



Working for Change

A Home, A job, A Friend & Social Change

Centering and celebrating lived experience as a key part of systems change

www.workingforchange.ca

Who we are:

- A grassroots Social Justice organization, built by community members to create our own solutions to poverty, stigma and various forms of marginalization
- Rooted in the psychiatric survivor and mad pride movement.
- Since the time of our origins, the survivor movement has grown. The value of peer work is being more widely recognized and opportunities for engagement with people living in the margins has expanded.
- **Our focus:** amplifying the value and skills of People with lived experience (PWLE) of Mental Health, Addiction, Trauma, Homelessness, Gender Based violence, Disability and Newcomer/Refugee Challenges.



OUR STRUCTURE : ANTI OPPRESSION IN PRACTICE

- Mandate : we only hire people with lived experience.
- Flattening power – transparency, accountability and engagement
- Pathways for mobility – no glass ceilings
- Representative of the community
- Wage ratios = 1:3. Commitment to building the bottom up

primary goals

- Employment as a critical component of recovery & socio-economic well being
- Building the skills and leadership of people with lived experience (PWLE)
- Active participation of PWLE in shaping public policy, social justice and systems change
- Centering anti-oppressive practices in all that we do



Presenting at the Quality in Primary Care conference at UofT Faculty of Medicine

How we ensure impact:

- Our social enterprises provide low barrier, supportive, trauma informed employment for our community
- Our training and leadership programs build the capacity and leadership of peers.



Graduation Day - Food and Horticulture Training Program

Our specific impact on people experiencing homelessness and poverty

SUPPORTING NON PROFITS

- We currently provide meals to other nonprofits addressing hunger at the front lines of the homelessness crisis



Preparing meals at scale for Street Outreach programs

EMPLOYMENT

- We have a long history of employing and working with people who are unhoused.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Peer Shelter Worker Program
- The Relief Worker Program
- Voices from the Street

summary

Nothing about us, without us!



Above: Pat Capponi, the founder of our Voices from the Street Program

Left: Voices from the Street graduates consulting on policy issues



thank you

QUESTIONS?