

Growing and Learning Together

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



quadcounty.ca



QUAD COUNTY
SUPPORT SERVICES



Growing and Learning Together



Linda Long
Executive Director

Last year we celebrated a milestone of 60 years of growing our community. While our anniversary may be over, our growth hasn't stopped. As an organization, we're on a collective journey of building new paths as well as embracing new thinking and approaches.

Part of this growth was saying goodbye to a piece of our past with the sale of our day program buildings in Wardsville. While that chapter is closed, we honour its history, roots and identity.

Even though change is constant, one thing that remains is our commitment to supporting individuals to learn and grow. That has been a constant theme throughout our history.

#5tosurvive

I have to admit, there have been some bumps in the road this last year. Staffing capacity remains an issue for not only us, but sector wide.

With no provincial investment for base funding in decades, we're also struggling with funding and financial security. This led to the developmental services sector lobbying for a 5% increase to base funding through the #5tosurvive campaign.

While we did receive a 3% increase, it's still not enough to meet the increased costs to deliver services or address the financial pressures for the individuals we support, their families and our staff. We all know how expensive groceries, gas, and other essentials have become. It's even more challenging when funding has remained stagnant for decades.

We, along with other developmental services organizations,





continue to lobby the provincial government for a meaningful increase in funding.

Inclusive future

Despite our funding challenges, we're proud of the many positive outcomes this last year. If you follow us on Facebook or receive our quarterly newsletter, you've seen the numerous stories and photos of individuals living their best lives – hanging out with friends, being active in the community and making a difference in the world.

These are all steps forward in our vision for having a truly inclusive community for all members.

We are grateful for the incredible group of staff and family members who are walking with them and lifting each other up.

I'm happy to report we've welcomed several new staff. It's exciting to have fresh perspectives, combined with years of experience and wisdom. And we have drawn upon our experience, wisdom and innovative thinking to support people in constructing new pathways. This is at the heart of person directed supports.

As the executive director, I continue to be impressed with the strides our organization is making to help people with developmental disabilities live their best lives. Thank you for your support in our journey.





Board of Directors Updates



40 years of thanks!



36 years of thanks!

Just as we've had staffing changes this past year, we've also had a change of faces on our board of directors. We said goodbye to Ross Werden, who spent 40 years as a director before assuming the chair position in 2011.

We also said goodbye to Betty Ann MacKinnon after 36 years on the board, over which she held various roles including chair, director and treasurer.

I greatly appreciate their guidance and input these last few decades.

Last year we welcomed Doug Bartlett to the board. He seamlessly slipped into the role of treasurer.

Thank you to all of our board members for your tireless dedication to the people we support.



Board of Directors 2023 / 2024



Linda Long
Executive Director



Doug Bartlett
Director



Brenda Szusz
Chair



Lyn Moniz
Director



Bonnie Campbell
Vice Chair



Andrea MacKellar
Director

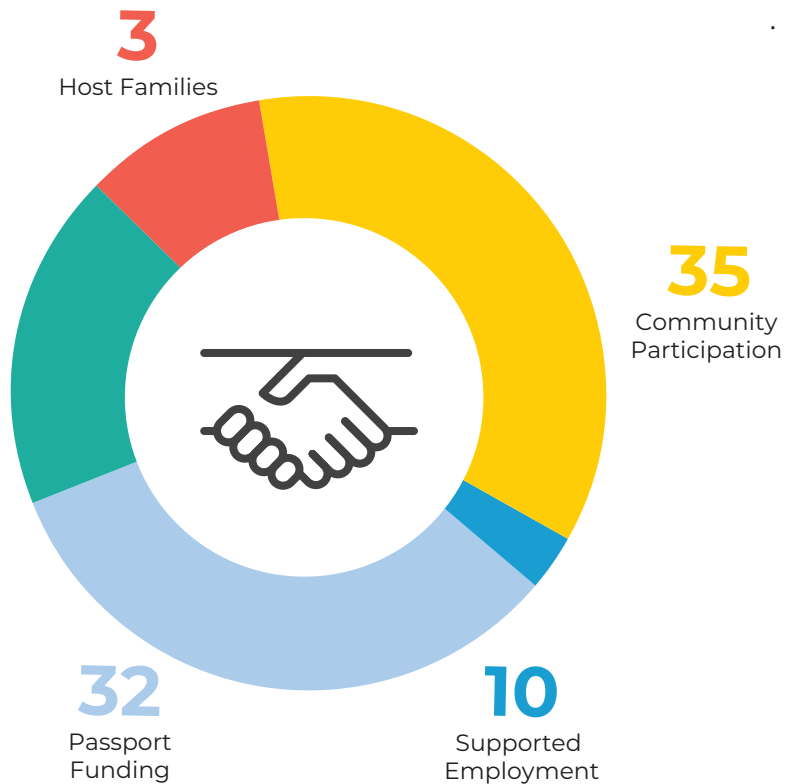


Laurie Vereecken
Secretary



Changing Futures:

Our Impact Metrics
2023-2024

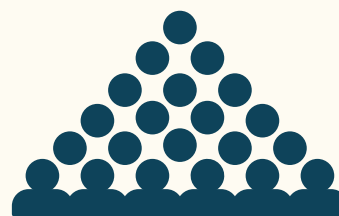


Passport Program

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

We 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

Helping Local Youth Gain Skills and Confidence



This summer marked the eighth year of our Youth Summer Transition Program. Taking a person-directed approach, our two summer staff worked with eight local students to facilitate meaningful participation in their home community. Throughout the summer they focused on skill development in the areas of employment, volunteerism and community participation.

Working Wednesdays

Our Wednesdays were all about learning new skills through a variety of experiences. And they definitely learned a lot. Some highlights included:

- Blueberry picking at Blueberry Hill
- Learning about internet safety from Officer Phair of the Elgin OPP
- Employment Services Elgin explained the soft skills needed in the workforce such as a positive attitude, willingness to learn something new and more
- A session on Mindfulness with Bunnies by Sherry-Lynn Kirschner
- Understanding how to spend and save money by the Financial Diva
- Hearing from two-time silver medalist James Dunne of the winter Paralympics
- Helping Casey Shannon from Do Good Things Company prepare, organize and run Tartan Days games

- Getting lawn bowling tips from the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club
- Painting pottery at Studio 174 Ceramics

Work Placements

Armed with their new skills, six of the youth had work placements in their communities. Special thanks to these local businesses for providing placements:

- Lenny's Auto Repair Signature Tire
- Jireh Hills Family Homestead
- Glencoe Foodland
- Re Gen Lunch Station
- Beattie Manor
- Fetch Dog Grooming

Fun Fridays

It wasn't all work and no play. On Fridays the students got together to have some fun. They went swimming, had picnics, visited a reptile zoo, went to Greenview Aviaries and Zoo, bowled, watched a play at Huron County Playhouse, went to the beach and visited Jireh Hills Family Homestead.

It was a busy summer with lots of new learnings and memories. A huge thank you to all our sponsors who made this possible. Plans are already underway for our ninth year.



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



Connecting Job Seekers and Employers



Since 1999, Quad County Support Services has operated Community Employment Choices (CEC). Over the years, CEC has grown and evolved to meet the needs of the labour market. These last few years have seen lots of change as part of the transformation of employment services in Ontario.

CEC holds contracts with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skill Development as well as the London Regional Employment Services.

Based in Strathroy, our 12 staff support businesses and job seekers from across Middlesex County. While they cover a broad area, staff has deep roots in communities from Parkhill to Lucan and all points in-between.

The dedicated team not only provides specialized knowledge but also understand the unique needs of both job seekers and employers in rural communities. CEC offers local expertise as it's embedded in the communities it serves.

How CEC can help job seekers

- Transition to employment
- Resume writing
- Career coaching
- Assisting with job search
- Interview skills

Supporting employers

- Sharing job postings
- Resume collection
- Pre-screening applicants
- Onboarding support
- Hiring incentive

Facts about CEC

- Founded in 1999
- Serving job seekers and employers in Middlesex County with locations in Parkhill, Lucan, Strathroy, Glencoe, Dorchester and surrounding areas
- 12 staff



Ted Vink bursary award

In 1999, the Vink family established this annual award in memory 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.

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.

885315 Ontario Limited	Linda Holder
Anja Zwambag	Linda St. Onge
Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Ltd	Lions Club of Rodney
Bill and Mary Ann Zwambag	Mary Jocius
Carrie Fraleigh De Schutter	Mike and Grace No Frills
Catherine Page	MNP
Darlene Hoover	Nuclues Labs Information Technologies
Duff Church Ladies Aid	PooranLaw Professional Corporation
Eric Clark	Regina Sheere
Glencoe and District Lions Club	Surge Learning
Bingo	
Jurgen Deutschland	
Kiwanis Club of Rodney Inc.	
Laurie McGill	

List of Donors

Andrea Burdick - Epicure fundraiser

Municipal Grants

County of Elgin
Municipality of West Elgin
Southwest Middlesex

Thank you for your years of service

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

0-5

Jessica Blais
 Nicole Bogaert
 Jamie Kate Coaker
 Connie Campbell-VanBynen
 Emma Cookson
 Nathaniel Dow
 Gabrielle Gowers
 Raegen Harding
 Taylor Holmes
 Heather Jacobs
 Jennifer Keech
 Leta Keating
 Paul Macdonald
 Aya Macdonald
 Janice McCallum
 Brooke Mazerolle
 Briana McLeod
 Danielle McGill
 Ashley Miller
 Ronnie Roichan
 Samantha Silveira
 Taylor Shearer
 Lavonne Simpson
 Tory Spry
 Stephan Tomasi
 Jennifer Vanhooydonk
 Rebie West
 Marion Wilms
 Sherrie Williamson
 Jen Zettall

5+

Lesley Campbell-Okolisan
 Alynn Forrest
 Matthew Hill
 Donia Jean Harper
 Greg MacMillan
 Megan Murray
 Laurie Pfeiffer
 Katelyn Pittman
 Michele Sands
 Barb Tulpin

10+

Stephanie Caron
 Jeff DeBruyne
 Cassie Hodgins
 Margaret Perry
 Janine VanEvery
 Kali Zwambag

15+

Robin Hamilton

20+

Caralee Mitchell-DeWild
 Josie Mitchell
 Sherry McNeil
 Terry Rankin
 Linda Therrien

25+

Darlene Hoover
 Norine Letourneau
 Damon Munro
 Sharon White
 Gerald Zwambag

30+

Don McLachlan
 Gordon Walker
 Tina Walker

35+

Linda Long

40+

Lyn Stevenson



Fact:

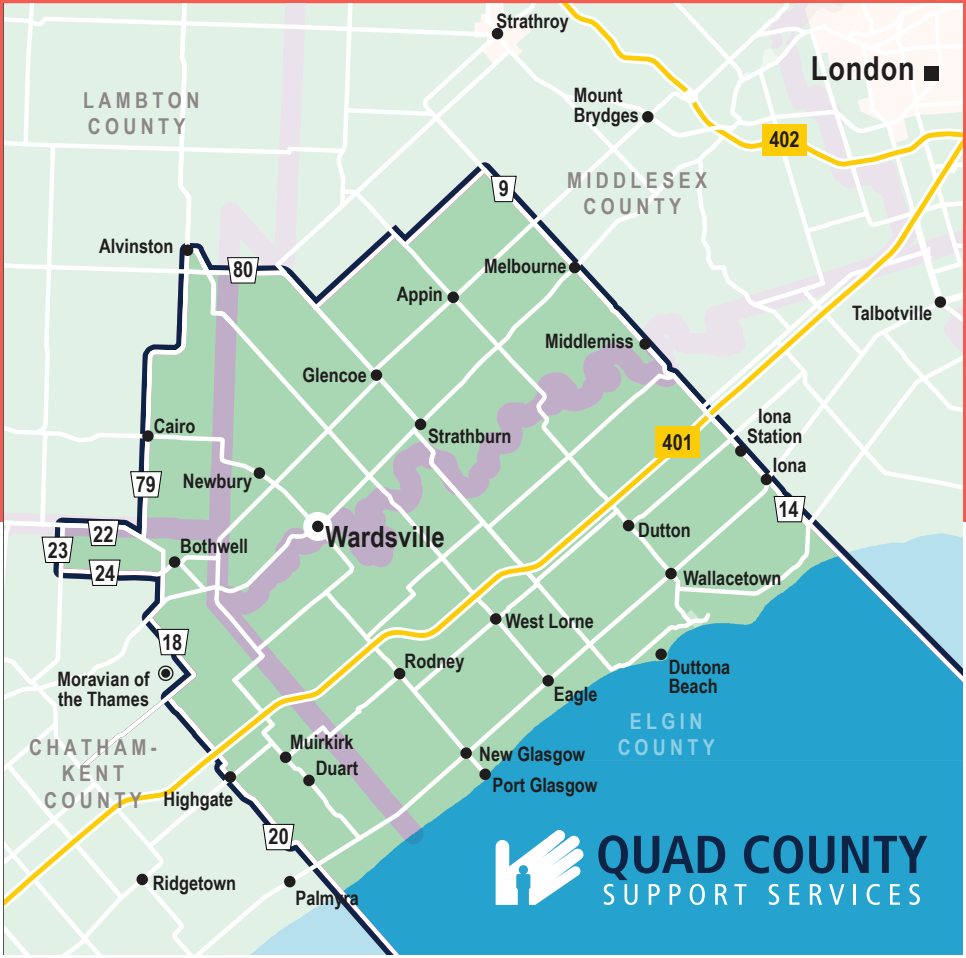
Over **47 staff** help support **35 people** accessing service.

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