November 2, 2005

Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco  
Corporation for the City of London  
300 Dufferin Ave  
London, ON, N6A 4L9

Dear Mayor DeCicco and Councillors,

(Re: Budget Hearings- London Community & Neighbourhood Resource Delegation: November 9/05)

The London Community and Neighbourhood Resource Centre Network is a collective voice of London’s Neighbourhood Resource Centres committed to building strong and healthy neighbourhoods through collaboration, advocacy and education.

As you know, Community and Neighbourhood Resource Centres provide a wide range of services with limited funds. They work hard to reach families, children, youth, seniors as well as immigrants, who represent London’s most needy citizens. Neighbourhood Resource Centres are the intake/referral point for most other social services, both at the neighbourhood level and city wide. As well, these Centres identify and build community capacity, foster local leadership, civic participation, build networking opportunities and teamwork between the City and its community members, and admirably reflect the City’s strategic priorities.

The programs at the Community and Neighbourhood Resource Centres in London target the most vulnerable people who are at-risk of serious health and social impairment. Program interventions focus on capacity building and prevention by engaging and mobilizing the community. Youth and adult participants are able to build their employment, entrepreneurial, and volunteer skills. In turn, this creates citizens who contribute back to their community instead of relying on government assistance.

Amongst hundreds of other impacts, Neighbourhood Centre programs:
- help keep children out of foster homes.
- help unemployed people get work.
- help people volunteer in their community
- help reduce vandalism in neighbourhoods.
- help prevent families from becoming homeless.
- help keep seniors healthy and active.
- help prevent racism and promote inclusive communities.
- help newcomers integrate into Canadian life.
- help build leadership and good citizenship among youth.
- help meet emergency needs.
We are, once again this year, extremely concerned and dismayed by the proposed 7% cut to (2003) funding levels for Neighbourhood Resource Centres. These funding cuts to our core services cannot be accommodated anywhere in our budgets except by cutting direct client services. The proposed loss of $10,621 of core funding will eliminate 530 hours of direct program services to vulnerable youth and adults, translating into the equivalent of about 8 community programs, afflicting hundreds of people who live in the communities served by our Centres. (Please see attached lists of programs provided by each Neighbourhood Centre.)

Among practitioners of community development, a commonly held formula that highlights the value of prevention is: every dollar spent in support of prevention, saves $8 in treatment, remediation and rehabilitation. The impact, therefore, of a loss of $10,621 from community resource centres, would transform into an increase of $84,968 to deliver services such as: policing, foster care, health care, juvenile justice, income support and unemployment assistance. While a seemingly small cut ($10,621) – its impact is enormous, and will cost every Londoner eventually – not just the people who live in our communities.

At a recent Municipal Town Hall meeting hosted by several London neighbourhoods, it was recommended and agreed upon by the City Councillors (and former Councillors) present that Neighbourhood Resource Centres should be designated as a separate line in the Municipal budget. It was further commented on that Council should be aware of the tremendous "Bang for the Buck" in terms of numbers of programs, numbers served, and numbers of volunteer hours that Neighbourhood Resource Centres give to the City for the very small amount of funding that is allocated to them. Collectively, 4 Neighbourhood Centres generated over 69,000 volunteer hours for programs and services. This volume of volunteer hours is equivalent to approximately $828,000 per year at $12 per hour, or almost 37 paid full time staff per year – for free! In addition, it was noted that as these cuts to services for our most vulnerable people are proposed each year, a good portion of our collective time needs to be spent trying to prevent these cuts, taking away from our time working directly with the people who need our help.

On behalf of the many families, children, and youth for whom the services of our Centres are essential, we are requesting that Municipal Council:

1. **reinstate core funding for Neighbourhood Resource Centres to the 2003 levels for each Centre**
2. **designate Neighbourhood Resource Centres as a distinct funding division of the City of London budget**
3. **consider a means through which the City will work collectively with Neighbourhood Resource Centres to meet the increasing demands for core (essential) neighbourhood service and permanently stabilize the funding base for our core service needs**

so that the limited resources of each Centre can be directed to strengthening neighbours, building capacity and delivering services which meet the strategic priorities of our city.

Sincerely,

_Mary Sarnaman_  
Community Development Coordinator,  
Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre  
Centre

_Nanette Lloyd_  
Executive Director,  
Northwest London Resource Centre

_Nancy Needham_  
Community Development Coordinator,  
South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

_Nancy Needham_  
Community Development Coordinator,  
South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

_Barb Schust-Lawrence_  
Interim Director,  
Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre
cc:  Susan Horvath, Chair, Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre  
     Sheila Lupson, Chair, Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre  
     Bob Urquhart, Chair, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre  
     Christine Romard, Chair, Northwest London Resource Centre  
     Cheryl Miller, City Councillor, Ward 5  
     Sandy White, City Councillor, Ward 5  
     Roger Caranci, City Councillor, Ward 4  
     Bill Armstrong, City Councillor, Ward 4  
     Harold Usher, City Councillor, Ward 6  
     David Winninger, City Councillor, Ward 6  
     Ab Chabar, City Councillor, Ward 1  
     Judy Bryant, City Councillor, Ward 1  
     Gary Williams
"The Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre is a neighbourhood organization which brings people together to plan, develop, and provide services that support and nurture the well-being of all residents in the Hamilton Road community."

The centre is easily accessible, located in the Crouch Branch Library on Hamilton Road in London, Ontario. Programming is also provided at the Hamilton Road Community Centre and at local schools and churches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of Operation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Fax Number</th>
<th>Website Address &amp; General Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-4:30 M-F</td>
<td>550 Hamilton Rd</td>
<td>642-7630</td>
<td>642-7026</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crouchonline.org">www.crouchonline.org</a> (<a href="mailto:mike.sorrenson@crouchonline.org">mike.sorrenson@crouchonline.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Children and families (0-6):**
- Preschool at Crouch - Ontario Early Years Program
- Literacy Kits in 8 languages
- Parent education and resources
- Early Years Family Math (6 weeks)

**Youth (11-17):**
- Hamilton Road Area Youth Leadership Program
- Neighbourhood Job Squad Registry
- Job Squad and Young Entrepreneurs' Club - Thames
- Job Squad and Young Entrepreneurs' Club - Aberdeen
- Guitar Club
- Girls Club (Healthy Development program) - Aberdeen
- Young Women's (Healthy Development) group - Thames
- Summer Splash Recreation and Education program
- Summer Job Squad Registry and Car Detailing Service
- Youth counselling support
- RBC After-school Programming - "The Annex"
- Movie Nights
- Dances

**Adults and Young Adults & families:**

**"Opening Doors" Outreach Programs:**
- Life Skills counselling and advocacy and referral
- Expressions (Women's) group
- Thames Secondary School outreach
- Opening Doors Support and Education Program
- Collective Kitchen
- Community Exchange programs
  - Goods and Services ("Tool Shed")
  - Clothing and small household items
  - Kid Stuff
- Dining Divas - Parent Support Group
- Parenting Kits
- Early Years Parenting Guide
- Volunteer opportunities

**Other Family Events (with community partners):**
- Neighbourhood BBQ, Carnivals, and gatherings
- Multi-cultural Events
- St. Julien Park Community Festival (with HRCA)
- Community Information Meetings (HRCA)
- All Candidates Meetings (with HRCA)
- Town Hall meetings

**Hamiton Road Area Community Outreach and Basic Needs Services:**
- Basic Needs Directories (Hamilton Road area)
- Baby Food and Diaper Bank
- Emergency Food cupboard & Clothing cupboard
- Neighbourhood Christmas Hamper program and Toy drive
- THAW program
- Voucher referrals
- Hamilton Road Area Neighbourhood Food Depot

**Adults and Young Adults and families:**
- Rubendariano Project - Recovering our Latin American Roots - Youth and Adult Poetry Project
- Hamilton Road Area Community Information Centre
- Hamilton Road Community Service Directories
Hamilton Road Area Capacity Building Projects - Phase III: Hamilton Road Area Community Service Directory

Projects with Business Association:
- Hamilton Road Area Trading Exchange Program
- Crime Prevention Education Project
- Small Business Development
- Hamilton Road Area Networking events

Projects with Community Association:
- Healthy Community Fairs
- Volunteer Fair
- Neighbourhood Welcome Kits Project

Neighbourhood Planning Group Development and Resource Services
- Hamilton Road Community Association (residents)
- Hamilton Road Area Business Association (business owners and operators)
- Hamilton Road Area Team (service providers)
- Hamilton Road Area Basic Needs Group (service providers)
- Hamilton Road Area Youth Committee (citizens and service providers)
- Neighbourhood project and planning groups and committees
- Leadership Development services and Awards program

On site partners:

WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- Community support, information, referral, and advocacy for people who are living with a serious mental illness
- Wellness, lifeskills, and ongoing support groups
- Safe Housing for Women
- Women's Mental Health and Addictions Action & Research Coalition
- Woman Abuse Screening Protocol and Training Project
- Dreamcatcher First Nations Women's Mental Health and Addictions Project
- My Sisters' Place Transitional Support Centre for Homeless Women and Women at Risk of Homelessness

LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY (CROUCH BRANCH)

Children
- Storytimes for 0-5 year olds
- Saturday programs
- Summer Reading
- Seasonal programs
- Christmas, Summer
- R.E.A.D (Reading Easy Accessible DuLang)

Adults and Young
- English as a Second Language
- Literacy and Bad
- Employment Readiness Training
- Crouch Woodcarvers
- Crouch Library Artists
- Hamilton Road Gaming Group
- Specialized programming (Gardening Series, Computer Classes, Film Nights, Book Club, Travel Slides)
Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre (GCCRC) is a neighbourhood-based, multi-service, non-profit organization that provides a comprehensive range of programs and services in the Glen Cairn/Pond Mills community of South East London. The staff of Glen Cairn Community Centre work with families and service partners to build community capacity that will help address issues such as poverty, hunger, unemployment, family crisis and isolation. On average, 200 people per day access the programs and services offered by the Centre. Centre programs and services are offered at four community locations including:

- Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre in the Glen Cairn Plaza.
- 58 Vinewood Court at Allen Rush Gardens
- Unit 41 at 370 Pond Mills Road
- Unit 23-786 Shelbourne at London Non-Profit Multicultural Residences

Glen Cairn Community Centre focuses its energy and resources on meeting the needs of people who are most vulnerable - children, those living in poverty, single parents, individuals with disabilities and newcomers to Canada.

**Programs and Services**

**Adults and Families:**
- Direct Family Support Services
- Job Search Centre
- Child Care Program - Chelsea Green Children’s Centre
- Early Years Outreach Program
  - Parent/Tot Groups, T.4ke Talk speech path visits, Esso Family
  - Math, Mother Goose Literacy, Family Outings
- Well Baby & Child Clinic - Middlesex London Health Unit
- ESL Classes - YMCA, TVDSB
- Seniors Programs
- Glen Cairn CD Committee
- Early Years Partners Group
- Basic Needs Committee

**School Aged Children (5-13):**
- After School Programs at 4 Locations
  - Supper Club, Leadership Council, After School Adventures, Girl Chat, Junior Vibe, Sports Night
- Summer, Winter and March Break Programs
- PD Day Programs
- Special Events

**Family Events:**
- Penny Carnival
- International Day Celebration
- Heritage Day Celebration
- Winter Celebration
- Community BBQs

**Youth (14-24):**
- Youth Council
- Supportive Individual Counselling
- Young Parents Dinner Club
- Young Moms on the Move
- “Vibe” After School Drop-In

**Programs:**
- Collective Kitchen
- Women’s Fellowship
- Coffee and Crafts Club
- Casual Conversation

**Volunteers:**
- Community Volunteers
- Community Service Order placements
- Volunteer Training & Support
- Student Placements, Inc special needs student placements
- Volunteer Development and Appreciation
- Volunteer Council
Northwest London Resource Centre is a community resource centre creating accessible links to service providers, providing programs and community initiatives as needs reflect. Services are available for all ages with a unique focus on "intergenerational" programming & community inclusiveness. The NWLRC is located in the Sherwood Forest Mall, next to Sherwood Library.

Hours of Operation
Administration: 1225 Wonderland Rd.N.,
10:00-5 M-F (next to Sherwood Library)
London, ON
N6G 2V9

Phone: 471-8444  Fax: 471-2830
Website: "in construction" nwrc@bellnet.ca

Programs and Services:

Community Services:
- Crisis Referral/ Intervention/Awareness
- "At Risk" Support Programs
- Community advocacy & events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Post Secondary Placement Opportunities
- Public Presentations-Awareness Displays
- Service & Resource Information
- Inclusive Community Programs
- Youth Council Opportunities
- Senior Committee Opportunities
- NW Neighbourhoods Committee
- Mentoring opportunities-office skills training
- Inclusive Opportunities for the Developmentally/Physically disabled.
- "Secret Angel" Hampers
- "Community Service" Opportunities
- Fax, Phone, Letter Service
- Networking for Enhanced Community Relations

Education - Employment - Community - Inclusive Programs
- "One-Plus-One" Tutoring (Elementary & High School)
- "L.O.T.T." (Leaders of Today Tomorrow) - Youth Social, Personal & Leadership Skills Training through Recreational Programming
- "New Canadian English Conversation & Social Groups"
- "Joblinks" (job skills training for all ages/status)
- "On-Job" Mentoring Placements for job training skills (all ages/new Canadians, U.I.O.W. Recipients, Return to Work)
- Fine Art: Community Awareness Education through Art
- Art Exhibits; to "spotlight" Youth Fine Art in NW London
- Youth Theatre: Community Awareness Education-Theatre Skills
- Elementary School Reading/Creative "Club"
- "Partnered" Inclusive Programs, Initiatives, Opportunities focused on developmental disabilities.
- Presentations, Awareness Displays ("in house", Schools, Public)
- Workshops/ Speakers for personal development & community awareness on various topics, to address community demand & need.
- Special Community Events: "Celebrate Canada & Our Diversity", "March 21-Eliminate Racism Day", "Festive Pot Luck" A more...
- "Bullied-Out Youth Network" - Youth Supporting youth re: youth violence issues
- "One Time" Workshops-Presentations (varied topics)

"Intergenerational" (Youth & Seniors):
- Theatre program: "Centre Stage Theatre" (Secondary School Youth)
- Fine Art: "Youth & Seniors Connect Through Art"
- "Art Exhibits" to promote community awareness
- "Youth & Seniors Connect Online" (Basic Computer Skills Training - Level 1 and 2)
- "Youth Steering Council"
- "NW Neighbourhoods Committee " (intergenerational)
- L.O.T.T. (Leaders of Today Tomorrow) social, personal skills, mentoring & leadership training through recreation. (ages 9-18)
- "Senior's Drop In Day" - a special day of activities, speakers, enjoying a social "tea" & good company.

Food & Basic Needs Programs:
- Collective Kitchen
- Emergency Cupboard
- Monthly Food Bank
- "NW Food Bank"
Where: London Aquatic Centre,
1045 Wonderland Rd. N.
When: Tuesday- once per month.
Call 471-8444 to confirm schedule.
South London has a population, based on the 2001 census, of just over 55,455 individuals who are geographically distributed within an area generally defined as Wharncliffe Road to the west, Commissioners Road to the north, the former rail line to the east and Exeter Road to the south.

The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre operates as a Family, Child and Youth Community Enrichment Centre. The Centre supports and fosters the development of community based and community driven projects that nurture and enhance a healthy quality of life to residents of South London located in the Jalna Library.

**Programs and Services**

**Free Programs:**
- Sunrise Games (play pool, cards, do crafts)
- Adult Gym (open gym for sports)
- E.S.L. (English Second Language) Course
- Childcare for E.S.L. classes
- Family Ties (parent & preschool program)
- Sewing (taught in Arabic)
- Reaching Out Together (Isolated women)
- Family Movie Night
- Rugrats Playtime
- Newcomer seniors advocacy group
- Community Gardens
- Family Workshops

**Minimal Cost Programs**
- Basic Cooking
- Friday Soup
- Women's International Cooking
- Little Sprouts Community Playtime Program
- March Break Day Camp
- Summer Sunstation
- Collective Kitchens

**Neighbourhood Services:**
- THAW
- Baby Food Bank in Westminster
- Free Tax Clinic
- Advocacy for youth, adults & seniors
- Jump Start
- Resident support and referrals
- Stop 'n' Shop
- Elf Tree

**Community Events:**
- International Women's Day Celebration
- Ramadan Dinner
- Free Thanksgiving dinner
- Community Day
- Westminster Breakfast Club
- Westminster Community BBQ
- Cultural Idol
- Kids First Day Event
- Haunted House
- Breakfast with Santa

**South London Youth Centre**
- Youth Council (2 locations - South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre and Westminster)
- For Girls Only (13-16 years)
- Power Hour
- Junior Club
- Junior Mechanics
- Junior/ Senior Youth Sports Night
- Newcomer Youth Drop-in
- Tutoring Grades 6 to 12 (Westminster/White Oaks)
- Teens of Southdale Drop-In
- Westminster Teen Club
- Youth Dances
- Neighbourhood Youth in Charge
- Hang Time
- Youth Gourmet
- Teen Movie Night
- Community Bridges- Youth outreach
- It's a small world
- Summer Blast
- Boys Club
- Job Skills/Leadership Workshops
- Westminster Movie Nights
- Schools Drop-in's for newcomers (White Oaks, Westminster & Laurier)