

2023

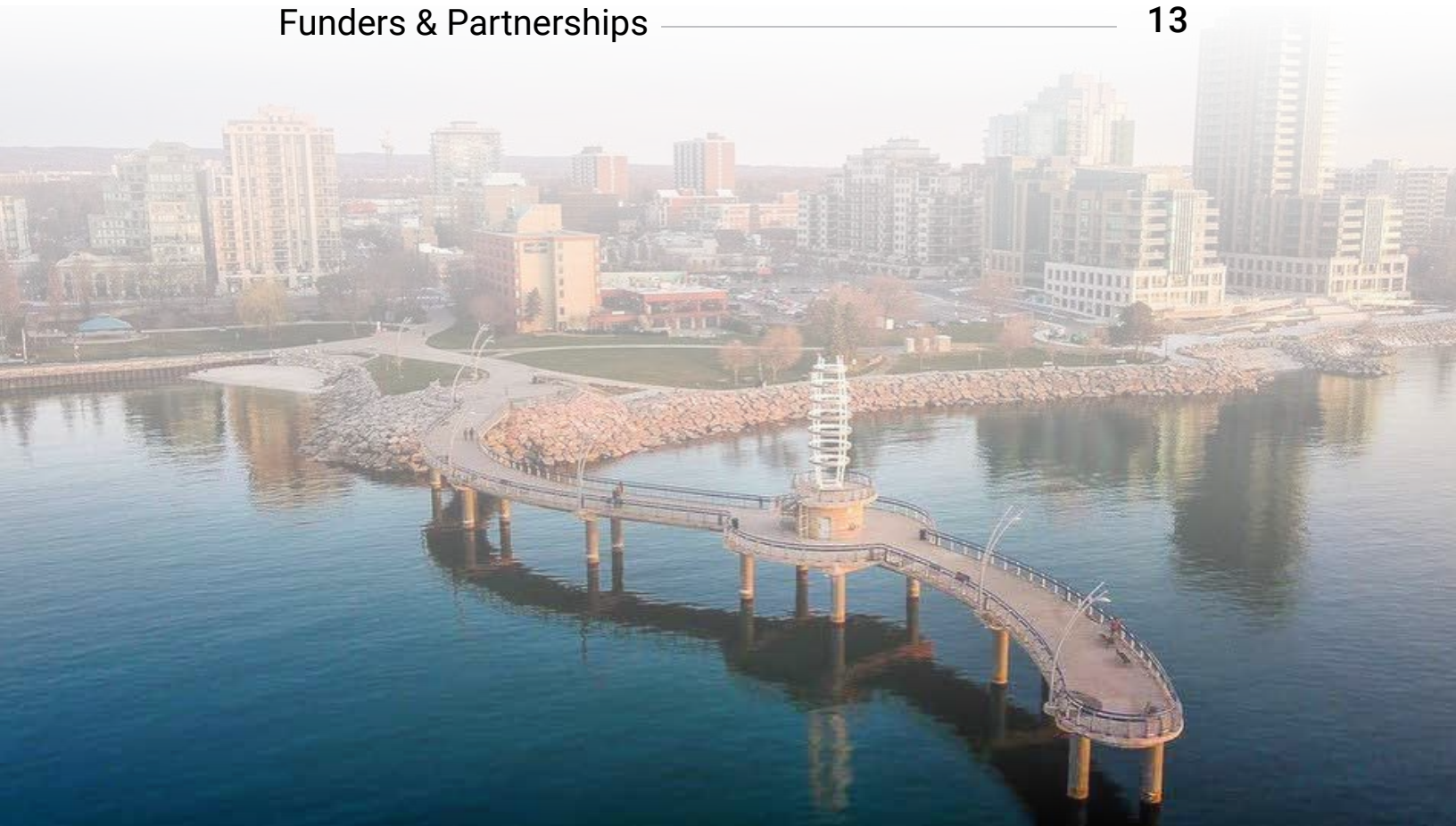
ANNUAL REPORT



BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG

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Message from the Executive Director



Dear friends and supporters,

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of RCI. From our humble beginnings meeting in the back of a printing shop to now offering a comprehensive range of community and senior programs, including Halton's largest annual Lunar New Year Celebration, I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved through the dedication and hard work of our staff, board members, volunteers, funders, and supporters. Congratulations to RCI on 10 years of serving the community and bringing people together. Better Together Because We All Belong!

In 2023, RCI demonstrated resilience and recovery by expanding our programs and encouraging a return to in-person activities and socialization. We maintained hybrid models to ensure flexibility and inclusiveness. Our programs helped participants stay fit and healthy, maintain social connections, reduce isolation and loneliness, promote diversity, and facilitate cultural integration for newcomers. We are proud of the following achievements:

- Implemented various cultural programs tailored for Chinese seniors to promote healthy and active aging, mitigate social isolation, and foster social connections.
- Expanded our programs to serve all age groups, fostering a sense of belonging and increasing social interactions.
- Conducted a pilot project on Elder Abuse and Financial Fraud prevention to educate and raise awareness in the senior community.
- Completed the Anti-Hate Anti-Racism (ARAH) project to raise awareness about racism and educate individuals on how to respond and report.
- Held the Year of the Dragon Lunar New Year celebration gala at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre.
- Extended our services to a broader client base beyond Halton and the surrounding areas.

We are deeply grateful to our funding partners and community sponsors for their support, which made these programs and our positive impact on the community possible. Our team members and volunteers are also greatly appreciated for their hard work and dedication. As we continue to grow, RCI is committed to building connections between newcomers and Canadian communities by promoting understanding and acceptance across cultural differences. We look forward to continuing our support for the community in 2024. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,
Lily Hudson
RCI Executive Director

Vision Mission and Governance

Redleaf Cultural Integration is committed to providing support for newcomers to Canada to integrate into the local community. Our different themed projects focus on promoting multiculturalism, the physical and mental health of people of all ages, and enhancing community inclusiveness.

MISSION

To grow a vibrant Chinese community in Halton and support its participation in the day-to-day life of the region.

VISION

To be the leading organization in Halton providing people of Chinese heritage with a social platform where they belong, connect, and integrate to the broader community.

VALUES

Mutual respect; Awareness of cultural diversity;
Build a welcoming and inclusive community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARY REN
Chair

SEAN HUANG
Marketing

CYNTHIA ZHAO
Secretary & Youth Program

AMY LIN
Treasurer & Youth Program

FENGWU TIAN
Seniors Program

TINGHUI LIU
Seniors Program

ZHIGUANG QIAN
Community Program

PENNY PAN
Seniors Program

YANMIN WANG
Community Program

Seniors Programs

The seniors program has always been a focal point for RCI. Through a hybrid platform combining online and onsite activities, RCI delivered a variety of classes, activities, hobby groups and outings tailored to the Chinese seniors community, addressing their language, cultural, and transportation barriers. These activities kept our seniors socially connected, reduced isolation and loneliness, enhanced their mental and physical well-being, and promoted elder abuse and fraud prevention.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Online Classes: Four weekly online classes (Fitness, Poetry, Vocal, and English) kept our seniors learning and engaged virtually, even when in-person participation was not feasible. These highly popular classes were led by seniors.

Senior Hobby Groups: Hobby groups such as the Gardening Club, Harmonica Club, Square Dance Club, Senior Band, and Senior Choir provided opportunities for rehearsals and performances at events like the New Year Party Senior Talent Shows and Lunar New Year Celebration. These activities fostered a sense of achievement and belonging among the seniors.

Large-Scale Senior Outings: These outings encouraged in-person social interactions and outdoor activities, which were particularly important after the pandemic shutdowns.

Health Seminars: Topics included nutrition, safe and independent aging at home, senior muscle strength exercises, and Taichi. These educational sessions advocated for a healthy lifestyle and physical and mental well-being.

Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention Workshops: Held in connection with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to educate and raise awareness.

Outreach Initiative: The “Friendly Visit” and “Check and Chat” programs aimed to reach seniors living in isolation.



SENIORS PROGRAMS

Program Impact

Total number of direct services in all activities:
5300

Total number of senior participants in all programs and activities:
150

Attendances from all senior virtual programs:
4911

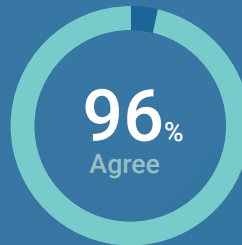
Total number of weekly virtual classes:
190

Total number of Health and exercise online lectures:
25

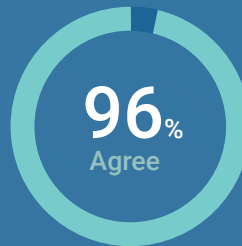
Total number of Elder abuse and fraud prevention online seminars:
4

Outings and Social Events
10

These results highlight the significant positive impact of the RCI seniors program on the participants' lives, promoting engagement, safety, well-being, and social connections.



This project met my needs and interests



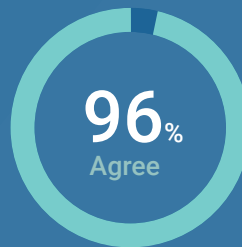
I am satisfied with the project activities I participated in



This project helped me feel more engaged in my community



This project helped to increase my feeling of safety and well-being



This project helped to reduce social isolation in the community

Community Programs

RCI delivered a diverse range of programs both online and in-person, including Choir, Fitness, Dance, Zumba, Yoga, and Badminton classes, conducted on a weekly basis. These programs have had a significant positive impact on the physical and mental health, social connections, and overall well-being of participants.



Choir (Helen):

"I have been a choir member for 3 years. I really enjoy singing and making friends in the choir. Singing has also helped me deal with stress in life, such as the loss of a parent or medical issues. It brings much-needed distraction and relief from anxiety, restoring peace and calmness, which gives me the recharge to resolve the issues at hand."

Zumba (Kristina):

"Zumba was a great addition to the RCI programming, promoting cross-cultural exposure and connection, and expanding the variety and intensity of fitness programs for members. Looking forward to more this year!"

Fitness (Cuijiao):

"I really like going to fitness classes. It's my favorite time. Whenever I finish a fitness class and return home, I am happy, which makes my whole family happy."



Community Programs

Dance (Yaqun):

"I have joined the RCI dance class for 6 months and the fitness class for 2 months. I really like our dance and fitness instructor, who is a very professional, elegant, friendly, and hardworking lady—a true inspiration for me. I also like our fellow classmates, who make me feel welcome in a warm family. From dancing, I found a better self again after a very tough year. Thank you RCI for organizing these community activities."

Yoga (Carrie):

"I really like the Yoga class as it improves my health and flexibility. RCI's online platform allows me to join virtually from home since I do not drive. I eventually became the Zoom leader of the Yoga classes, which gives me an opportunity to volunteer and give back to the community."

Badminton (Chujiao):

"My husband really likes the badminton class as it is the only time he can bring the children with him to have some fun after working all day. My youngest child enjoys playing badminton with her daddy."



These testimonials highlight the positive experiences of our participants and the importance of RCI's community programs in enhancing their quality of life.



Anti-Racism Anti-Hate

RCI successfully completed the Anti-Racism Anti-Hate (ARAH) Project, titled “Be Courageous,” which focused on addressing anti-Asian racism and hate-motivated incidents that escalated during the pandemic. In partnership with the Halton District School Board, Halton Regional Police, and other community partners, the project made significant strides in educating and raising awareness.

The ARAH Project aimed to inform the community about the root causes and negative impacts of racism and hate incidents. It also raised awareness in schools, workplaces, and daily life, while advocating for resources and strategies to handle such incidents safely.

The year-end survey revealed that 91% of respondents found the sessions very useful. Here is some feedback we received:

“I wish I had attended these seminars earlier, as I had never noticed the micro-discrimination (a subtle form of racism) happening in my previous workplace.”

“I am now able to discern different forms of racism.”

“I learned how to keep myself safe while encountering harmful racial discrimination and how to prevent the situation from escalating.»
«I am aware of the importance of anti-racism in Canada’s multicultural environment.”

“The seminars were very good and arrived at the right time.”

Responding to Hate and Bias Motivated Incidents in Halton

2023.02.22 7:30pm-9:00pm
 ZOOM: 535 658 8229 Password: 123456

Presenter:
Sergeant Ryan Smith, Halton Police

Sergeant Ryan Smith has been employed with the Halton Regional Police Service since 2010. He currently oversees the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion office where he is responsible for several critical initiatives aimed at enhancing collaboration between the Police Service and the diverse community living and working in the Region of Halton.

Anti-Racism Anti-Hate
 反歧视.反仇恨
 Be Courageous 系列论坛

RCI 红叶文化协会
 REDLEAF CULTURAL INTEGRATION

Halton Regional Police

Ontario

The success of the ARAH Project underscores the importance of continued education and advocacy in combating racism and fostering a safer, more inclusive community.



Lunar New Year Celebration Event

RCI organized the largest Lunar New Year Celebration Gala in Halton at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. The event sold out within weeks, attracting over 800 attendees from Chinese and diverse cultural backgrounds. The celebration featured captivating cultural displays in the atrium before the main show and high-quality performances in the theater.

The event received rave reviews and positive feedback from both the audience and local media. It was an excellent occasion for showcasing Chinese culture and fostering cultural appreciation, bringing the community together in unity and mutual respect.



Financial Statements

UNAUDITED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2023

CAD\$

CAD\$

INCOME STATEMENT	2022/2023	2021/2022
REVENUES	204,361	180,494
Expenditures		
Program Expenses	160,857	165,062
Other Operating Expenses	9,108	12,439
EXPENDITURES	169,965	177,501
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	34,396	2,993
BALANCE SHEET	2022/2023	2021/2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets	171,692	189,798
TOTAL ASSETS	171,692	189,798
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	3,300	3,300
Deferred Grants	35,871	88,373
TOTAL LIABILITIES	39,171	91,673
FUND BALANCE	132,521	98,125
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	171,692	189,798

Volunteer Award

Senior Programs Volunteers



Fengwu Tian



Minsong Sun



Haisheng Li



Jiaming Deng



Ruzhu Song



Pingping Pan



Xin'er Wang



Luping Xing



Cuiling Li



Yaling Huang



Songxin Ning



Xiaotian Ma



Chunyan Fan



Xinghua Zhang



Jing Li

Community Programs Volunteers



Zhiguang Qian



Yang Cong



Weiqi Li



Renxian Liu



Cuijiao Ma



Jiahua Liang



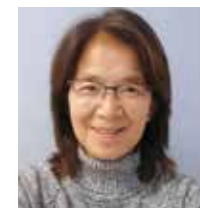
Lu Han



Qi Huang



Ying Yu



Zhongning Yan

**RCI IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS**



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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