



20 Years Strong

DAREarts has been empowering Canadian children in underserved communities to be leaders who ignite change

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

darearts
KIDS IGNITING CHANGE

DARE to dream... DARE to believe... DARE to achieve... DARE to lead!

A DARE drives you to think out of the ordinary; to dream of the impossible, to believe that you can do it, to take action that is beyond your comfort zone, and then to lead others to DARE too.

20 years ago, as an elementary school teacher, I saw kids struggle to find their voice, their courage. Education environments sometimes posed barriers to kids learning, especially if they faced challenges in their daily lives – poverty, social exclusion, bullying, gangs, choices that would lead them down a path that destroyed their hopes.

I wanted to find a way to reach into their learning potential and unlock their confidence and creativity. I've always believed that the arts has the power to change lives! I recall a time that I ran a before and after school music and arts program – I would arrive to find the kids waiting for me, ready and eager to explore. They wanted to engage, they wanted to discover, they wanted to find their voice, their sense of self-worth.

I knew if learning was fun and engaging, with expectations to strive for excellence, the kids would rise to that level. That they would achieve it for themselves and support each other to reach it. That's how I taught and how my classroom was run. Reading and spelling

became opportunities to engage the class in the shared pursuit of achieving more, and the students personally committed to themselves and to the success of all!



The classroom formed the early framework for the DARE values and principles are still in action today. I didn't know that when we began with 20 children and 10 schools in Toronto, 20 years later, these four simple words, would come to mean so much in the lives of so many kids: Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence. Wrapped in an environment of positive reinforcement and belief, they have found their way into the lives of over 200,000 young leaders!

I am humbled when a grad steps up to share their leadership voice – how DAREarts has given them the pathway to make better choices, to implement the DARE values every day as they grow and pursue careers, families and create a stronger community for themselves and others.

My hope for the future is that 20 years from now, the collective energies of all the kids continues to be the breath and life of this program – that we will have another generation of connected kids from across Canada, mobilizing their passions, defining their purpose and sense of self – finding joy in giving joy to others, as I have had the honour of witnessing over these past years.

To my family, our staff, our volunteers, our supporters – all that I can say is thank you. Thank you from the kids and the commitment you've made to them. Thank you from me – you've made my DARE come true, and I hope you will continue to make our DAREarts stronger than it's ever been before.

Marilyn Field, M.S.M., Founder, President

Letter to Stakeholders

Thank you for your generous and continuing support which has helped DAREarts provide 20 years of arts and leadership education, empowering 200,000 Canadian children in need with courage and confidence to be leaders.

2016 Milestones

- DAREarts reached 10,328 children in need from over 45 schools across Canada: 87% in urban communities – Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax; 8% in rural communities; and 5% in Aboriginal communities.
- 151 daylong workshops were delivered in music, dance, drama, visual art, architecture, literature, photography,

fashion and culinary arts, instilling our values of Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence.

- Evaluations measured a significant positive impact on the children's social, emotional, cognitive and behavioural development.
- 6 youths were trained as mentors.
- 7 community showcases drew up to 400 people in each audience.

The Year Ahead

DAREarts will continue to build sustainable capacity as we work towards empowering another 60,000 children and \$5 million by 2021.

- **Sustain national impact** Strengthen local teams in each region; continue to

implement the succession plan.

- **Clarify fundraising** Diversify industry sources of revenue; enhance individual donation programs; add Board Directors with relevant expertise.
- **Build awareness** Outsource strategic marketing; build social media presence and national awareness.

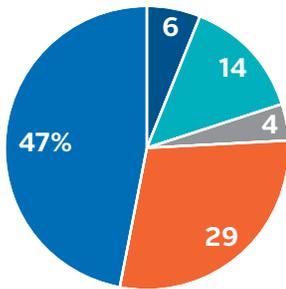
Our supporters, partners and team are key to our success. Because of you, more youths will DARE to reimagine themselves as leaders, ignite change in their lives and create a strong future for us all.

Barry Cracower, Chair

Financial Report

In F2016, DAREarts revenues increased to \$713,537 – up 8% over F2015. DAREarts F2016 expenses were kept to \$702,618 or 3% higher than the previous year.

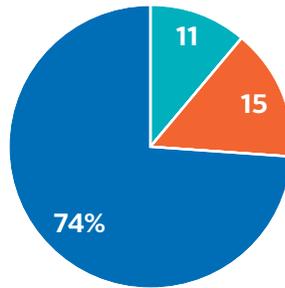
47% of revenue came from corporations and corporate foundations, 29% from individuals, 14% from private foundations, 4% from government and 6% from school registrations and other. DAREarts' lead supporter was Northbridge Insurance, followed by Scotiabank and TD. Other major supporters included Guy Carpenter, the Judith Teller Foundation, Anne Livingston, Dave and Teresa Thomas, two anonymous foundations, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto District School Board.



- corporations & corporate foundations \$337,802
- individuals \$208,115
- government \$24,375
- private foundations \$99,277
- other revenues \$43,968

Funding achieved through the Leadership Awards, Holiday Cheer and the First Roots Feast could not have happened without the support of 254 volunteers.

74% of the funds were spent on students' education programs, 11% on fundraising, and 15% on administration, providing DAREarts with the capacity to sustain programs in key communities across Canada.



- arts education programs \$517,018
- administration \$106,633
- fundraising \$78,967

DAREarts Programs Report

- **DAREarts Toronto** Children from 36 TDSB schools in 82 daylong arts workshops were empowered to be leaders. *DAREarts team leaders: Laura MacKinnon, Lisa Norton*
- **DAREarts Indigenous First Roots Program** Teens in remote Ontario communities engaged in 24 days of workshops. More workshops in Vancouver, Toronto and Halifax introduced Indigenous culture to non-Indigenous children. *DAREarts team: Laura MacKinnon, Kaitlyn Ferris, Cathy Elliot, Glenn Marais, Shelley MacDonald*
- **DAREarts Vancouver** Children from 2 downtown eastside school engaged in 5 daylong workshops, partnering with the Vancouver Opera. *DAREarts team leaders: Shelley MacDonald, Karen Myskiw*

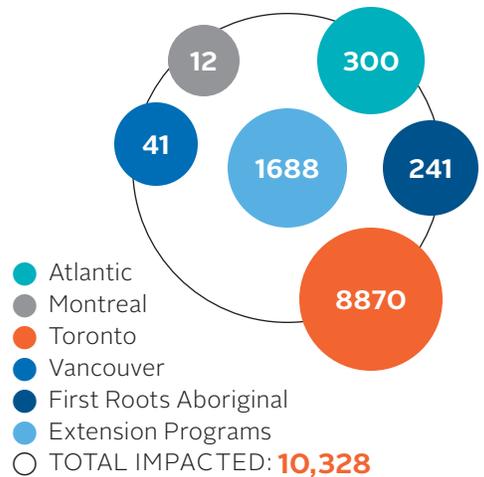
- **DAREarts Atlantic** Grade 6 students from 3 schools in Millbrook, Coal Harbour and Halifax participated in 18 days of hands-on workshops. *DAREarts team leaders: Trish Gibbon, artist Alan Syliboy*

DAREarts Extension Programs

- **DAREarts Leadership** Teen grads continued their leadership and life skills training with monthly Friday evening workshops.
- **DAREarts summer camps** Toronto youth participated in workshops in partnership with The Stratford Festival. *Led by Laura MacKinnon and Jennifer Parr.*
- **DAREarts cards** Children painted cards to bring awareness about Indigenous children.

Children Impacted

DAREarts' programs reached 10,328 children in F2016. The impact of these children on their peers and families is far reaching and long lasting.



DAREarts Mission

Empower at risk youth to build confidence, courage and their inner leader. By harnessing the power of the arts and DARE values, they will DARE to ignite change.

DAREarts Vision

Inspiring young Canadian youth with a lifelong motivation for creative thinking, excellence and leadership through educational experiences in the arts.

About DAREarts

DAREarts is a non-profit charity that works with identified children ages 9 to 19 in underserved communities across Canada. DAREarts' out-of-school programs use creative thinking and workshops with arts professionals to inspire personal discovery and values. As the children gain confidence and courage to tackle life challenges, they see a wider world of possibilities and hope. By peer teaching in their schools, the children build leadership skills and influence over 10,000 Canadian children yearly.

DAREarts – Celebrating 20 Years Strong!

As part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations, we asked our program graduates to answer some questions about themselves, among them: Where are you and what goals are you working to achieve? What challenges did you face growing up and how did you overcome them? How did DAREarts help you to deal with those challenges or influence you? Here are their answers.



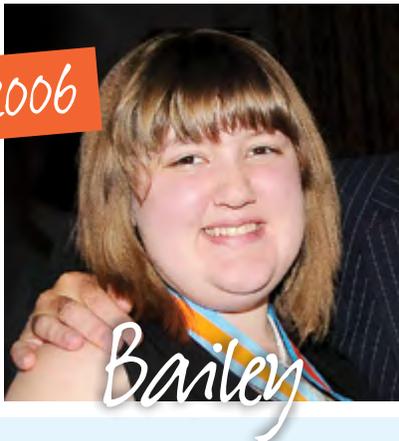
“A place to belong, to be accepted, DARE to be different.”

Life as a new immigrant was not easy. I arrived in Canada at the age of six from Ghana. I was lucky to have a supportive and loving family. As a kid facing the realities of discrimination, racism and being bullied for being different, it made me feel alone.

DAREarts gave me the chance to be a normal kid in a unique and empowering program. It was fun to try something new, out of the daily routine of an unwelcoming situation. When I think back, I can further appreciate being afforded the chance to DARE myself to be different at an early age. It broadened my horizons as I grew up and taught me respect for my fellow person.

As an adult, I have completed my education and have achieved my goal of a career as an Optometrist and sole business proprietor.

Ekow is DAREarts' first doctor!



“Now, I’m a lot more confident in myself and my skills.”

I was very bullied my entire life which made it very hard to trust people and make friends. I found that it took loving myself and accepting that I’m a good person despite what the bullies say to really break out of that cycle and accept me for me. Now I’m a lot more confident in myself and my skills and I don’t let what anyone says about me get me down anymore.

It took being part of something as great as DAREarts to help me accept that not everyone will like you. It also took the guidance of my DAREarts teachers and family to help me do something great with my future and although I’m not exactly at the place I want to be (considering I’m still not working in the field I went to university for) I know that when the right job and the right place for me to work comes around, I will be more than prepared. I have DAREarts to thank for much of the confidence I have to this day.

Bailey is a university graduate.



“Because of DAREarts, I have a dream.”

“Some children that come to DAREarts are orphans like me. I was nine years old. My mother drank almost every night and died from substance abuse. My father was a drug addict. He abandoned me when I was seven years old and he died when I was twelve. After that, I was angry and just plain timid.

Thanks to DAREarts, I have gained my socialization skills back. They helped me deal with my anger problems. They pushed me, in a good way, to realize that the world won’t stop for a timid or angry person. Through the arts, DAREarts taught me that there is so much more to art than painting a picture or making a sculpture. That art is everywhere. It’s in the way we look at things, not the way things “should” be. What DAREarts has given me a second chance at life.

I now plan on doing something that will impact the world positively.

Liz is attending Lakehead University.



“DAREarts and Traditional culture: these two keep me going to school.”

“When DAREarts came to Webequie FN, I didn’t think it was for me. When the DAREarts instructors came to the class, I sat there quietly to listen to what they had to say. The activities they were going to do for the next two weeks were b-boying and moccasin making. What stood out to me the most was moccasin making.

I thought I was going to finish them in three days. But I made mistakes the first two days. I didn’t know there were steps to follow like measurement of my foot and what to sew first. Autumn and hunting were calling to me – I wasn’t sure if I was going to finish. I wanted to quit. When the DAREarts instructor said that he’ll be here in the evenings, I went there every evening to catch up. While I didn’t finish in program, I wanted to finish my muks.

During those weeks, I realized that anything is possible if you put your mind to it and it became easy. It took me almost a month to finish. I don’t know how many times I started over on my muks from the mistakes. Discipline, Action, Respect and Excellence: remembering these teachings from this experience from DAREarts taught me a new lesson in life: “If you fall down you can always get back up stronger.”

Trenton dreams of being an Indigenous Cuisine chef.



“I exercised my discipline, action, responsibility and excellence, finished high school as a young teen mother and got a college degree.”

“With DAREarts, I went from being an abused girl surrounded by people determined to tear her down; who were poverty stricken, mentally ill, or addicted to drugs and alcohol – to a mother who refuses to let her daughter fall victim to the same plights. When I was in grade four, the principal did me the greatest favour and recommended that I enroll in DAREarts, where I met the woman who I still consider my mother – Marilyn Field.

DAREarts taught me to take responsibility for my actions and to have the strength to endure my life challenges. The arts taught me creativity to problem solve throughout life and gave me an outlet to pour out my feelings of helplessness when I needed it. I exercised my discipline, action, responsibility and excellence, finished high school as a young teen mother and got a college degree.

My largest accomplishment – one could say, made possible through DAREarts – is my thirteen-year-old daughter, who is a true leader who is capable of anything.

Thank you DAREarts for inspiring me to be a better person for myself as a child, teenager, adult and mother, and enabling me to break the cycle of poverty for my child. You taught me I could do it and I did.”

Crisy is an accountant with the government in Victoria.



“DAREarts taught me survival skills in a way I would never have expected.”

As a teen growing up in urban Toronto, I knew firsthand of the need for survival skills in the struggle against drugs, gangs and ghettos. DAREarts taught me skills in a way I would never have expected. It pulled me up into the international community of Toronto and the world beyond my neighborhood. Once I saw the light by learning about many cultures, art, music, dance, etc. as expressions of self, my vision and friendships have become global.

DAREarts values even saved my life. After I joined DAREarts, my life was threatened at gunpoint by two neighborhood gang members. I drew on my new confidence to evade the challenge. I remember thinking, “I am DAREarts, I can do this,” as I told them to back off and began making as much noise as possible. They ran away. Regrettably, the two gang members shot another teen later that day.

After graduating from DAREarts in grade 8, I continued to volunteer with the younger children. In high school, became the president of the TDSB Student SuperCouncil. DAREarts gave me the confidence to expand my ambitions and to succeed. I established a charity (www.LetsStopAIDS.org) to reach children with HIV and AIDS in third world countries.”

Shamin is now Director of Operations, Deciem.

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DAREarts Foundation Inc. & TDSB teacher

Evaluations

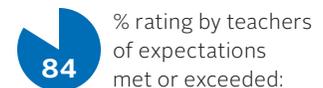
evaluation by children



evaluation by parents



evaluation by teachers



- improved critical thinking, engagement and confidence
- improved school attendance
- decreased drug and gang activity
- students more eager to participate and take leadership
- DAREarts programs requested by principals, teachers, counselors

Operating Results

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR AUGUST 1, 2014 TO JULY 31, 2015

REVENUES & EXPENSES

| | OPERATING FUND | HERMAN SMITH MUSIC FUND | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Revenues | 713,380 | 157 | 713,537 | 657,960 |
| Expenses | 702,618 | — | 702,618 | 681,716 |
| Excess (deficiency) | 10,762 | 157 | 10,919 | (23,756) |
| Net assets – beginning of year | 56,302 | 5,203 | 61,505 | 85,261 |
| Net assets – end of year | 67,064 | 5,360 | 72,424 | 61,505 |

CURRENT ASSETS

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cash and bank | 22,008 | 5,360 | 27,368 | 68,256 |
| Investments | 30,803 | — | 30,803 | — |
| Accounts receivable | 31,830 | — | 31,830 | 10,273 |
| Property & equipment (net of amortization) | 10,823 | — | 10,823 | 13,474 |
| Total assets | 95,464 | 5,360 | 100,824 | 92,003 |

CURRENT LIABILITIES

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Accounts payable & accrued liabilities | 10,926 | — | 10,926 | 6,775 |
| Due to related party | — | — | — | 23,723 |
| Deferred revenue | 17,474 | — | 17,474 | — |
| Total liabilities | 28,400 | — | 28,400 | 30,498 |

NET ASSETS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Unrestricted | 67,064 | — | 67,064 | 56,302 |
| Restricted | — | 5,360 | 5,360 | 5,203 |
| Total net assets | 67,064 | 5,360 | 72,424 | 61,505 |
| Total liabilities & funds | 95,464 | 5,360 | 100,824 | 92,003 |

For a copy of the BDO Dunwoody LLP full audited statements, please contact DAREarts at 905-729-0097

Lead Supporter

\$75,000+



Platinum Supporters

\$25,000 – \$74,999



David & Teresa Thomas
2 Anonymous Foundations

Gold Supporters

\$15,000 – \$24,999



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Government Support



Silver Supporters

\$7,500 – \$14,999

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Zast Foods Corporation

Awards & Scholarships

Crichton Community Leadership Scholarship
Rick Patina Prize
Paul Semple Scholarship
Herman Smith Music Trust
William Stevenson Scholarship
Jay Tennant Music Scholarship

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\$1,000 – \$2,999

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| Rt. Hon. Paul Martin | |



Thank you for empowering us!

Twenty years of empowering Canadian children in underserved communities to be leaders who ignite change.



DAREarts Foundation Inc.
3042 Concession 3 Adjala
RR1 Palgrave ON LON 1P0

1-888-540-2787
905-729-0097
905-729-0037 (fax)

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A very special thank you to volunteer photographer Alan Dunlop.

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