



LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES



**2005
REPORT**



Our Mission and Values

Mission statement

Living Rock Ministries is a non-profit, Christian outreach, founded in 1985. Living Rock offers youth-at-risk a place of belonging, safety, and a bridge to the community, while supporting youth to develop a personal vision for their lives.

Values

In pursuit of our mission and vision priorities we will strive to:

- To alleviate the effects of poverty among youth-at-risk and their children
- Commit ourselves to serving youth, each other and Living Rock consistently, with compassion and while offering,
 - Unconditional love
 - Supporting youth where they are at
 - Advocating for those who cannot
- Minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of youth within the guidelines of the of Living Rock
- Be an example by living out our faith through our actions.
- Acknowledge that Living Rock operates in a diverse community and this diversity includes everyone and excludes no-one
- Living Rock will be connected to the multi-cultural community in support of youth
- Offer the message of Christ in the cultural language of youth.

We believe we can accomplish this through:

- Building and restoring relationships
- Responding to individual needs and being culturally relevant
- Building community partnerships and offering Ministry training
- Commitment to on-going learning

Board of Directors

Jeff Chalmers (Chair)
 Nancy Prior-Coxhead (Treasurer/Secretary)
 Alan Craig (Ex Officio)
 Karen Craig (Staff Representative)
 Brian Bates
 Chris Mantel

Kelvin Honsinger
 Dave McInnis
 Paul Ianni
 Ross Drummond
 Franz Nangle

Staff Team

Founder
 Alan Craig (Rev.)
 Executive Director



Karen Craig
 Program Director



Jen deVries
 TRI-Rock Coordinator



Julie Conway
 Health & Nutrition /
 Evening Coordinator



Eudora Benjamin
 Office Administrator
 / Bookkeeper



Kim McInnis
 Development
 Coordinator



Alison Dix
 TRI-Rock Employment
 Coach



Bob Moore
 TRI-Rock Employment
 Coach



Mary Anne Roy
 Breakfast Program /
 Rock Resources
 Support Staff



Erin Dufresne
 Anti-Racism
 Coordinator



Helen Bannerman
 Data Entry / Support
 Staff



Jason Withers
 Rock Resources Coach



Tim Laws
 Housing Coach /
 Breakfast Program
 Coordinator



Kevin Charles
 Breakfast Cook / Rock
 Resources Coach



Suzie Chiodo
 Breakfast Program
 Support Staff



Val Campbell
 Wellness Works
 Support Staff



Formally left the Rock in 2005 but still in our hearts & committed to the Rock

Aaron Smith
 Angela Heegsma-Koshowski
 Arnold Gerritzen
 Christina Dennis
 Dave Harris
 Keith Baker
 Laura Evans
 Tim Brand
 Wayne Porty

History of Living Rock Ministries

- Living Rock Ministries was founded in 1985 when a team prayed for God's heart for the streets. It was established to serve those unresponsive to the traditional church, including street youth and to provide a place where others with a similar vision could be trained and work together with a shared purpose.
- Chapel Services started November 19, 1985 in Hamilton Central Library... Disruptive youth in the library were told to leave the library or go to the Living Rock.
- March 1986 — Rented storefront at King and Wentworth St. and started services, drop-in and hosted Greenhouse Coffee House.
- April 22, 1987 — Received Charitable Status
- January 1989 — Living Rock Board defined the vision to “serve street youth (13 — 25 years)”. Moved into a union hall to better reach youth. Work with Youth for Christ and a committee of leaders (called Hamilton Youth Response) evaluates the needs of youth. We were given a mandate out of Ezekiel 1-3 to go “where they were living” and “sit among them” and focus on relationship building and purposeful, culturally relevant ministry.
- March 1990 — Move to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church to start Streetlight — a concert series for youth.
- 1991 — “Battle with the Bands” in Gage Park and the beginning of Summer Youth Project.
- 1995 — 1st Annual “Roll for the Rock” hosted at Hamilton Roller Gardens to enable the youth community to do a service project to assist street-involved youth.
- 1995 — Due to shifts in music and youth culture, and decreases in welfare, we change focus to an emphasis on meals and street work. Short-term projects, drama and the Rock Experience Program (REP) work program are developed. The Cottage beside St. Paul's becomes the “Rock”.
- 1997 — 1st Annual Living Rock Golf Tournament. The Christian business community assists the Rock to move towards the vision of owning a building.



- December 1999 —Purchase of the Rock Youth Resource Centre at 30 Wilson St. enables the Rock to expand programs and heighten their profile on the streets.
- January 2001 — The TRI-Rock Program begins. This program focuses on assisting youth to establish stable housing, life skills and work experience. January 2001 — Breakfast Program added to continuum of support services to youth.
- 2002 — We begin an Anti-Racism Project. Rock Action Council (RAC) our youth advisory team is created.
- Spring 2002- After extensive renovation project, we have improved the food bank, built 3 washrooms (with showers), and added a Health Centre area. Breakfast Program expanded and now includes our “Bag it Lunch” Program for youth attending school.
- Summer 2002- Wesley Youth Shelter opens on-site, providing emergency shelter for 15 youth aged 16-21.
- January 2003- Our Anti-Racism Initiative expanded. We complete a needs assessment and continue to enhance Rock Programs.
- January 2003- Soupfest I at Liuna Station heightens the Rock’s profile in the community
- February 2003- Rock Resources Program launched for high needs youth where there is specialized case management and “work-to-earn” component for these youth. Youth are involved in work projects and community service to earn points which are then translated into incentives.
- Spring 2003- Re-Create, open art studio partners with Living Rock.
- June 2003 — A once in a life time opportunity to purchase the building directly beside our existing building opens up. This has provided much-needed program space, administration area, a large gathering room, storage space and walk-in freezer.
- February 2003- “Just for Gurlz” begins and serves as an outreach to young women related to self care and personal growth.
- June 2004- “Wellness Works” program supporting pregnant and parenting teens begins.
- September 2004 – Our first formal gala dinner with sponsorship from Geraldo’s at LeSalle Park leads us to the vision of a yearly gala dinner

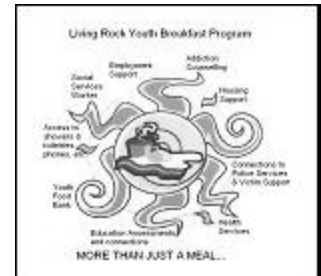


PROGRAMS & SERVICES 2005

IT'S A NEW DAY- BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Aboriginal "Mino Bnoojiinh" FAS/E and Child Nutrition Project

We all know that starting the day right has tremendous impact in our lives. With a reputation among street youth of providing the "best breakfasts on the streets", the Living Rock Breakfast Program provides a critical touch point for youth to find practical help and remove barriers that cause poverty in their lives. Every day we see youth making strides to eliminate poverty and build assets in their lives.



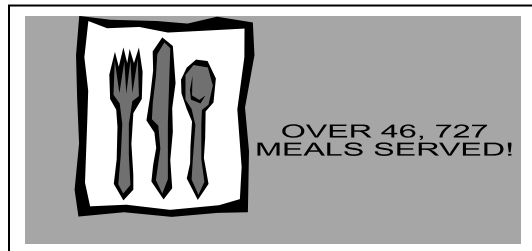
We the help of our partners and supporters, we have achieved tremendous momentum in reaching youth with not only a nutritious breakfast, but a continuum of support services offered via community partnerships. We look forward to continuing to provide these services and build on them.

Partners:

Oakrun Bakeries
Hamilton Food Share
C.R.I.E.D

Financial Supporters:

Aboriginal Health Centre
City of Hamilton
Hamilton Community
Foundation



PROGRAM STATISTICS

In 2005 a total of 10,080 youth served
68.4% youth completed intake interviews
458 referrals to other supports
123 youth accessed on-site health supports
136 youth accessed educational assessments

"JUST FOR GURLZ"

Living Rock Ministries "Just for Gurlz" program focuses on healthy lifestyle choices and self-care for young women aged 16-26. Those participating in the program can also access the food bank or visit with the Nurse Practitioner. The Activities such as crafts, self-care and topical themes are introduced through informal discussions and teachings that are focused around the needs of the young women (self-esteem, relationships, sexuality, healthy choices, community, etc.).

- In 2005, 265 youth and 275 children were part of the "Just for Gurlz" program

Philpott Memorial Church provides nursery and program area for Just for Gurlz. This program was supported by general donations to Living Rock.

LIVING ROCK HEALTH CENTRE

Through the support of the Aboriginal Health Centre, the on-site health clinic provides the services of a Nurse Practitioner for 8 hours per week (one session in the morning and one in the evening). The Living Rock health centre assures medical follow up with a population that often goes without proper medical treatment or continued medical supervision.

- In 2005, the Health Centre had 355 interactions with youth.



"Our Nurse Practitioners working at the Living Rock Health Clinic have come to develop positive relationships with the youth based on trust which allows the youth to be able to access health services and to deal effectively with their numerous, varied and diverse health issues. Our Health Centre is very privileged to be able to support young people through this pivotal point in their lives".

*Bruce K. Peterkin PhD, Executive Director,
Aboriginal Health Centre.*



The Health Centre operates only through the kind and generous in-kind donation of service provided by the Aboriginal Health Centre.

YES – YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Through our partnership with Adult Basic Education Association, youth can work on-site at the Rock to complete an education assessment, a GED pre-test, get help with resumes, and obtain current information about most public adult upgrading/training services in Hamilton. This includes information on Literacy and Basic Skills upgrading, high school credit classes, college/university information, English as a Second Language classes, newcomer services, computer courses, job training, employment resources, and specific resources for women, youth, and those with special needs.

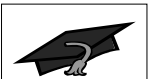
YES

- In 2005, 166 youth have worked with Adult Basic Education Association, on-site at Living Rock Ministries.
- 42 of those youth completed a formal education assessment.



One youth received an educational assessment through meeting with a representative of the Adult Basic Education Association through the Breakfast program. He was able to earn the money to write his GED through being connected to the Work program at the Living Rock.

Success: After writing his GED, he found out that he finished in the 98th percentile of all students and has since applied to Mohawk College and McMaster University for business courses.



Funding support for Educational Supports provided by Hamilton Community Foundation and the Adult Basic Education Association.



OASIS EVENING PROGRAM "LINK TO COMMUNITY AND CULTURE"

LINK TO COMMUNITY & CULTURE

The Evening Program/Oasis Coffee house provides at-risk youth with a safe and fun alternative to street culture and the activities that go along with it.

A hot dinner and a home-like atmosphere - the evening program helps participants experience normal "youth" activities, rather than the ones they are subjected to on the streets and is a key preventive measure in helping make sure youth do not become gang-involved. This initiative encourages youth creativity and explores themes about Hamilton and current events. There is a strong Anti-Racism focus as youth also learn about and celebrate cultural diversity.

Tuesday- Theme Nights
Wednesday's – Movie Night, and Sports /
Fitness at the YMCA
Thursday's – Craft and Game night

- In 2005 there were 7,360 youth visits to the Evening Program

Partners:

*Life Source Water
Hamilton Food Share
Geraldo's at LaSalle Park*

Financial Supporters:

*City of Hamilton
Hamilton Community Foundation
United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton*



UNDER GROUND ROCK SHOP - YOUTH FOOD BANK



The Under Ground Rock Shop is Hamilton's only "youth focused" food bank. The Under Ground Rock Shop is open a total of 13 hours per week, structured at various times to be accessible to youth.

- In 2005, the Under Ground Rock Shop had 3,125 youth visits and provided food for 9,176 people in their respective households.

"I depend on food banks from the 1st to the 15th and my daughter is going to food banks. She is going to the Rock [Living Rock Ministries] every day and gets breakfast; she gets bus tickets; she gets a meal."

(Page 24 in the report of the Homelessness Initiative Campaign for Adequate Welfare (HICFAW) In partnership with Social Planning research council of Hamilton, Sept 2003)

The food bank is supported by Hamilton Food Share and operated by a wonderful team of volunteers.



WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

TRI-Rock PROGRAM

The TRI-Rock Program is a four month program committed to getting youth work ready. The program provides intensive small group and one-on-one assistance to help youth successfully gain employment related life skills, and practical skills and work experience.

The TRI-Rock Program structure includes three components that have been identified as an essential continuum of supports for homeless or at-risk youth to achieve stable employment 1) help to obtain stable housing, 2) assessment of employment barriers & employment readiness soft skill training (in-house), and 3) external work placements (with community employers). Youth receive a bi-weekly stipend in Phase I. During Phase II, youth are placed on the employer's pay roll to be reimbursed up to minimum wage through the Government of Canada.

- **50 youth took part in the TRI-Rock program in 2005**



Financial Supporters of this Program:

Human Resources Skills and Development Canada

ROCK RESOURCES PROGRAM FOR HIGH RISK YOUTH

Living Rock is continuing to provide work opportunities for youth through our Work-to-Earn Rock Resources. This is a specialized "work-to-earn" program where youth are involved in work projects and community service such as the Clean Parks - Safe Parks Project, where youth are involved in cleaning three local parks. The youth earn points, which are then be translated into incentives. (i.e. bus tickets, hygiene products, apartment supplies, bill payments, etc.)

- **129 youth participated in the Rock Resources Program in 2005**



Financial Supporters of this Program:

Hamilton Community Foundation "Growing Roots ...Strengthening Neighbourhoods"

Supporting Community Partnership Initiative- Government of Canada



ROCK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Living Rock provides opportunities for youth to get involved with work projects. Youth volunteer for this program for a variety of reasons; to get connected in the community, for high school volunteer hours, to work off Community Service hours, and to work towards earning a work reference. Youth are involved in a variety of activities, such as, cleaning and stocking the food bank, meal preparation and much more.

This program is being operated without financial support

HOUSING SUPPORT

Throughout 2005 Living Rock Ministries has provided a Housing Coach to work alongside our existing programs, and assist youth in establishing and maintaining adequate and stable housing. Having the Housing Coach actively involved in programs like the Breakfast Program, only makes sense. The Housing Coach not only connects with the youth that are staying in community shelters, but also to the many youth who access the Breakfast Program for basic needs.

- **279 youth have accessed the Housing Support Program with over 359 repeat visits. 54 youth received advice on tenant rights.**
- **104 youth were helped to connected to income supports.**
- **192 youth were also referred to other community support services.**
- **Of those 59% have secured new housing accommodations.**

The Housing Coach is funded by Human Resources Skills and Development Canada, and the Supporting Community Partnership Initiative- Government of Canada



WELLNESS WORKS

Wellness Works...*Health & Nutrition Program* is offered to all pregnant and parenting youth who are between 13-25 years of age. Through this initiative Living Rock Ministries, in partnership with *National Child Benefit*, seek to decrease the affects of poverty in the lives of children. Through Wellness Works, youth have the opportunity to receive support practical supports, pre-natal & post-natal referrals, resources and care.

In 2005, Wellness Works impacted **190** youth who were either pregnant or parenting and in need of support.

- **846 packages of diapers were provided to youth as incentives for youth in the Wellness Work Program.**
- **133 cans of formula were provided to youth.**
- **187 food vouchers were provided to youth as incentives in the “earn while you learn” parenting and prenatal support sessions.**
- **238 youth were helped to connect with other support programs / agencies.**
- **67 new pregnancies were reported by youth in 2005.**

Financial Supporters of this Program:

The City of Hamilton –via National Child Benefit (NCB)



Partnerships that help make this program possible:

Aboriginal Health Centre

Adult Basic Education Association

Catholic Family Services

Home with a Heart

North Hamilton Community Health Centre

Alternatives for Youth

Beginnings

Hughson Street Baptist

Philpott Memorial

ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVE

Living Rock Ministries strives to understand the needs of all youth that access the Rock, regardless of their culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, faith or belief systems. Monthly staff trainings and consultations related to issues, (i.e. “Cultural Sensitivity”, “Hate Crimes”, “Servicing Youth that are Victims of Trauma and War”) and the development/revision of policies (i.e. “Limitation of Service” policy) will assist staff and youth to ensure the Rock is safe, responsive and accessible to all youth.



The Living Rock Ministries formed The Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) to lead in the development of orientation, training and also the development of policies that will further address the needs of the diverse community within Living Rock Ministries. The focus of the Anti-Racism initiative is to discover and develop ways in which Living Rock Ministries may become more proactive in responding to need for positive race relations for youth in the Hamilton Community and to remove any barriers to the full participation of ethno-racial groups at the Rock (as program participants, staff, volunteers and board members).

Heritage Canada supported Living Rock Ministries Anti-racism Project from 2002-March 2006.



ARTS OF AUGUST – HANDS AROUND THE WORLD PROJECT

Each summer Living Rock sponsors an Art Program through which youth are encouraged to imagine and express a better world for themselves and our community. The theme of “Love, Peace, and Celebrating Cultural Diversity” helps connect youth with each other, and the community. The program partners with art instructors from diverse cultures and also provides a wonderfully positive anti-racism emphasis. Through this program Living Rock Ministries offers free, mixed media art projects and activities to disadvantaged youth. The project finishes with a free opportunity for Living Rock youth and other diverse, city-wide youth groups to showcase their own art projects and win awards at our Arts of August Grand Finale art exhibit at the Hamilton Central Library.



This program is currently unfunded.

Partnerships that help make this program possible:

Hamilton Public Library	Immigrant Culture & Art Association
Urban Alley	Re-Create Open Art Studio
Aboriginal Health Centre	

URBAN MINISTRY TRAINING CENTRE – YOUTH STREET RETREATS

Living Rock's Urban Ministry Training provides teaching, training, and internship opportunities to McMaster, Mohawk, seminary and high school students, as well as churches, and lay leaders that want to work with at-risk youth.

Our youth group street retreats also helped various youth teams understand and experience the issues facing street-involved youth. Youth teams spend the day exposing myths about street youth and hearing about the challenges that they face. They take part in workshops like trying to balance a budget based on social assistance and well as going out on the streets and using a foodbank or community meal program. They can also take part in service projects on-site at the Rock (cleaning and repairs, supper preparation, stocking the foodbank, etc.).

Financial Supporters for Street Retreats:

Crime Prevention Funding via



Public Safety and Emergency
Preparedness Canada

Sécurité publique et
Protection civile Canada

Canada

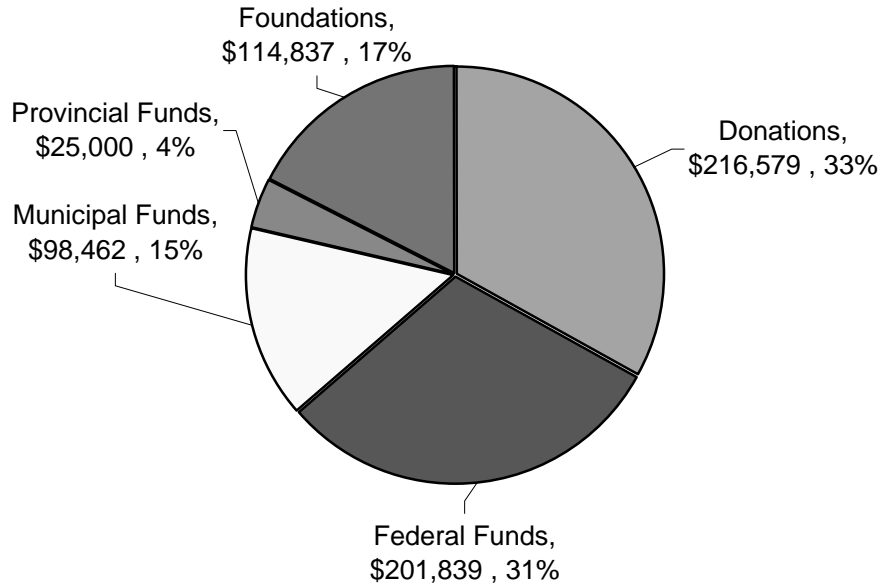
VOLUNTEERS

In 2005 over 85 volunteers have helped to make Living Rock a place of belonging and safety, and a bridge to the community for youth.

We could not accomplish a fraction of the results in this report without their support and would like to take this opportunity to thank them and acknowledge them.

FINANCES

Rock 2005 Income (\$ 657,017)



Rock 2005 Expenses (\$ 648,851)

