

CREW outreach to women in St James Town during COVID

CREW is working alongside women leaders of St James Town to identify women at risk, reduce social isolation, and address their concerns.



Consent



- In order to proceed, we need your oral consent

“I consent for this meeting to be recorded”

Our goal priorities

- Information & Navigation
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Personal Safety
- Social Inclusion & Learning

Project Objectives

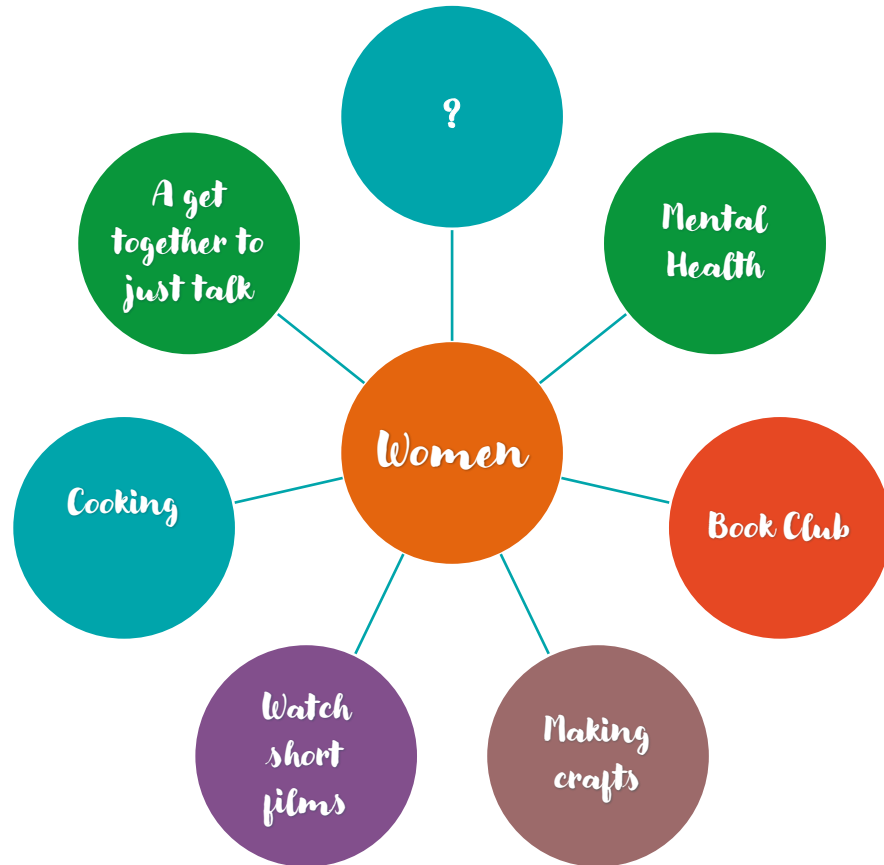
- We are reaching out to a group of around 20 isolated women during covid-19, on at least a weekly basis, via electronic conferencing.
- We will provide tablets, along with the internet hookup to connect the group to the most isolated without any device to connect. This will bring an opportunity to provide social interaction, identify concerns, provide advice on minimizing the pandemic impacts, and referring them to services that they may take advantage of (e.g. food banks/distribution, counselling, employment etc)
- Through having the group linked electronically via Zoom, we are able to hold facilitated discussions that allow sharing of concerns and a semblance of connectivity among women in isolation.

Getting to know each other

- Please share with us your name and building name.
- How Covid-19 is changing your life?
- How are you coping with the pandemic?
- What topics you want to discuss in our weekly virtual meetings?

Women health – making craft – show and tell,
watch short films, videos followed by
discussion.....

Designing our weekly virtual meetings



About CREW



CREW

Community Resilience to Extreme Weather

is a project of MakeWay Initiatives Society, a
Canadian Charity



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- CREW grew out of a community meeting in January 2014 that was held in response to recent weather events (July 2013 floods and December 2013 ice storm).
- It was assembled by CREW co-founder, Rita Bijons, a highly regarded environmental activist, and the City of Toronto's Senior Environment Officer, Dave MacLeod.
- People attending that January meeting agreed that in order to optimize the city's scarce resources, an active and committed volunteer network would be invaluable in providing information and resources to help communities and residents prepare for future extreme weather.
- CREW Toronto helps to inform, educate and build that network as it connects Torontonians to resilience information, models and toolkits.



Our Projects

What does CREW do?



- **Extreme weather volunteers (floor & block captains)**

CREW piloted its concept and methods in Victoria Village and Ward 13 and now at 77 Howard Street “The Toronto” building.

CREW provides training, tools and strategies to help residents to do what comes naturally — neighbours helping neighbours.

- **Neighbourhood Stakeholder Networks**

CREW helps to make local neighbourhood connections among the widest variety of stakeholders: community groups, residents, business, faith groups, libraries and more.

- **Neighbourhood Resiliency maps**

CREW maps the climate hazards and risks in your neighbourhood along with its local strengths and weaknesses. Where would you go in an emergency?

- **Resilientville Canada Role Playing game** - It is a role-playing exercise that advances participant awareness of the short and long term benefits of problem solving at the neighbourhood level.

Project Background



- From 2018 to 2019 – CREW in collaboration with Faith and the Common Good Organization implemented the lighthouse pilot work and it took place in St. James Town (SJT)
- This downtown neighbourhood is high-density (17,000 people), generally low-income and very diverse.
- SJT residents come from all over the world. Some stay only a short while; others are established in the community.
- We collaborated with a local community organization working on food security, and with a church willing to become an emergency hub.
- By the pilot's end we had produced a key group of enthusiastic and committed local volunteers who wish to organize individual and community weather preparedness in their apartment towers.

Extreme Weather, Climate Change and What you must do to prepare for an Emergency





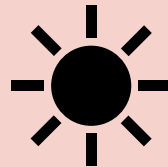



😊 Extreme Weather

😊 Climate Change

😊 What you must do to prepare for an Emergency



Toronto Weather is Changing

How is weather changing?		Consequences	
Very cold in winter		Water pipes in homes and underground burst – flooding on streets and in homes	
Ice storms in winter		Power out when trees fall on power lines	
Very hot in summer		Heat wave – health problem for children and elders	
Heavy rains in summer		Flooding	

Get prepared!

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you.

You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours.



**IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?**

Emergency Kit



Basic Items:

- ✓ Water – at least two litres of water per person per day
- ✓ Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (replace food and water once a year)
- ✓ Manual can-opener
- ✓ Crank or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries)
- ✓ Crank or battery-powered radio (and extra batteries)
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Extra keys to your car and house
- ✓ Some cash in smaller bills, such as \$10 bills and change for payphones
- ✓ A copy of your emergency plan and contact information



Building community Resilience in a high-rise building

- By organizing and mobilizing residents (Neighbours helping neighbours):
 - we can build a safety net of helping hands, everyone has something to contribute.
 - Less isolation and loneliness; relief from the stress of wondering who will help in an emergency or acute health incident - e.: during a heat wave or blackout.
 - The opportunity for a better quality of life for everyone through shared support and information.
 - The model is intergenerational, informal and reliant on volunteers.
 - It makes no demand on building management for funding.
 - It does not require dues from the residents. It's built on human - social capital good will.



Our work during Covid-19

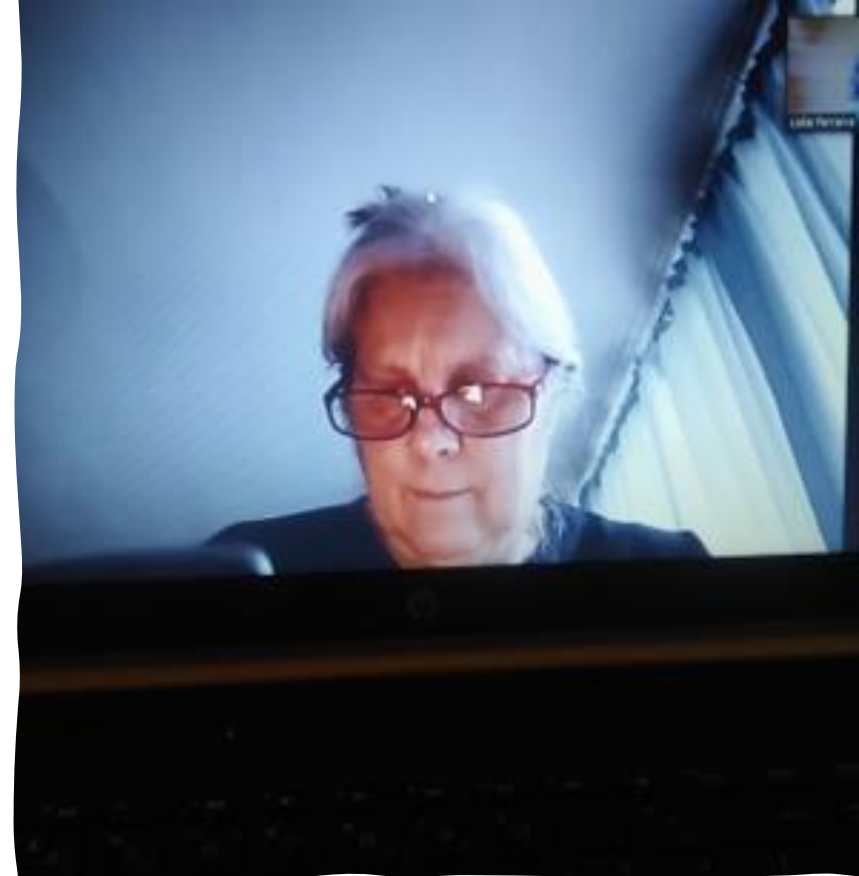


Essential food donations



Tablets donation

Virtual meetings





www.crewtoronto.ca