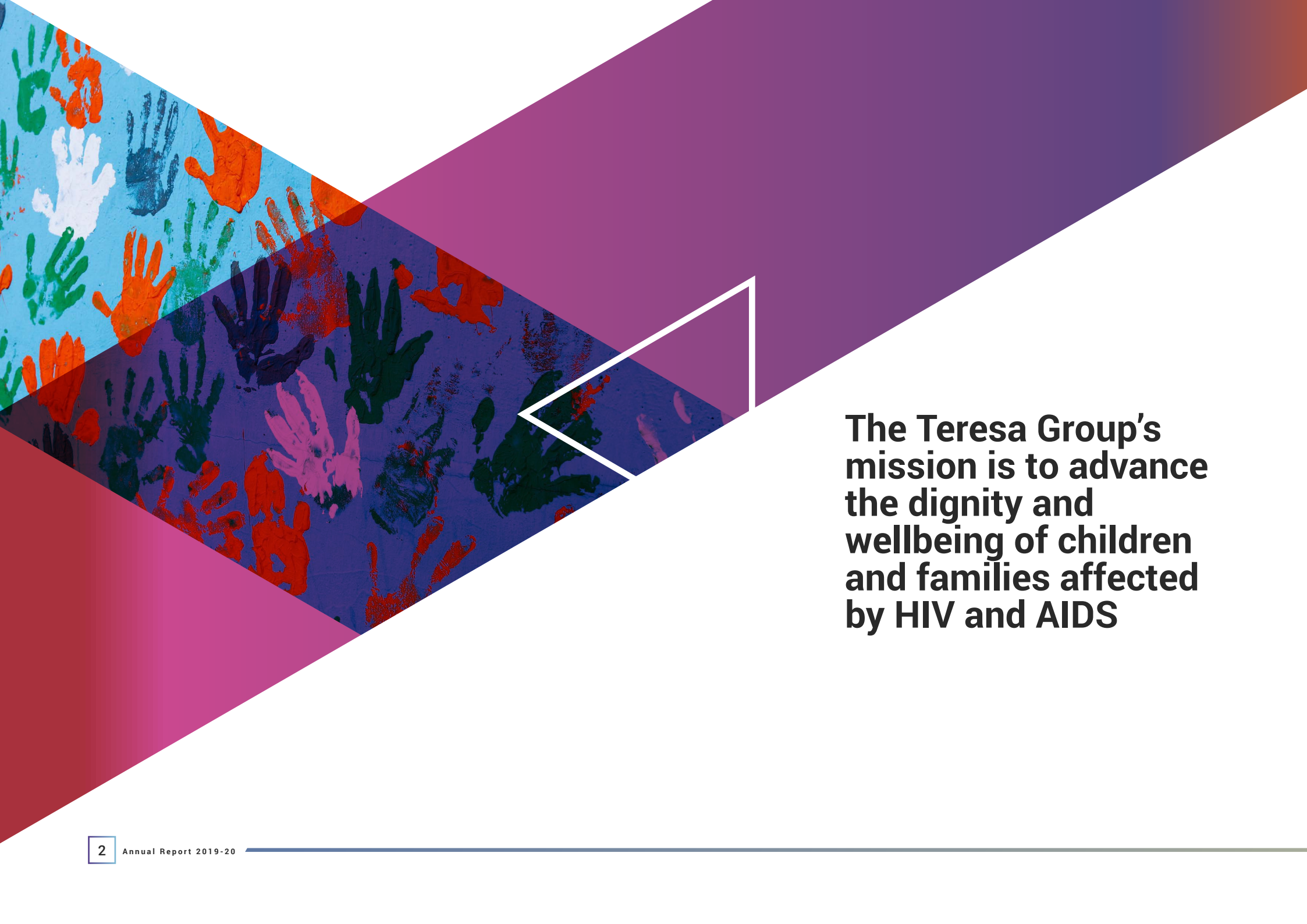




# ANNUAL REPORT



2019-20



**The Teresa Group's mission is to advance the dignity and wellbeing of children and families affected by HIV and AIDS**

# › Message from Board Chair

**2019/20 has seen tremendous change for the Teresa Group.**

**From new leadership, to the COVID-19 outbreak to calls for more diversity and inclusion in all sectors.**

When the COVID-19 outbreak happened, we were amid onboarding out new Executive Director, planning for our Spring fundraiser (The Mane Event) and looking forward to our 30th Anniversary. All of that came to a sudden stop and we took a moment to evaluate our organization.

Much of our focus this past spring has been navigating the evolving COVID-19 outbreak. Our staff quickly went to work on connecting with our

clients to ensure their needs were still being met and to let them know we were still there for them.

Our new Executive Director Chilombo Olawoye formed partnerships with PWA to ensure clients had access to diapers and other needs as part of the PWA's market. She also reconfirmed our partnership with the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS and she went to work undertaking a program review of our organization.

2019 also saw several staffing changes and as a result we paused the development of our Strategic Plan. Going into the fall we will be picking that back up in consultation with our new ED and staff.

At the board level we welcomed four new members that bring with them a passion, experience drive for success. The board is currently looking forward to

helping the organization and the ED navigate the global pandemic with a focus on our clients, our staff and our community.

All this while we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary. This is a tremendous milestone for an organization and I'm proud to be part of it.

I've been connected to the Teresa Group since the early 2000s and I've seen it grow and evolve but never lose focus. It's an organization that prides itself on its relationships with our clients, our funders and the community at large and moving forward we plan to continue creating those relationships.

Thank you,  
**Marcel Watier**  
*Board Chair*

# › Message from The Executive Director

**This year marks Teresa Group's 30th anniversary, 30 years of serving children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. What a call and what a vision! I'm honored to be a part of the work that we have done not only in the past year but also in the past 30 years.**

This year has been especially critical in marking the beginning of new leadership and revisioning of the years ahead. In 2019-2020 the programming became focused on clients within Toronto, due to the increased demand on the services to ensure the

community was receiving better support that was client centered and thorough. Our formula program continues to grow across Ontario with over 100 children enrolled in formula program

As we move forward into 2020, the current pandemic has brought about some added challenges and opportunities. We are reimagining the way we deliver services, ensuring that the people, who need support continue to receive it. I have seen staff figure out alternative ways to engage the community and ensure adequate supports are provided. We have a team of

dedicated staff and volunteers who are eager to continue the great work that was started 30 years ago. We look different and may feel different, but we are here to for the same mission- Advancing the dignity and well-being of Children and Families affected by HIV and AIDS.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for all their work during this past year and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you,  
Chilombo Olawoye  
*Executive Director*

## › Our Programs



As we move forward into 2020, the current pandemic has brought about some added challenges and opportunities.

### COUNSELLING SERVICES

Individual, couple and family counselling is offered by registered social workers to support children and families. An in-depth intake process assesses the needs of the family and is the first step towards providing practical and emotional supports and referrals. Issues include poverty, immigration/refugee experiences and processes, cultural issues settling in Canada – including children in the school system, parenting and behavior management, trauma, violence and its impact on the family, HIV stigma and disclosure.

### FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

This program provides a broad range of practical supports to children and families to help alleviate the impact of poverty. The program includes the provision of grocery vouchers, emergency food supplies, transit tokens, diapers for children aged 0-3 years, clothing (both new and used) and emergency financial support. Other aspects of this program include a new diaper bag filled with newborn supplies at the time of birth, warm hats and mitts for children when the weather gets cold, new backpacks filled with supplies at the start of each school year.

### FORMULA PROGRAM

This program helps reduce transmission of HIV through breastmilk. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care through the AIDS Bureau, The Teresa Group administers the distribution of infant formula to babies born to HIV+ moms throughout Ontario.



**Over 650 families served  
across all programs.**

**177 infants in Ontario in  
formula program.**

#### **MOMS GROUP**

Twice a month, moms with babies up to a year old met together in a facilitated support group. Each meeting focused on different aspects of life with a new baby – e.g. adjusting to life with HIV, baby massage, HIV stigma, why babies cry and how to cope, attachment and bonding, discovering your personal values and how they impact on parenting, how culture and parenting connect. The activities were designed to engage, teach and stimulate as new moms get to know one another in their first year. The group also brings new moms living with HIV together in a safe space to form friendships and support networks.

#### **PARENTS CLUB**

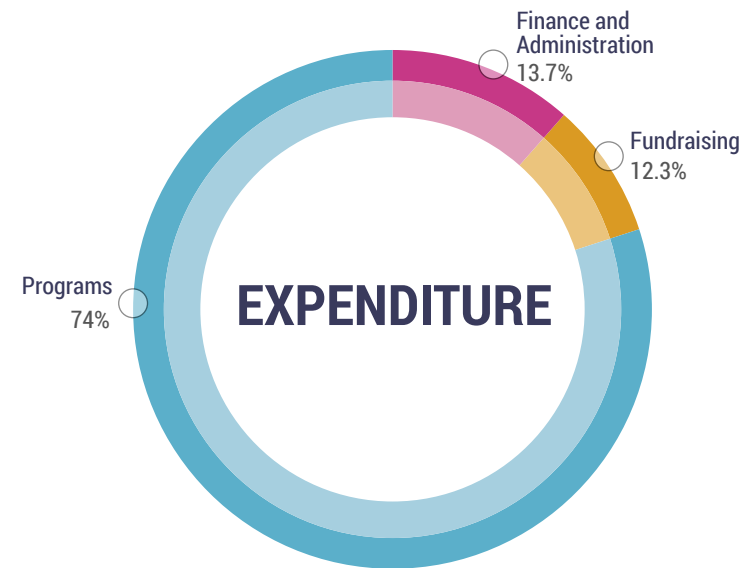
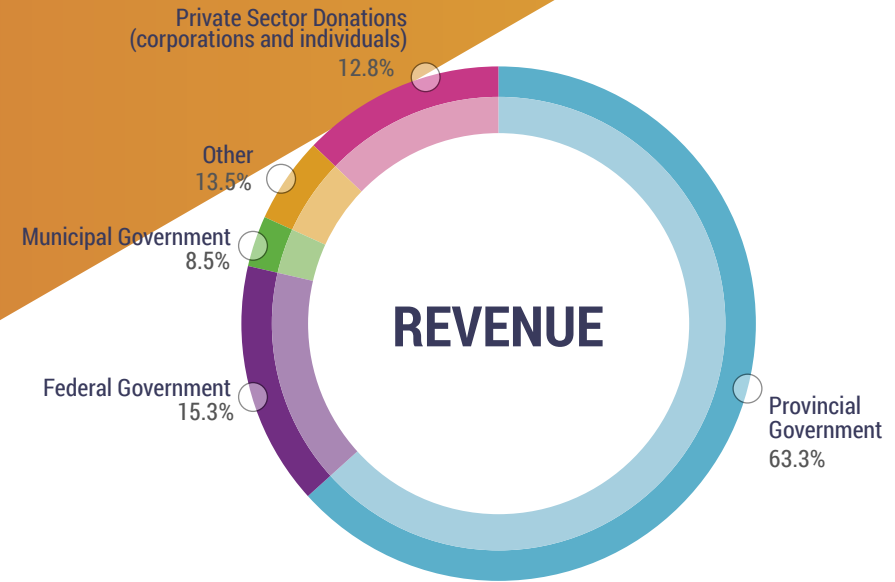
This monthly group offers a place for parents of children of all ages to meet and share the joys and trials of parenting, learn about stages of child development and age appropriate behavior management (always a popular topic). The most popular themes included: understanding the impact of positive and negative emotions and how to re-frame everyday interactions with positivity; behavior management in the context of stages of child development and how children communicate through behavior; sharing experiences of HIV-related stigma and the management of associated feelings and how to support children in such context.

#### **LEADING THE WAY**

This activity-based psychosocial program for children aged 6-18 runs twice a year for nine weeks in the spring and in the fall. It aims to enhance their sense of self and their ability to cope and problem solve. “Leading the Way” is an award-winning intervention that was developed as a response to research showing that children affected by HIV and AIDS were far more likely to experience anxiety and depression.

## SUMMER CAMP

For one week in the summer, children aged 9-18 attend a residential summer camp near Dorset, Ontario. Run in partnership with Moorelands Camp, the program aims to help children and youth build life skills that will help them to live self-sufficient, independent and productive lives as well as develop important social support networks and, most importantly to have fun! Activities include swimming, canoeing, archery, high and low ropes courses, sports, arts and crafts and wilderness hiking.



## › Board Members

Marcel Watier (Board Chair)

Emily Carson (Vice-chair)

Blythe Winters (Director)

Muluba Habanyama (Director)

Kevin Landry (Director)

Dale Maitland (Director)

Sarah Khan (Director)

Daniel Chou (Treasurer)

Andre Smith (Director)

Steve Shapcott (Director)

Sandra Torres (Secretary)

## › Staff

Nicci Stein (Previous - Executive Director)

Chilombo Olawoye (Current - Executive Director)

Ron McGee (Office Manager)

Kelly Armstrong (Development Officer)

Vanessa D'Souza (Family Support Coordinator)

Josianne Manzoangani (Peer Program Coordinator)

Melody Lotfi (Family Support Coordinator)

Aimana Mohamed (Family Support Coordinator)

Shai Rowan (Family Support Coordinator)

## › Thank you to our donors and supporters!

### GOVERNMENT

Public Health Agency of Canada

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada -  
Canada Summer Jobs

AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-  
Term Care

City of Toronto Community Services Partnership

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Book City\*

Clarins Canada

David's Tea \*

GAP Canada

HotDocs\*

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L'Oreal Canada\*

Maison Shelby\*

Mildred's Temple Kitchen\*

Quality Jewellers\*

Redken Canada\*

Shopsy's Catering\*

Sobey's\*

Swansea Village Pharmasave\*

ViiV Healthcare

Warner Bros\*



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Air Canada Foundation\*  
Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation  
CHUM Christmas Wish  
J.P. Bickell Foundation  
MAC AIDS Fund  
MacKenzie Financial Foundation  
Philip and Linda Armstrong Foundation  
William Rathbone Family Charitable Trust

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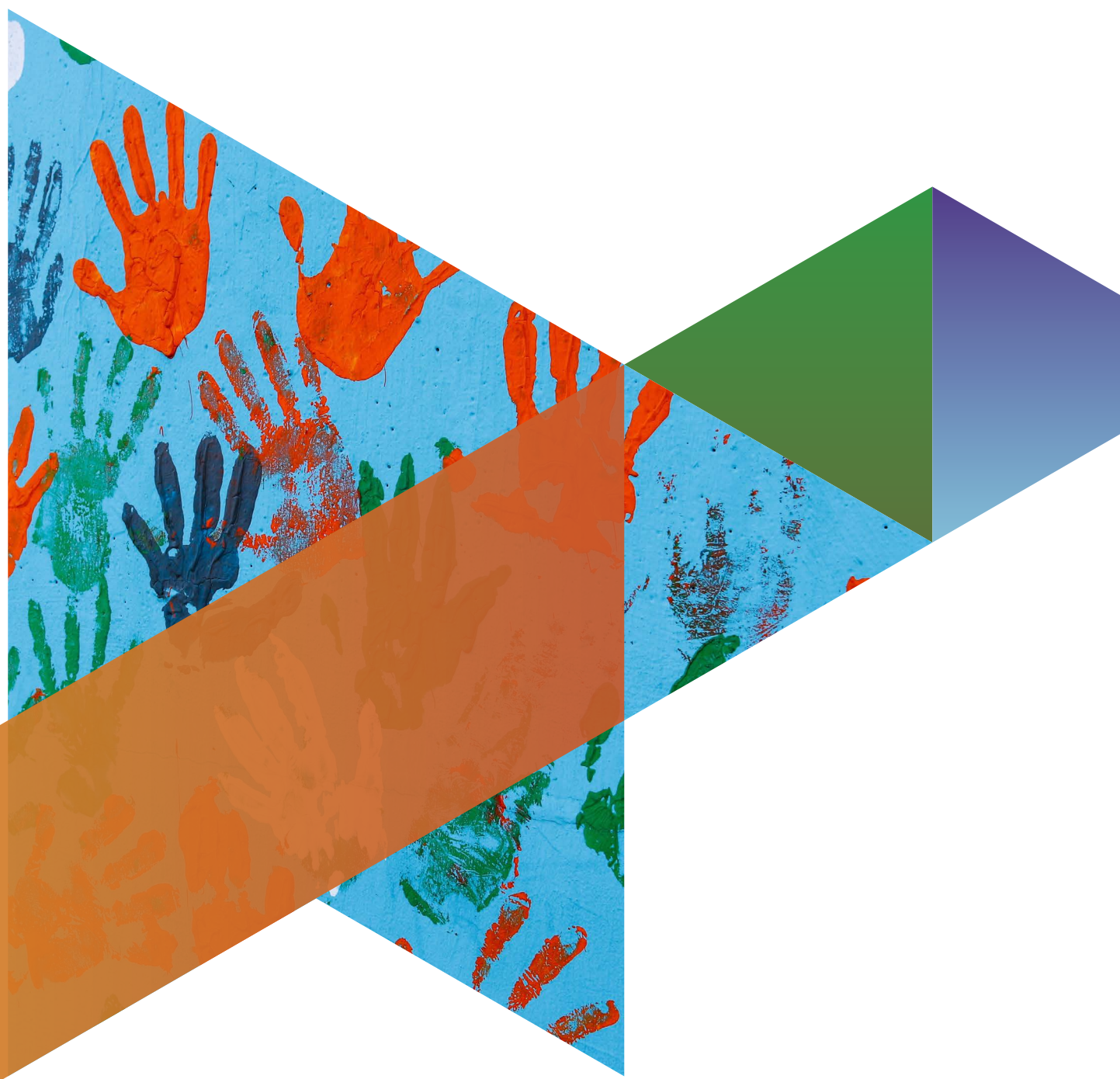
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North Toronto Moms Group \*  
Pillage in the Village \*  
Spearhead Leather/Denim Social Club \*  
Sunnybrook School \*  
Toronto Prep School \*  
Unifor Local 414 \*

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Catholic Relief Services, USA  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, USA  
Firelight Foundation, USA  
Mothers2mothers  
Paediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa  
Frontline AIDS  
ViiV Healthcare, Positive Action, UK





The  
**Teresa  
Group**

