

September 30, 2008

The Funding Network-Toronto
#2400-65 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2M8

Dear Members of The Funding Network-Toronto,

Mid-Toronto Community Services is genuinely grateful for The Funding Network-Toronto's support of our Korean Meals on Wheels program. It is with great pleasure that I submit this report about the accomplishments of the program over the past year.

Background

Since 1965, Mid-Toronto Community Services' has helped seniors and disabled or ill adults to remain in their homes and live healthy, dignified and independent lives in the community. Our services include meals-on-wheels, a variety of day programs, transportation, respite care, counselling and most importantly a daily connection with people and the outside world.

We serve a very diverse population with Koreans being the third largest ethno-cultural group in our area. Through our Korean Social Work program, the need for Korean Meals on Wheels was identified and subsequently, funded by The Funding Network-Toronto.

Accomplishments

In January 2008, Mid-Toronto launched the Korean Meals on Wheels Program. This program helps Korean seniors to remain living independently in the community by providing a nutritious, culturally appropriate meal and a daily connection with the outside world through volunteer contact. Meals are delivered 5 days per week by volunteers.

Over the past 9 months, we've served close to 700 meals to 34 Korean seniors through this program. There are also a few non-Korean seniors who enjoy the meals. These seniors are now receiving adequate nutrition which is making such a difference in their overall health and ability to stay living in their own homes.

Our Meals on Wheels Coordinator & Assistant and Korean Social Work Coordinator continue to conduct outreach for this program. A pamphlet was created both in Korean and English and has been distributed in the community. We had an article in The Korean Times Daily and we appeared on radio Korea, a local station. Information about the program was included in our newsletters and other publications, as well as on our website. All staff told their clients about this new service.

In addition to using existing volunteers to deliver the meals, we successfully recruited and trained 7 Korean-speaking volunteers for the program. Volunteers are an integral part

of this program as oftentimes they are the only contact an isolated senior receives during the day. They make sure everything is alright and are able to get help when there is a problem.

We developed a partnership with Korea House, a local Korean restaurant, to provide the meals for this program. This continues to be a very important partnership as having a good food source is essential to the success of this program. Korea House has been responsive and flexible in adjusting the menu cycle to provide greater variety and choice to clients.

Changes

Over the coming months, we will continue our outreach efforts to ensure that Korean seniors in our area are aware of this program. This continues to be a challenge in that many Korean seniors are isolated and do not venture from their homes often. But we are confident we can reach them through our social work program and other outreach efforts.

We will continue to work closely with our clients and our food source to ensure that the meals are meeting their nutritional and cultural needs.

We will work with our main funders and continue our fundraising to ensure this program remains viable. The ultimate goal is to secure ongoing, permanent funding for this service.

Conclusion

We are so thankful for the generous support of the members of The Funding Network-Toronto. By providing funding to start the Korean Meals on Wheels program, you have helped us to respect the cultural diversity of Korean seniors through the delivery of food that meets their specific needs; and you are making sure that they have a daily connection with caring volunteers. Your group is truly making a difference to Korean seniors in need at Mid-Toronto Community Services.

In closing, we would like to congratulate you on your amazing efforts to fund very worthy organizations doing great work in our community and beyond.

Sincerely,



Laina Gibson
Director of Development