



We want to hear  
from you!



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**FACEBOOK PAGE:**  
Quad County  
Support Services



**WEBSITE:**  
quadcounty.ca



**EVENTS:**  
quadcounty.ca/events

## Celebrating a new year while reflecting on 2025

As we begin 2026, I want to start by reflecting and giving gratitude for the accomplishments of 2025 while honouring our growth.

The Christmas season once again brought enthusiasm and excitement to our organization.

It was a time filled with celebrations and meaningful events. This included Christmas floats, musical evenings, holiday baking, and festive tree decorating. Cassy even made over 100 cookies! Our hearts are always warmed by seeing how the individuals we support truly embrace this season.

### Giving thanks

We were fortunate to gather for our annual potluck - an evening filled with enthusiasm and excitement. We're grateful for our

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amazing families who helped make this, and other events, a success. A special thank you to Paul and John Johnston for their generous donation with instructions to "buy a bigger cake." Thanks to them we did that and even more.

Once again in 2025, we're grateful for our supportive communities. Glencoe Presbyterian church welcomes us to host the various activities we offer to the community at large such as Bringo Bingo. We also give thanks to Rodney Calvary Church, the Quest Centre, Glencoe Library, CB Creative Concepts and all the local businesses and organizations who welcome and support us.

In 2025, we entered into a partnership with the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, creating opportunities for individuals we support to gain valuable work and volunteer experience.

We were also blessed to receive donations throughout the year. Thank you to the Glencoe Lions Club, Lorne Masonic Temple Building Corporation of Glencoe, Rockland Flooring, Duff Church Ladies, the Quest Centre, and Knights of Columbus Thamesville. These donations allow us to hold special events and deliver meaningful holiday gifts to the individuals we support. We thank them for their generosity.

## Grounded in our values

While there's lot of activity and work underway, we remain committed to being guided by our core values:

- Dignity and respect
- Inclusion
- Person-directed supports
- Family partnerships
- Emotional wellness

These values guide our actions every day. At any time, we should be able to reflect on our work and ensure it aligns with these values as we continue providing high-quality, meaningful services.

I want to end with giving my gratitude to the incredible staff who continually go above and beyond to support individuals. I truly appreciate all you do for our organization and community.

I'm looking forward to an exciting 2026 filled with new connections and adventures.

Linda Long  
Executive Director

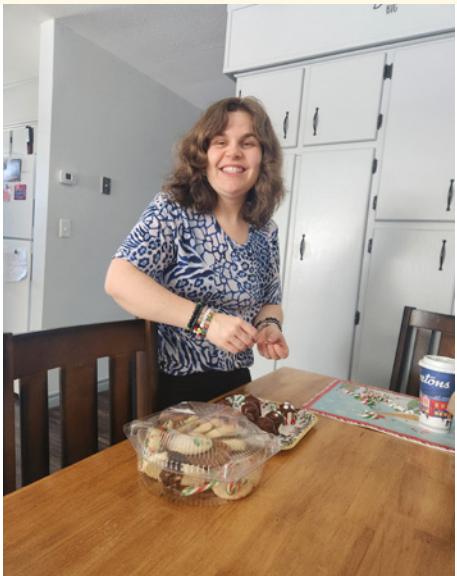


# Spotlight:

## A busy Christmas Season



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# Rockin' Our Way to Christmas

In November, we proudly took part in two Santa Claus parades - in Glencoe and West Lorne. This year's parade theme was *Christmas Through the Decades*. We chose "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree: Music Through the Decades" to highlight how Christmas music has evolved over the years.

Everyone had a great time brainstorming ideas, designing the float, and coming together to decorate. The creativity and talent of staff and individuals truly shone, and it was wonderful to share their magic with our communities. Our float riders dressed up as iconic performers like Elvis, Michael Bublé, and Frank Sinatra, while our float walkers handed out candy and spread holiday cheer along the route.

We were thrilled to receive **second place** for our entry in the West Lorne Santa Claus Parade, hosted by the West Lorne Optimist Club. We're so grateful to everyone who helped bring the float to life and lent their time, creativity, and enthusiasm. The recognition was a well deserved cherry on top of a memorable and festive experience.





# Ringing in the Holiday Season

Our annual Christmas Party was a wonderful success, with an amazing turnout and plenty of festive spirit to go around. Everyone enjoyed catching up with friends, sharing laughs, and celebrating the holiday season together.

We gathered at the Glencoe Agricultural Hall, which offered plenty of space for mingling, activities, and holiday fun. One of the highlights of the evening was the Christmas sweater cookie decorating kits. They were beautifully prepared by our very own staff member, Robin Hamilton. Everyone had a blast decorating cookies in their own unique style.

The food table was overflowing with delicious options, including turkey and beef from Appin BBQ and a wide variety of potluck dishes lovingly made by those attending. A hot chocolate bar and photo booth added even more festive cheer, and judging by the photos, the night brought out some of the biggest smiles of the season.

Alongside the wonderful homemade desserts brought by guests, we were thrilled to serve a full slab cake thanks to a generous donation from Paul and John Johnston. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this event possible and to all who joined us for the celebration. It was a joyful evening spent together, and a perfect way to kick off the holidays.



# Welcoming Author Micheal Jacques

To celebrate World Autism Acceptance Day in April, we're excited to be hosting a special event with author Michael Jacques. Michael is a self-published author who has written two books based on his personal experience as an autistic person living with an intellectual disability. Through his writing, Michael shares his journey, challenges, and successes, offering an honest and inspiring perspective.

Michael is the author of *I Belong: Can I Play? and Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book*. He will speak about his experience to becoming an author and how sharing his story has helped raise awareness and understanding of autism and individuals who have an intellectual disability.

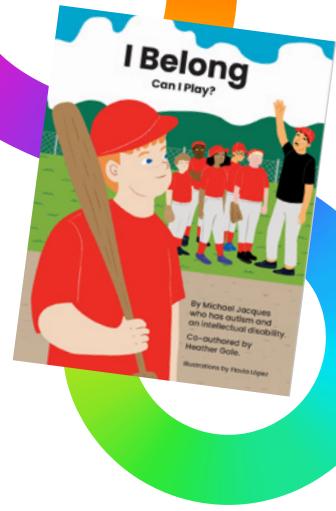
Michael will be sharing his journey and experiences on the following dates:

**Wednesday, April 8** - speaking to local high school students

**Thursday, April 9** - speaking with younger audiences about his children's book

**Thursday, April 9** – a free community presentation at Ekfrid Community Centre, 48A Wellington Ave in Appin

We're looking forward to welcoming this well-known author and speaker as we celebrate World Autism Acceptance Day. Save the date and look for details on our Facebook page



## Organizational Review

During the fall we completed an organizational review which generated some recommendations to help us grow as we continue to provide valuable supports.

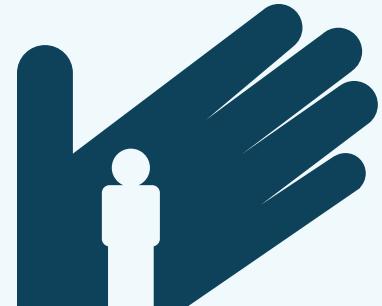
Through this process, we've identified long and short-term goals and are now working on the implementation phase.

Some items that have already been implemented include:

- Restructuring our employee reporting relationships to provide improved clarity, consistency and accountability

- Implementing regular employee team meetings to strengthen communications
- Redefined on-call protocols with clear guidelines on what constitutes an "emergency" and redirecting non-urgent matters

As we move forward this year we will continue to work on these recommendations while strengthening our organization.



# Upcoming Events:

## Join Us for Bringo Bingo

Did you know that Quad County has been hosting Bringo Bingo at the Glencoe Presbyterian Church for over eight years? In 2023, we expanded the program with a second Bringo Bingo at Calvary United Church in Rodney.

We host Bringo Bingo as a fun and inclusive way to bring people together. Bringo helps build friendships, creates a sense of belonging, and provides a welcoming space for connection and laughter for everyone.

At its core, Bringo Bingo reflects our values of inclusion, connection, and community by creating opportunities for people to gather, participate, and enjoy time together in a supportive environment.

Everyone is welcome, please come join us for a fun afternoon. Watch our Facebook page for more details.



### Crafts with Christina: Notes of Kindness

Join us on **February 4, from 1-2:30 pm** for a fun and creative afternoon making Notes of Kindness - just in time for Valentine's Day. Everyone is welcome to relax, get creative, and make something meaningful to share or keep.



**February 14**  
Valentine's Day

### Random Acts of Kindness Week

We'll be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week from February 14-20. Throughout the week, individuals and staff will be taking part in simple acts of kindness in the community, with a focus on building connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging. The week wraps up with a community movie night at the **Glencoe Presbyterian Church on February 20 at 7 pm**, featuring *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.



**March 21**  
World Down Syndrome Day



**April 2**  
World Autism Awareness Day