

Growing Community

Annual Report 2022 - 2023





Celebrating 60 years of growing community

Linda Long
Executive Director



In 2023, Quad County Support Services turned 60. We've included our 60th anniversary theme of Growing Community in a number of our community events such as the chili cook off. In June, we held a community celebration. It was heartwarming to see so many people coming together to celebrate with us – especially faces we haven't seen in many years.

The anniversary committee was instrumental in pulling together the event. Thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves to create a fun and memorable afternoon.

Looking back on my own history, I started as a summer student many years ago. My task was to complete a history of the organization. It's been fun returning to that history and seeing the changes that have happened over the years. I've had lots of opportunities to reminisce, grow and change.

While the June event is over, we'll be continuing the celebrations throughout the year. Watch for more to come.



Strategic planning

Last winter we launched our new strategic focus areas, which will help guide the organization over the next three years. I'm happy to report the progress that has been made.

Focus area – Develop a long-term sustainability plan

Working towards this goal, we've begun implementing a new scheduling and payroll system. While it hasn't been an easy transition for the administration and management team, we know it's needed. Our journey is not yet done. We're hoping to have all the modules live by the end of the year.



Board of Directors 2022 / 2023



Linda Long
Executive Director



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Chair



Bonnie Campbell
Vice Chair



Betty Ann MacKinnon
Treasurer



Brenda Szusz
Secretary



Laurie Vereecken
Director



Lyn Moniz
Director



Andrea MacKellar
Director

Over the last five years, we've implemented four new online platforms. I'm proud of how the staff has embraced the changes in technology. This has been such an asset as we moved from centre-based programming to person-directed support which requires additional security controls to protect individuals' records.

Focus area – Person-directed supports

Helping us move forward in developing plans for individuals, we hired Aya MacDonald as our new Community Activator. She's assisting staff and individuals to connect with opportunities. This involves individuals to be active in the community, but also in their own lives and decision-making. We're moving away from a model where others make decisions to a model of individuals being supported and having the tools needed to make their own decisions.

Hellos and goodbyes

We're grateful for our long-term staff and the new people who have joined our organization. Terry Rankin and Lori Watson retired and Lyn Stevenson celebrated 40 years with Quad County Support Services. Even though Terry and Lori are no longer working with us, they haven't severed the ties to the individuals they've known for many years. We still see them involved with individuals we support.

Finally, it's been so rewarding watching individuals we support, staff, families and board members getting together and having fun. Our Facebook page is filled with photos of people embracing opportunities, trying new things and getting together with family and friends. I encourage you to follow our Facebook page to see the adventures for yourself.



Embracing change

Kosta is a well-known face in the community and his smile often shines from our Facebook page. We're inspired by not only his transformation, but also the staff who support him.

Kosta lived with his mom in Bothwell until she suddenly passed away. Due to his connections with Quad County Support Services by attending our day program, he was successful in finding a host family. He later moved into his own apartment. It's been incredible being part of his transformation into having a full life.

His main support staff are Gerald, who has worked for QCSS for 25+ years and Paul, who has been with the organization for one year. Together, these three men have had an incredible journey of change and adaptation.

For Kosta, he has gained the confidence to live on his own and get involved in community. Gerald spent years working in the day program and moved to personal support after the program closed. While he was initially unsure of this role, he quickly embraced supporting Kosta and learning new technology.

Paul's addition to the team has been very positive. He has a sibling who is supported by QCSS so was already familiar with our organization. He lived in Japan for several years, but returned with his wife Aya, our community activator

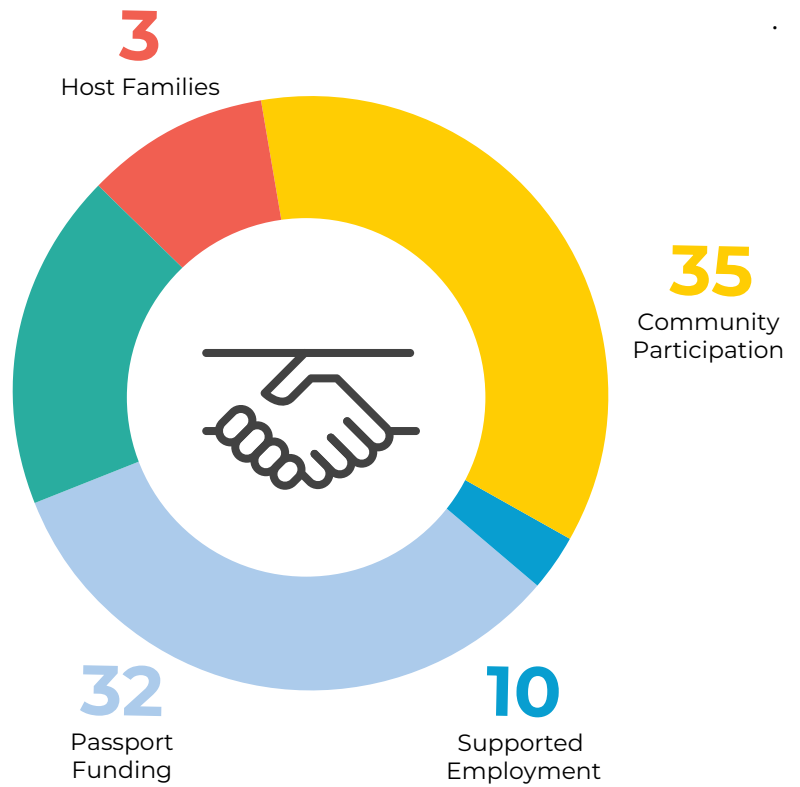
Together, Gerald and Paul have helped Kosta flourish and overcome some of his fears. One of Kosta's goals was to learn how to swim as he was afraid of the water. With much coaching and support from staff, he's now able to swim in the deep end.

In March 2022, he used his Passport funding to purchase a YMCA membership. He enjoys going to the Y to swim and walk the track. He likes the health benefits and social connections he's made there with staff and other members.

Kosta's an inspiration - overcoming his fears, trying new things and living a full life. And thank you to Gerald and Paul for embarking on your own personal journeys of change. Together, they make a pretty dynamic trio!

Changing Futures:

Our Impact Metrics
2022-2023

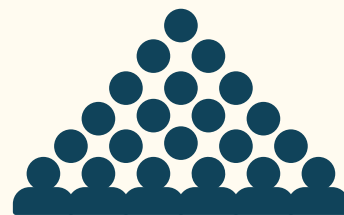


Passport Program

Did you know our work with the Passport Program is growing?

We now serve 32 people and manage \$208,930 in funding.

We're thankful for the flexibility from the Ministry in how funds can be used. This has opened opportunities for people to purchase technology to stay connected to their families and friends.



32 INDIVIDUALS
\$208K+ ACCESSED

We're celebrating 60 years!



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 60th anniversary celebration. We're so grateful for our amazing community.





Thank-you!

 MUNICIPALITY OF
West Elgin DATE 20230611
YYYYMMDD

Generously Donated To: QUAD COUNTY SUPPORT SERVICES | \$ 3500.00

THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED xx/100 DOLLARS

MEMO 2023 COUNCIL GRANTS  West Elgin Council MP

Highlights:

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



FACEBOOK PAGE:
Quad County Support Services

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





Quad County Honoured at Warden's Golf Tournament

This year Quad County Support Services was one of the recipients of proceeds raised at the Elgin County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament. We were thrilled to get the call that the Warden had selected our organization. Funds raised will be used to help support the work we do in Elgin County.

List of Donors

Andrea Burdick - Epicure fundraiser
 Celebrate Community Committee -
 Community cans
 Duff Church Ladies Aid
 Glencoe Elks Lodge 507
 London Community Foundation -
 Acorn grant
 Women Who Care

In memory of:

Ron Walker
 Todd Raycraft

Municipal Grants

Southwest Middlesex
 Municipality of West Elgin
 County of Elgin



Christmas gift baskets

A special thank you to everyone who contributed items and funding so we could create and deliver holiday gift baskets to the individuals we support.

Elfried Parlow	Ross Werden
West Elgin Pharmacy	Pooran Law
Kiwanis Club of Rodney	West Elgin Foodland
Art in the Park	Allan Mayhew
Nucleus Labs Informaiton Technologies	Lynda Moniz
Surge Learning	Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Ltd.
Glencoe Foodland	Janet Allen
Rodney Calvary United Church Women	

Ted Vink bursary award

In 1999, the Vink family established this annual award in member of their family member, Ted, who was killed in a tragic accident. This \$200 bursary is awarded to a student at Glencoe District High School who is entering a Developmental Service Worker, or similar program, at a community college.

We appreciate their ongoing commitment to supporting students who are entering a field working with individuals with developmental disabilities.



Youth Transition Program

For the last seven years, our Youth Transition Program (YTP) has connected youth with developmental disabilities with volunteer and work opportunities in their communities.

This summer Cade joined the program. Like many 16-year-olds, he loves to go fishing, camping and biking and enjoys spicy foods and coffee.

Cade told the YTP staff he also loves cars and mechanics and wanted a job so he could earn money. He's hoping to go to college to become an auto mechanic.

Knowing his desire for work, his family reached out to our summer program looking for some help. Staff at his school, Strathroy District High School, had recommended Cade find a work placement that could continue during the school year.

Our YTP staff spent July looking for the right fit which they found with Ryan Lowes, owner of West End Auto Care. He welcomed Cade to do a work placement at his auto shop.

Ryan took the time to teach Cade skills such as repairing, rebuilding and getting vehicles into good working order. Ryan quickly discovered that Cade is a hard worker who is willing to learn. And he easily fit in with the team at West End Auto Care as they all love coffee and cars too.

With the summer program complete, plans are in place for Cade to continue his work placement until at least the end of the year.

Knowing the transition from high school to post-secondary life requires planning, preparation and support, our Youth Transition Program is there to help. Early planning and developing a vision are crucial as they impact future goals.

Ryan saw the importance of being a part of a support network for Cade's future and was willing to share his skills.

We are so grateful for Ryan's commitment and have enjoyed watching Cade grow. Congratulations Cade on all your hard work!

We are grateful to the donations and grants that make this program possible. Without ongoing community support, we would be unable to provide these opportunities for our youth.

Thank you for your years of service

The following individuals have been employed by Quad County Support Services for:

0-5

Jessica Blais
Jamie Kate Coaker
Mikelle Forrest
Taylor Holmes
Paul MacDonald
Aya MacDonald
Jennifer Keech
Greg MacMillan
Brooke Mazerolle
Danielle McGill
Briana McLeod
Laurie Pfeiffer
Taylor Shearer
Lavonne Simpson
Tory Spry
Mary Ellen Stacey
Stephen Tomasi
Emily VanHooste
Jennifer Vanooydonk
Rebie West
Jenn Zettel

5+

Lesley Campbell-Okolisan
Alynn Forrest
Donia-Jean Harper
Megan Murray

10+

Stephanie Caron
Margaret Perry
Janine VanEvery
Kali Zwambag

15+

Robin Hamilton
Sherry McNeil
Josie Mitchell
Lori Watson

20+

Darlene Hoover
Caralee Mitchell
Terry Rankin

25+

Damon Munro
Tina Walker
Sharon White
Gerald Zwambag
Norine Letourneau

30+

Don McLachlan
Gordon Walker

35+

Linda Long

40+

Lyn Stevenson



Fact:

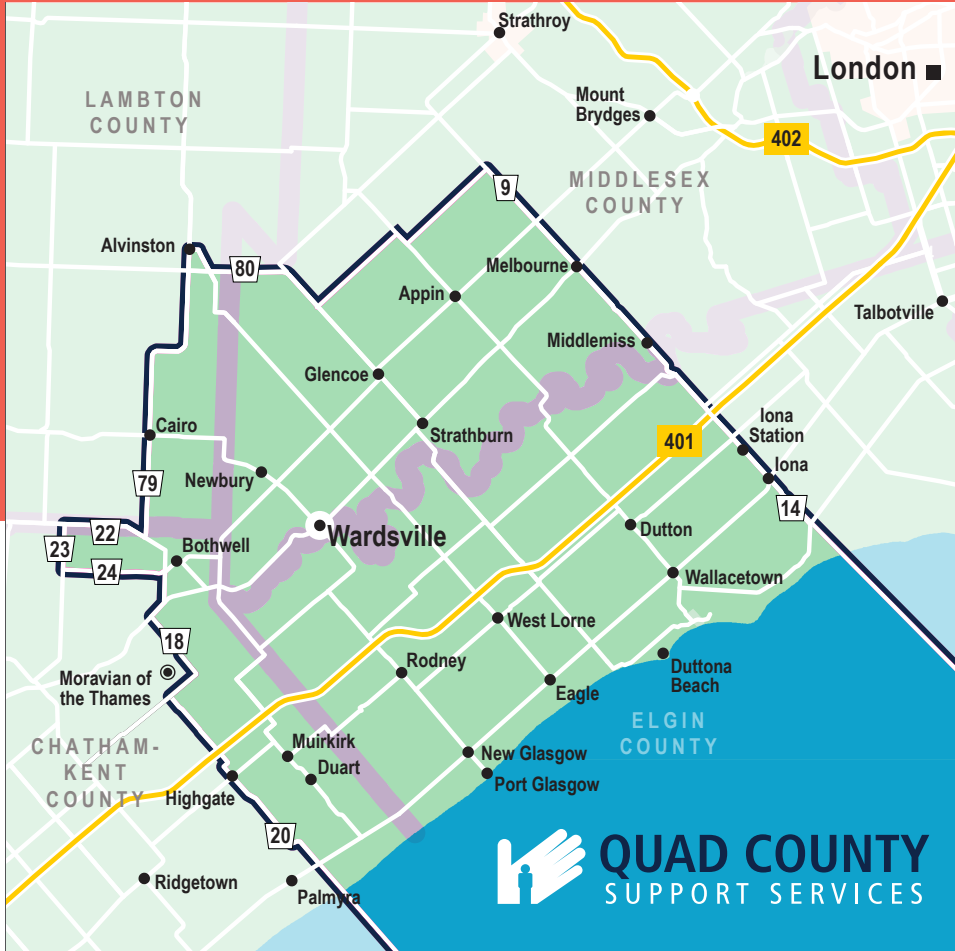
Over **44 staff** help support **35 people** accessing service.

Thank you for all that you do!



Donations Appreciated

Donations from our community members and businesses are always appreciated. Financial and in-kind donations allows us to expand the supports we provide.



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.

Full Financials Available

To request a copy of the audited financials for Quad County Support Services please email us at info@quadcounty.ca

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.



EVENTS:
quadcounty.ca/events



WEBSITE:
quadcounty.ca



FACEBOOK PAGE:
Quad County Support Services



EMAIL:
info@quadcounty.ca