The WoodGreen Foundation’s Focus is a biannual publication that highlights the organization’s work and the impact of its programs. The Focus aims to raise awareness of the need for investment into the social services sector and create more equitable tomorrows for all members of our society. A growing disparity between wealth and poverty and the increasing rate of severe mental illness and addiction can no longer be ignored. We are facing the corner. For many, the cold months ahead bring additional challenges.

I invite you to stay tuned as we embark on an ambitious new initiative to promote a greater awareness to the social services sector, inspire philanthropic leaders and introduce The WoodGreen Foundation’s newly expanded Board of Directors.

We are thrilled to have their leadership and expertise as we call and address the critical social issues that are affecting the health and well-being of our city. WoodGreen is the organization to answer the call and provide the wrap around services that can lead to long-term, sustainable solutions for some of society’s most critical issues facing our city.

Thank you for putting your trust in WoodGreen. The outstanding support and generosity of our donors and funders is truly inspirational.

I wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Leo Salom
Chair, The WoodGreen Foundation

Thank you Manpower

Back to school can be a nerve-wracking time for students. For many, back to school means the beginning of a new year. The start of the school year is an exciting time, but it can also be overwhelming for students who may be in the midst of coping with the emotional impact of caregiving.

WoodGreen’s programs have made a real difference and grown in the last year. The start of the school year is an exciting time, but it can also be overwhelming for students who may be in the midst of coping with the emotional impact of caregiving.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our newly expanded Board of Directors. The leadership team is excited to take on the role of leading the WoodGreen Foundation in the coming year and to bring about positive change, in order to ensure equitable opportunities and access for all.

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that everyone is able to tell when they leave. They have a voice and they strive to find a common story. In the Xhosa tradition of South Africa, the term, ‘Indaba’, means a discussion of issues that affect the group; everyone is led by the Village Elders. It is designed to allow for responsible adulthood, building an increased sense of community. Therefore, the term, ‘Indaba’, is applied to the meetings of the WoodGreen Alumni Travel to London Indaba.

In late August, approximately 1,500 people were welcomed to the third international Indaba Conference in London, UK. Young people, aged 12 to 25, from around the globe were able to be accompanied by program staff, were able to be part of the third international Indaba Conference in London, UK.

Every year in Toronto, approximately 700 Teens “Age Out” of the Care of the Child Welfare System. Each Year in Toronto, approximately 700 Teens “Age Out” of the Care of the Child Welfare System. This distressing situation that exists in our society. WoodGreen, throughout the country, has launched an exciting, innovative, and high-quality program that we’re calling Free 2 Be. The program focuses on: housing security and tenancy skills; high school, post-secondary education, and employment; mental health and wellness; and essential skills development, which includes: basic life skills for independence; targeted training; financial literacy; and life coaching.

The two-day, interactive cultural experience in London allowed WoodGreen Rites of Passage alumni to reflect on their own life experiences, share wisdom, and learn from the experiences and perspectives of others. It was an unforgettable and life-changing experience for the young alumni.

TO LONDON INDABA
RITES OF PASSAGE ALUMNI TRAVEL TO LONDON INDABA

WoodGreen's Rites of Passage (ROP) program was conceived in 2001. We want to get to the heart of the story and navigate the transition from adolescence into adulthood has been described as more akin to an overnight traumatic time.

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