

Embrace Action (EA) Vision – Executive Summary

Fairlawn’s EA Vision Statement: Fairlawn will be actively engaged in promoting positive social and economic change to those in need in our world, with our ultimate goal to support a just and sustainable world.

The Fairlawn Approach to EA: Embracing Action at Fairlawn means that we step out of our silos and are enriched by getting to know those who are marginalized and whose Voice has been silenced. This experience engages our hearts, challenges stereotypes and moves us to learn about why some of our neighbours live in poverty. From this comes a desire to advocate for systemic change that will make poverty a thing of the past.

External Goal (5 year focus): Strive to eradicate poverty.

We provide symptomatic relief and support to those whose lives are precarious: Refugee programme, Walk-in Support, Boarding Homes Ministry, Camp Scugog, Christian Resource Centre, Lansing food bank and donations to external agencies through our EA fund.	We address the root causes of poverty by advocating in 4 focus areas under the leadership of our Social Justice team: i. The lack of affordable housing ii. Insufficient social assistance rates iii. Inadequate minimum wage iv. Growing income inequality
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Internal Goals:

- i. Fairlawners will become more actively involved:
 - a. Congregants will have an opportunity to live their faith and respond to God’s calling as a Christian community.
 - b. Participation will provide the opportunity to be transformed – to break barriers and dispel stereotypes about those who are marginalized and living in poverty.
 - c. Relationships between congregants will be strengthened.
- ii. Newcomers will be inspired to join us. Fairlawn will be seen as a place where they can help to create a just and sustainable world.
- iii. Stronger relationships will be built between Embrace Action programs. Volunteers from different programs will have the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by each other.
- iv. Each EA program will have defined goals and objectives.
- v. The profile of each program will be raised in such a way as to draw more talent and financial support for the work that we do.

2017 Focus:

- i. Expand our current programs by getting more people involved and by increasing funding where able. Programs will be continuously reviewed and adapted as needed.
- ii. Develop new EA programs according to the interests and energy of the congregation. They will be rated by how well they meet the key external goal of addressing poverty in some way and the five internal goals stated above.
- iii. Focus our Embrace Action spending on Fairlawn’s in-house EA programs and on external agencies engaged in poverty work.

Embrace Action Lay Ministry Teams: For more information, or to volunteer, go to <http://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/action/>

Lay Ministry Team	Description	Leader	No. of Volunteers
Boarding Homes Ministry	Every second Thursday afternoon, a small team of volunteers visits a local boarding home. They bring food, music, laughter and conversation.	Rob Metcalf	7
Camp Scugog	We provide Fairlawn Members of all ages, who have an affinity towards camping/poverty reduction and a desire to give/develop their gifts, an opportunity to make an impact on the lives of those served by Lake Scugog Camp.	Patti Smith	4 core team organizers Over 75 others who help in many ways
Christian Resource Centre (CRC) in Regent Park	Fairlawn members volunteer to serve meals at the community kitchen, collect clothing for the Clothes for Friends Program, assist with English as a second language programs, run Knitting classes, serve on the organization's board of directors, and volunteer for a variety of other activities.	Gary Schlee	25
Lansing Food Bank	Fairlawn supports the efforts of the Lansing United food bank through the collection of food and money and the provision of volunteers.	Sandy McKinstry Marilyn King	3
Refugees	Fairlawn is currently supporting 2 families to successfully integrate into Canadian society. We are anticipating our 3 rd family in the new year. In addition to the church providing financial support for one year, volunteers help our newcomers connect to important resources for such things as housing, medical/dental needs, schools, English instruction and employment.	Kathleen Magladry	3 core support teams for a total of 18. Over 50 additional volunteers have helped in significant ways over the past year.
Walk-in Support	The first Tuesday morning of the month, Fairlawn opens its doors to those who are struggling to make ends meet. We offer a warm and friendly environment where visitors have a hot drink and snack, a chance for conversation with volunteers and time with the minister. Grocery gift cards are distributed.	Rob Metcalf	11
Social Justice team	We educate ourselves and our congregation about the root causes of poverty and by joining our voices with those of other faith and secular groups, we advocate for systemic change that would make poverty a thing of the past.	Kathy Salisbury	6 team members. 65 Social Justice Seekers interested in staying informed.