

1978
CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
OF SERVICE
2018

January 2018

This year, Banyan Community Services Inc. celebrates its 40th anniversary. Jointly in our roles as the Board Chair and CEO of Banyan, we would like to take the opportunity to proudly mark this milestone, which is indeed an extraordinary accomplishment and exemplifies the will, determination and lasting success of an organization that has worked tirelessly towards providing support, guidance and stabilization for the most at risk individuals and families in our communities. We would like to thank all the funders, clients, staff and partners who have helped us become a trusted and proven name in the community since 1978.

On January 18, 1978 Banyan incorporated George R. Force Group Homes in response to an increase of youth crime in Hamilton's north east end of the city. The program started operations at 596 Grays Road with a 6 bed open custody group home for youth who had come in conflict with the law. By 1999 the program had expanded and relocated to its current location at 1760 King Street E in Hamilton.

In honour of Canada 150, the City of Hamilton in 2017 recognized the George F. Force site as a building that was constructed and standing when Canada became a country. This building along over 900 others are rare buildings that make up less than 1% of Hamilton's building stock. Keep an eye out for signs in the community that read, "This building was standing in 1867." George R. Force will proudly display this as another recognition of Banyan's footprint in the community.

Since 1978 Banyan has continued to work with the community to identify needs, develop programs and increase supports and services for at risk populations. Along this journey many of the core programs that have defined Banyan's legacy are worth mentioning on our 40th anniversary.

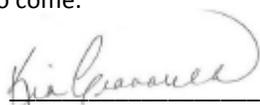
Our rich history started with George R. Force in 1978 followed by the addition of Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes in 1981. In the mid-eighties we established Hamilton East Community Services (known today as Banyan Community Services Inc.) to govern and manage the organization. Further expansion occurred in the area of senior services with the creation of K-Care Nursing Homes and Grocer-Ease shopping service in 1986. In 1994 the Canadian Council of War Veterans Associations provided Banyan the opportunity to take on the stewardship and operations of their work with Camp Maple Leaf and support sending underprivileged kids to camp (currently under the management of Camp Tanamakoon since 2016).

During the same period, Banyan enhanced its programming specializing in youth justice by adding Peninsula Youth Centre in 1994 and Arrell Youth Centre in 1999 shortly followed by introducing the community program SNAP® for Boys and SNAP® for Girls which is a family focused early intervention program for children aged 6-11 experiencing behavioural difficulties at home, in school, or in the community.

Presently our organization's profile includes quality services that support the youth justice, children's, and senior's community support sectors. Banyan is committed to improving the mental, physical, and social well-being of at risk populations in our service areas of Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, and Wellington.

We have accomplished a lot together during our first 40 years and empowered countless individuals and families to realize their full potential. But what matters most now is what we do next. Thank you for helping make Banyan a fantastic organization now and for decades to come.


Maria Zegarac, Chair


Kim Ciavarella, CEO