



Member Profile | Common Ground Co-operative

Celebrating 20 years of service to the community in 2020!

Common Ground Co-operative (CGC) is a Toronto based, social co-operative and charitable organization that provides services and supports to youth (18+) and adults who have developmental and intellectual disabilities and dual diagnosis.

In 2000, the Co-op was formed by Carolyn Lemon and a group of like-minded parents to organize an agency that would support and create alternatives to traditional employment models for their adult children. The co-op has charitable status, and is partially funded to provide support services by Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

CGC provides job coaching and pre-employment support to over 60 individuals per year who are involved in training programs and/or in social enterprises where they work as non-share capital partners. In addition to that, they provide workshops like Barista training, customer service skills, time management, numeracy and math to the broader community of adults with developmental disabilities.

Programs provided by the co-op include the Lemon & Allspice Cookery, Coffee Sheds, CleanABLE and their Foundations Pre-Employment Career Program. Gay Lea Foods Co-operative includes CGC programs as a key part of their social responsibility and is a supporter of and donor to our bakery program.

The co-op, which is actively seeking members has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Queen's Medal, City of Toronto Access Award and Disability Day Award, the June Callwood Award, Ontario Co-op Association Spirit Award, the Unsung Hero Award, Toronto Foundation's Vital Idea Award, Council for Exceptional Children's Award for Business, Agency or Community group in Ontario, presented to their Lemon & Allspice Cookery program. In addition to that, the co-operative has been featured in numerous articles, documentary features and published University research papers (Brock University and Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)).

Membership to the Co-operative is tax receipted and provides one with the knowledge that they are contributing to the programs and services that we provide to exceptional people.

Learn more at: <http://commongroundco-op.ca/>