms my heart to see people go away with their grocery bags each day with a smile on their faces. I feel good knowing that I could be a part of that.

Above all, it has been a transformative experience that has enriched my understanding of the complexities of HIV and the invaluable support that is required for affected individuals. Being involved in the PWA Black History Month activities also lifted me up as a black person.

Through my involvement, I have gained firsthand experience of administration within the HIV sector, developed my organizational skills through coordinating schedules and resources and further developed my compassion and empathy while assisting community members.

Thank you PWA for this opportunity to serve and to give back. I am now working a fulltime job and do not have as much time to volunteer as I used to but I will forever be part of the PWA family.



ADVOCACY FOR ALL

REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY HEROES: A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WE'VE LOST



JUNE 1954



JULY 2023

Joana Lindsay was a beacon of kindness and compassion.



APRIL 1972



JUNE 2023

Ericah Ndiyo was a pillar of strength within our community

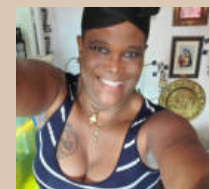


MAY 1976



JULY 2023

Silvie Sylvester Wood was an extraordinary individual who brought joy and laughter wherever he went.



MAY 1971

SEPTEMBER
2023

Dadri Anna Tannis was an energetic individual whose energy was transferrable to those around.

BURNING WITH APPRECIATION: PWA FAMILY MEMBERS FLAME UP 2 BBQ PARTIES



The first party was a special barbeque hosted by Paul and Sunny on July 18, exclusively for volunteers of the PWA family. It was a lovely gathering where everyone had a fantastic time. The hosts went above and beyond to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. The barbeque was a great opportunity for the PWA family to come together, strengthen their bonds, and create lasting memories.

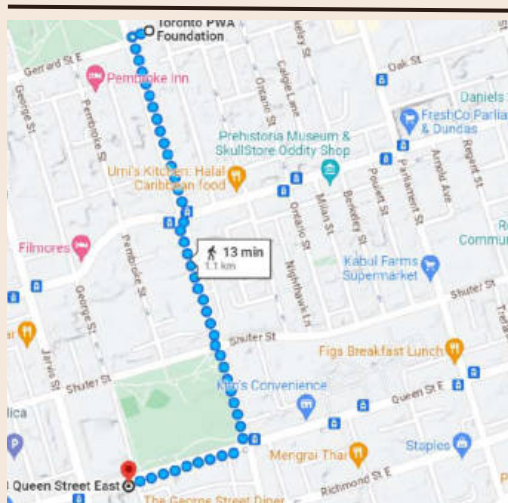
The second party was our Annual Summer Picnic, took place on Tuesday, August 22 at Christie Pits Park. It was an incredible occasion filled with laughter and enjoyment as everyone came together to have fun, savor delicious food, and cherish each other's company. The atmosphere was vibrant and delightful, making it a memorable experience for all attendees.

REFUGEES ON THE STREETS OF TORONTO!!



Toronto's at-capacity shelter system has been turning away refugees and asylum seekers since the beginning of June and referring them to federal programs, saying it needs more financial support from the federal government. However, many asylum seekers can't get federal help if their claims haven't been fully granted, leaving dozens of them stuck in limbo with nowhere to sleep.

PWA, along with several other civil society organizations, united together to raise their voices against the injustice of newcomers being forced to sleep on the streets, particularly in areas where refugees are stranded in Toronto. The members of the PWA family demonstrated their commitment to social equality and ensuring the well-being of all individuals within their community. By joining forces with other organizations, PWA expressed their solidarity and determination to address the pressing issue of homelessness and displacement, advocating for change and seeking solutions to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone, regardless of their background or status.



READY TO MOVE

PWA will be relocating to a new premises
(163 Queen Street East)

Join us on the 22nd of September at 05:30 pm online for a Town Hall meeting. Ask all questions, get the answers, give us your suggestions, let's spend time together figuring this out.

[Click to join the townhall meeting](#)



EVENTS!!!

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday & Tuesday
10:30 am to 6pm

Wednesday & Thursday
10:30 to 7pm

Friday
10:30 to 5pm

Saturday (Social Drop in)
12:00 to 4pm

Sunday
Closed

Lundi et Mardi
10:30 am to 6pm

Mercredi & Jeudi
10:30 to 7pm
marché des produits essentiels

Vendredi
10:30 to 5pm
marché des produits essentiels

Samedi (accueil Social Drop in)
12:00 to 4pm

Dimanche
Ferme

Lunes & Martes
10:30 am to 6pm

Miercoles & Jueves
10:30 to 7pm
Mercado Esencial

Viernes
10:30 to 5pm
Mercado Esencial

Sabado (Visita Social)
12:00 to 4pm

Domingo
Cerrado

PWA SALON

Limited to:-
- Cut
- Style
- Low dry set

To book an appointment contact:
Chris Godi at 416-506-1400 Ext. 261 and/or Ext. 200
or Email them at cgodi@pwatoronto.org

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT
We request that you wash your hair twice to remove hair products.

CRAFTS WITH ANGEL

THURSDAYS
12:00-14:00

DROP IN CLASS || ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED || FREE OF CHARGE

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY BY LEARNING
HOW TO MAKE JEWELRY USING BEADS AND
WEAVING



PWA, 200 Gerrard St, E 2nd floor, Toronto

PROGRAMS



MISSION

We engage people living with HIV/AIDS in enhancing their health and well-being through practical and therapeutic support services and broader social change, and we inspire them to live into their dreams and discoveries.

VISION

We live in affirming, sustaining communities where we find inspiration and support for our dreams, health, well-being and meaningful contributions.

PWA Hair Salon	Monday 12:00 pm to 04:00 pm
Acupuncture	Monday 01:00 pm - 05:30 pm
Immigration Clinic	Thursday 11:00 am - 03:00 pm Appointments only
Barbershop	Friday 12:00 pm - 04:00 pm
Massage Clinic	Friday 12:00 pm - 04:00 pm
Essentials market	Wednesday & Thursday 02:00 pm to 07:00 pm Friday 12:00 pm to 05:00 pm



Our pet program offers support in caring for your cats and dogs

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Volunteer training date September 18th
12:00 pm - 05:00 pm
Contact Nester Thom : ntom@pwatoronto.org



Join us every Friday for the Indigenous feast and healing circle
12:00 - 03:00 pm

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September 30: is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation also called Orange Shirt Day.



Visit our website and Facebook page for the details of PWA's activities to mark the day.



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JUNE TO AUGUST 2023

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



CMCC
Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College



ccnm
CANADIAN COLLEGE OF
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE



**the village
pharmacy**



TICOT
The Imperial
Court of Toronto



**CORPORATE
SPECIALTY
SERVICES**



Daily Bread
Food Bank



mazon
CANADA



McGregor



TorontoPWA



TorontoPWA



TPWA

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