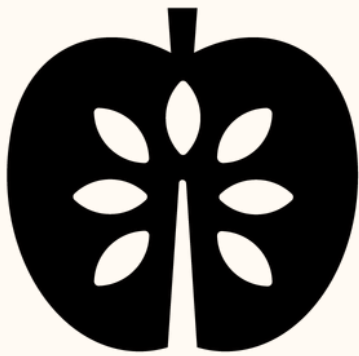




**NOT FAR
FROM
THE TREE**

2025 IMPACT REPORT



THE LAND WE WORK ON

Not Far From The Tree, as well as its staff and volunteers, operates on Lands that have traditionally been, and continue to be, stewarded and tended by many Indigenous nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Three Fires Anishinaabek Confederacy, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

These territories are covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, a treaty between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek Confederacies, as well as allied nations, to mutually care for and honor these Lands. All who live here are a part of this agreement, responsible for sharing and respecting this Land: we are all treaty people.



As an organization whose focus is on tending to our relationships to surrounding Lands and trees, we are cognizant of the ways ongoing processes of colonialism, dispossession, and Eurocentricity shape our practices. These include our operational and organizational structure, our tending to of non-native fruit trees brought here by immigrants, our participation in the construct of private property, and the specific life experiences and skills which we bring to building organizational relationships. We commit to continually hold and address these contradictions as we continue to deepen respectful relation with these Lands and its Beings.



MISSION

To harness the power of fruit trees to create healthy, resilient, sustainable and connected communities across Toronto. We empower Torontonians to pick and share fruit that would otherwise fall to waste while providing opportunities to connect with their neighbours, environment, and food system. We act as, and empower people to become, stewards of the urban orchard to ensure its benefits can be realized for generations to come.

OUR VISION

We envision a Toronto where all have access to the urban harvest as part of a resilient food system that builds community and is based on the value of shared abundance. To achieve this vision, we work to:

- Bring communities together around the harvest
- Increase access to healthy, local fruit
- Raise awareness of the urban orchard as a food source
- Promote the urban orchard's health
- Amplify the work of the agencies we donate to

OUR VALUES

Equity: We believe everyone deserves access to fresh, nourishing food.

Shared Abundance: We believe in the spirit of generosity, and aim to reflect this in how we interact with all stakeholders. We openly share the urban harvest and knowledge needed to sustain it.

Connection & Collaboration: We bring people together; neighbours, community members, volunteers, donors, and partners to offer meaningful relationships with each other and our environment. We thrive through collective action, valuing partnership and cooperation to create greater, mutually beneficial impact together.

Environmental Stewardship: We understand the value our natural world brings. We honour the gifts of the land by caring for fruit trees and the urban ecosystem with respect, reciprocity, and responsibility for future generations of animals, plants, and people.

Resourcefulness: We make the most of what we have: reducing waste, finding creative solutions, and continuously learning and growing as individuals as a community.

Transparency: We build trust by acting with integrity, communicating openly, and being accountable.





OUR PROGRAM GROWS BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE IN IT!

2025 Staff Team

Julia Girmenia, Project Director
Nat Karpovskaia, Program Manager
Ali Vanos, Program Coordinator

Steering Committee

Madelaine Emberson; Ali Abbas; Niya Bajaj; Erik Benneter; Fallon Butler; Reem Dabbous; Ryan Frigault; Anne Lemesurier; Walter Sisti

Not Far From The Tree is a project on [MakeWay's](#) shared platform, which provides operational support, governance, and charitable expertise for change makers. The shared platform enables NFFTT the time and money to go towards achieving greater impact.

FRUIT PICKERS

Fruit Picker volunteers join their neighbours for backyard harvests. With the leadership from their Pick Leader, they learn how to pick fruit safely and sustainably, work together to harvest fruit that gets shared across the city, and bring home fresh, local fruit.

PICK LEADERS

Pick Leader volunteers are the essential coordinators of our program, responsible for scheduling and facilitating backyard fruit harvests across Toronto from June to October. After scheduling the harvest, they manage all on-site logistics, including bringing necessary equipment, training Fruit Pickers to pick the fruit, and ensuring the harvest is shared equally and delivered to local community agencies.

TREE REGISTRANTS

Tree Registrants open their backyards to Fruit Pickers and share their abundance with people across the city. After registering their tree in our Fruit Picking Portal, Tree Registrants are contacted by a Pick Leader to schedule a fruit pick.

WE SHARE EACH HARVEST 3 WAYS!

1/3 to the
Tree Registrant

1/3 between the
Fruit Pickers

1/3 to a
community
agency





LET'S BREAK DOWN THE 2025 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS...



This was my first time fruit picking and I learned a lot more about local fruits in my area.
I never expected Toronto to have so much fruit!
Pick Leaders were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable, and I had pleasant experiences
learning and picking (and of course) eating the fruits! - CC, Fruit Picker



The group pick out at the orchard was amazing!
It felt like a village workday and picnic from a time when we lived more communally.
- J, Pick Leader

REVENUE & EXPENSES

MakeWay Charitable Society

NOT FAR FROM THE TREE

Condensed financial statement

Date: April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

Income	\$
Grants & Awards	\$170,100.00
Donations	\$43,967.69
Corporate & Group Volunteering	\$13,150.00
Fruit Picker & Tree Registrant Memberships	\$13,903.61
Bank Interest	\$4,188.20
Total Revenue	\$245,309.50
Expenses	-\$
Employee Salary, Benefits, and Taxes	-\$206,262.29
Contractors & Consultant Fees	-\$26,505.79
Operational Expenses	-\$8,764.99
Credit Card Fees	-\$792.48
Website & Marketing	-\$3,674.84
Fruit Picking Programming	-\$13,102.64
Total Expenses	-\$259,103.03



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Foundation



Peter Gilgan
Foundation

\$25,000+



THE CHAWKERS
FOUNDATION



**Choice
Properties**

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

\$15,000+

Nicola Hives
Eric Lee
The Veritas Foundation

\$10,000+

Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement
The Marjorie and Joseph Wright Memorial Foundation
S. M. Blair Family Foundation
PYR Software LTD.
Walter Sisti
Alexander Household

\$1,000+

Aanchal Anand
Amy Buitenhuis
Andrew Simpson
Angela Barber
Angelica Siegel
Anne LeMesurier
Anonymous (Unknown)
Antonia Palmer
Arlene Clement
Ashley Abbott
Association of Gleaning
Organizations
Avi Engel
Benjamin Watt-Meyer
Bernadette Millette
Bev Swerling
Beverley Davis
Blake Williams
Carina Miki
Carol Pauker
Caroline J Connell
Celia Harte
Charlotte Stephens
Cindy Peer
Corin Toporas
Cristina Canton
Crystal Brummell

Dan Atkinson
Deborah Olsen
Doris Bergen
Dylan Reid
Elisheva Adina Gamse
Elizabeth Pasternak
Elizabeth Ridolfo
Eunice Youhanna
Evergreen Brick Works
Fallon Butler
Fool's Paradise
Gurbeen Bhasin
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Ilana Wilner
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Miriam Wilson
Mona Garde
myra lefkowitz
Naomi Levine
Neil Phillips
Nicola Charles
Nicola Hives
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Paul Cascagnette

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Rachel Loo
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Rozeena Dass
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Scott Loubser
Sheila Block
Spadina Museum
Susan Braidwood
Susan Macpherson
Susan Poizner
TD Friends of the
Environment
Todd Irvine
Tom Scanlan
Tymea Sarkozy
Vincent Chamberland
Vivien Leong
Wing-Yee Fung

* Thank you also to those
donors who have chosen to
remain anonymous in public
materials.

INDIVIDUALS



THANK YOU

FOR ANOTHER FRUITFUL YEAR!



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