

# camh Connexions



## OTW Cafe Opens new location on Queen Street

For Working for Change Executive Director **Anita Prasad**, every time a customer comes to the new Out of This World Café (OTW) at 1051 Queen West they are not just supporting a new business, they are giving every employee who works there a pathway to hope. For more than 15 years, CAMH has partnered with Working for Change, a non-profit organization that operates several social enterprises in Toronto.

“What sets us apart from every other business in the area is that we are a social enterprise run entirely by and for people with lived experience of mental health, addiction, trauma, including gender-based violence, homelessness and refugee experiences,” says Prasad. “From the board level to the front line staff, there is an organizational mandate that every person we hire has lived experience. Many of our employees began as patients of CAMH and

are now in key leadership positions in our organization. The rate of unemployment for our community is staggering – up to 90 per cent for people living with severe mental illness. We provide this supportive employment because the traditional workforce is inhospitable to people with varied needs and challenges. It's not just about getting a paycheck but it's also a pathway to hope and recovery.”

“With the opening of this new location we're thrilled to help provide an opportunity for OTW to reach new customers with its excellent food at reasonable prices, while also combatting poverty and stigma,” said CAMH CEO **Sarah Downey** at the grand opening in August. “I encourage you to tell your friends about OTW and come back often knowing that you're supporting a wonderful social enterprise that has a positive impact on so many lives.”

## Creative on Queen

CAMH was thrilled to host Creative on Queen on September 23<sup>rd</sup> as part of the annual West Queen West Art Crawl. We hosted an all-day art fair in our TD Commons green space. We brought together artists and small vendors with a focus on people with lived

experience and folks from equity deserving groups. 100% of the sales went directly to the vendors. We're proud to run fun, community events and support local, small artisans and people with lived experience.

**creative**  
on Queen



## CAMH hosts celebratory Pow Wow *Honouring Children and Youth*

On September 6, CAMH hosted its second Pow Wow ever at the TD Commons park. The event, *Pow Wow: Honouring Children and Youth*, brought together members of the CAMH community and beyond to its campus for a day filled with music, dancing, food, and celebration. The event had an amazing turnout. Thanks to the organizers and all who participated!

On September 5, CAMH raised an Every Child Matters flag on campus to reestablish our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Throughout September, the CAMH Reconciliation Working Group offered multiple opportunities for ongoing learning, reflection and action to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30<sup>th</sup>. You can learn more on our social media channels.





## CAMH patient leads gardening initiatives

**Michael C.** is a CAMH patient whose love of gardening is connecting him with the community and helping to design new, plant-powered projects to support CAMH patients and families. “There is a sense of enjoyment you get when you watch something grow from a seed into a mighty plant that is giving off all of this great fruit,” says Michael. “It is very fulfilling.”

Since becoming a patient of the CAMH forensic mental health program, Michael has continued to pursue his passion for working with the earth in a variety of ways. For the past few years he has worked in the CAMH Sunshine Garden on a paid contract basis. In the Sunshine Garden, vegetables are grown in CAMH soil by CAMH patients, and are then sold to people who live and work around CAMH. Michael is also involved in a project to create a food insecurity co-op where patients grow and distribute food for CAMH outpatients.

Michael’s role in both initiatives is part of the broader “patients-as-partners” approach at CAMH which prioritizes involving patients in program planning and design. Michael says he is grateful for the opportunities he has been given to continue to explore his passion for the earth during his time at CAMH.

“The stigma of being a patient is still very real. Some people are less kind when I tell them that I am a patient with a job here and that is always painful. But I’ve gotten to know a lot of people in the community working in the Sunshine Garden – people who buy food or walk their dogs or just sit and relax. I have formed some friendships with people and that was incredible. It made me feel like I was rejoining society in that sense and I’m grateful for that.”



# CAMH Foundation Community Fundraising

The centre of CAMH is and always will be **community**. The return of in-person events is in full-swing and we are honoured to have a community that rallies together so fiercely to raise funds and awareness in support of CAMH's life-saving work.

As we buckle in for an already-packed fall, we'd like to highlight some exciting community fundraising events that have taken place earlier this spring and summer thanks to our tireless and inspiring fundraisers that have stepped up to ensure that no one is left behind. Some include:

- **Rock The Barn** was the first inaugural country music concert in support of CAMH organized by two brothers who surpassed their fundraising goals and raised \$26,475!
- **Men's Mental Health Fundraiser** attendees participated in physical challenges to raise more than \$23,000 for CAMH, cheered on by Dr. Shreejoy Tripathy.

- **Arctic Quest** was a family cycle from Dawson City, a small town in the Yukon, to Tuktoyaktuk of the Northwest Territories. This arctic adventure raised over \$210,000 to raise awareness and funds for groundbreaking Parkinson's research at CAMH as a tribute to the family's grandfather.

Keep your eyes out for more fun community events in support of CAMH. If you would like to host a fundraiser of your own please reach out to [erin.boyd@camh.ca](mailto:erin.boyd@camh.ca).



## CAMH Job Fair: we're hiring!



**Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Arrell Family Foundation Auditorium, 2nd floor, 1025 Queen Street West**

**CAMH Job Fair focused on Registered Nursing, Registered Nurse Practitioner and Allied Health Professional roles**

## Continue the conversation online

[camh.ca/neighbours](https://camh.ca/neighbours)

[redevelopment.feedback@camh.ca](mailto:redevelopment.feedback@camh.ca)

Please join our local community email list by  
emailing [communityevents@camh.ca](mailto:communityevents@camh.ca).



camh



camhnews



camhTV



camhnews



camh