



Happy New Year!

We want to hear from you!

Have ideas for a community program or questions about services and supports we provide? There are lots of ways to connect.



info@quadcounty.ca



FACEBOOK PAGE:

Quad County Support Services



NEW WEBSITE:

quadcounty.ca



EVENTS:

quadcounty.ca/events

Executive Directors Report

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. While I had hoped we would have a better start to this year the Omicron variant continues to be a disruptive force.

Throughout this pandemic our focus has always been to keep the individuals we support and our staff safe and healthy. To this end, in late 2021 we implemented a mandatory vaccination policy. This requires all staff to be fully vaccinated (2 doses).

Sometimes difficult decisions need to be made in response to challenging times. We are also required to follow the guidelines from our funder, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

Despite COVID, you will notice as you read through our newsletter that there have been plenty of opportunities for people to connect virtually, in person and enjoy activities within their community. While we are often required to pivot, I am excited about what the New Year will bring.

The leadership team has been working on staffing redesigns and we are anxiously awaiting feedback before we take the next step. Our focus will be on delivering services more holistically and person directed.

I look forward to watching the growth of the individuals we support, the staff and Quad County.

Linda Long, Executive Director



Community Corner

We have been so fortunate to have a great community where we live and work.

The Quest Centre is an amazing community hub, offering assistance and support to the citizens of Southwest Middlesex. We were able to partner with them for the Santa Walk to promote local businesses and have a bit of fun making some gnomes.

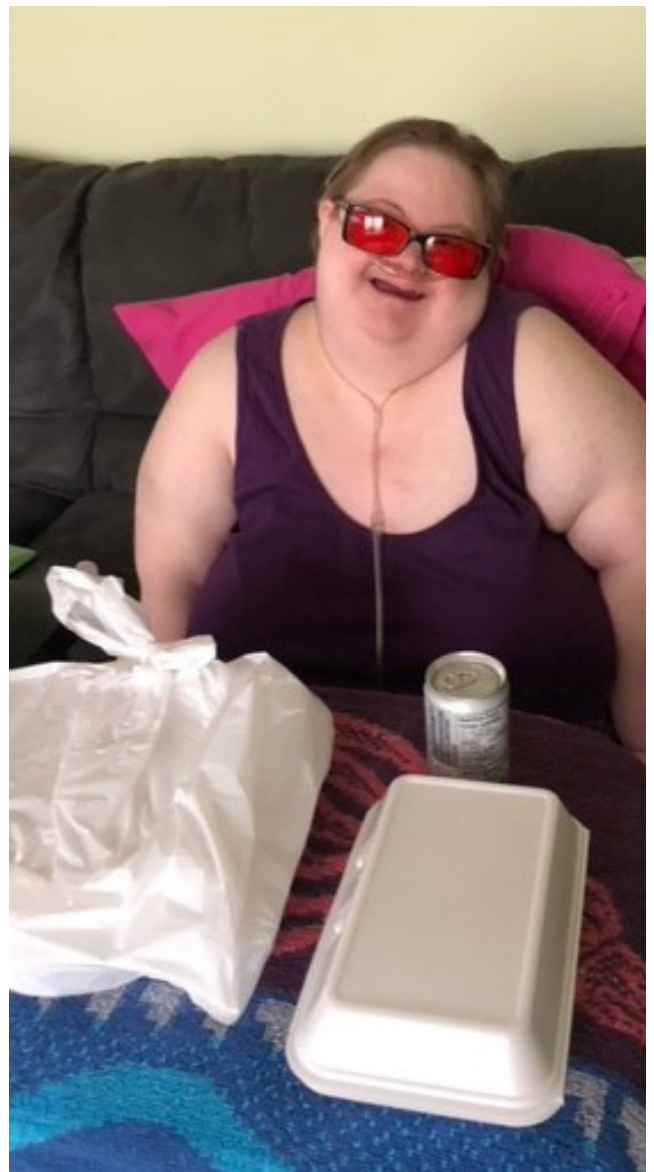
We are blessed to have such a great friend in Dave Skipper. He has hosted us many times over the years and is so giving. On December 14, he invited a few people for a BBQ lunch, scavenger hunt and everyone went home with a Christmas wreath.



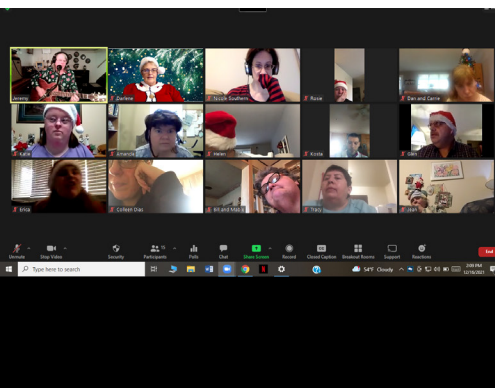
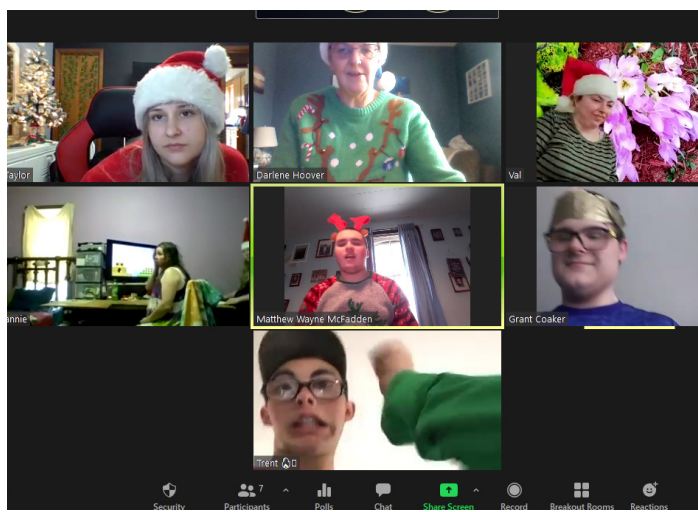
Christmas Activities

Christmas was a great time to forget about the world's troubles. Many enjoyed participating in the Glencoe Santa Claus parade by working on the float for Quad County. They were rewarded with a prize for the Best Themed Float.

Unfortunately, as Christmas neared, we were still unable to gather for an in-person Christmas meal. Instead, we were lucky to have some elves who delivered tasty turkey dinners to all individuals in support prepared by our friends at Talbot Trails Restaurant. This was followed by an afternoon of virtual games and gifts hosted by Darlene Hoover.



Holiday Highlights:



FACEBOOK PAGE:
Quad County Support Services

*We're regulary posting on Facebook photos!
We encorage you to follow, comment and help
grow our Facebook 'Quad Community'.*

Spotlight:

Find more pictures on our Facebook page and follow us to be part of the Quad County community!



FACEBOOK PAGE:

Quad County Support Services

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Youth Transition Program

For the past four years, Quad County has had the opportunity to run a program for high school students with developmental disabilities who live in our communities. While this is not one of our funded programs, we have been creative and offered supports to these youth using municipal grants, donations and grants from Canada Summer Jobs

The feedback we have received from this program

has been overwhelmingly positive. The students have had opportunities to participate in community events as well as give back to their community. They have also been able to complete volunteer hours, participate in work placements and even start their own business.

Unfortunately, we ran out of funds for this program at the end of 2021. However, we hope to be able to begin again in summer 2022.



Staffing response to COVID

It's been a while since we provided a COVID update as until recently we've had little changes to our operations. However, with the Omicron variant and rising COVID cases in Ontario and the communities we serve, that has now changed.

We are starting to have staff off due to testing positive, being symptomatic or having had close contact with someone who is COVID positive.

Thankfully, as of this newsletter, none of the individuals we support have symptoms or

have tested positive. This is the result of the COVID protocols we have in place and the hard work of our staff, families and individuals to follow these protocols.

While currently the staff absences are not impacting our operations, we know this can change quickly. Staffing shortages may require us to make operational decisions that are less than ideal as we are living and working through challenging times.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to pivot our operations in response to this pandemic.




Training opportunities

On December 2, we had the opportunity to hold training events for staff, community members as well as our Board of Directors.

We welcomed Cynthia Lockrey from British Columbia. She shared practical tips and real-life examples on the importance of telling and sharing our stories to make us better advocates. Cynthia is originally from Southwestern Ontario and, in addition to being a communications expert, is the mom and sister of two autistic individuals.

It was nice to spend some time together before COVID restrictions were put in place. It also gave the Board of Directors an opportunity to put the finishing touches on their Crisis Communication Plan.



Quad County Support Services is pleased to host a workshop on
How to Share your Story and Advocate
Being a good advocate for someone is an important skill.
This workshop will be of interest to you if you are:
A parent advocating in the school system or support situation
A person advocating in the health care system
A support worker advocating for someone you are supporting

We are pleased to have Cynthia Lockrey join us. She will be conducting this interactive session which will help participants feel more confident, prepared and focused when sharing their stories and advocating.

Topics covered in the workshop include:
Storytelling: Audience – Key messaging – Emotions – Facts – Call to action
Advocacy: Personal (one-on-one conversations) – Local – Regional – Federal

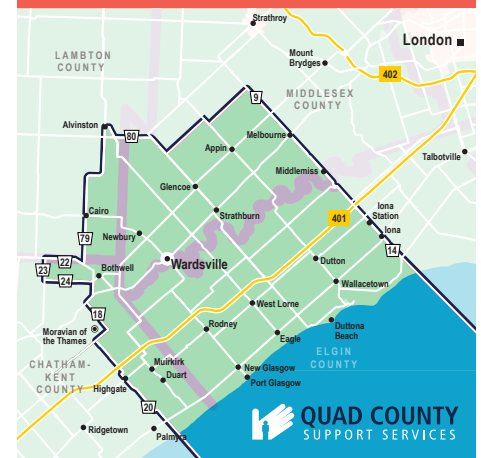
Cynthia Lockrey is a storyteller and motivator. She is passionate about helping people find their voice so they can share their knowledge, stories and BE HEARD! Through her work as a writer, communications professional, corporate trainer and patient advocate she helps individuals and organizations make a personal connection with their audience. Cynthia's work has been featured on The Mighty, Global TV, CBC, and numerous news and online publications. She is the author of two books - Your Child's Voice, A Caregiver's Guide to Advocating for Kids with Special Needs, Disabilities or Others Who May Fall Through the Cracks as well as Bed Rest Mom, Surviving Pregnancy Related Bed Rest with Your Sanity and Dignity Intact.

Date: December 2, 2021
Time: 6-8 PM
Location: Glencoe Agricultural Hall
268 Currie St., Glencoe, Ontario
Pre-register by emailing info@quadcounty.ca or calling 519-693-4812

COVID PROTOCOLS:
Please note that this event requires participants to be fully vaccinated.
All COVID-19 protocols will be observed and screening will be done at the door

We are at the heart of 4 counties.

We strive to create authentic and meaningful participation through community connection which is driven by individual choice.



New path forward

We had the opportunity to take an important step on our new Path Forward. A consultant has been helping the management team look at our staffing requirements.

On December 16, staff were invited to participate in an in-person event. But with the changing times it was necessary to pivot to an online platform. There was a lot of great conversation and we look forward to the next step and new opportunities.

Linda Long, Executive Director