



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO LIVE A **MEANINGFUL LIFE...**

LCDS CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1955, a group of parents in Lambton County whose children had developmental disabilities became aware that they were all facing and struggling with the same reality - there was a gap in the education system and no structured learning environment provided for their children. These parents dreamt of meaningful lives for their child and began meeting in each other's living rooms and collaborating. Eventually they created the first school for children with disabilities in Lambton County. This grassroots movement marked the establishment of Lambton County Developmental Services; the agency that will celebrate 60 years of service in Sarnia Lambton in 2015!

LCDS has continued to evolve over the past 60 years. This evolution has been driven by the people we serve and their families, who are at the heart of our agency. Currently, LCDS provides support to 163 people; their needs, their choices and their dreams shape who we are and how we provide support in the community.

The 60th Anniversary Planning Committee has been meeting over the past year to discuss and plan how we will recognize this milestone at LCDS throughout 2015. The celebrations were kicked off at the annual LCDS Corporate Appreciation in February. Other events throughout 2015 will have a 60th Anniversary theme - refer to the "Events" page and mark your calendars!

An LCDS music group was formed and has been rehearsing since September of 2014. It is comprised of people we support, employees and friends of LCDS who have an interest in and a desire to express themselves

through music! John Reid, who is a talented musician and well known in the musical theatre community, has volunteered to lead this group. The music group (yet to be named) will debut at the Volunteer and Donor Recognition BBQ on June 22nd and also perform at the Annual Banquet on October 2nd. This group is very excited to perform and is hoping to entertain a large audience at these events.

Also, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary, we have Anniversary "swag". Large sized coffee mugs (\$7) and insulated lunch bags (\$5) feature the 60th logo and are available for purchase at the LCDS Administration office while supplies last!



Pictured with the Anniversary cake from the left are Kari Lupton, LCDS Board of Directors, Patsy Garside, Dave Peters, Adelle Stewardson, Manager of Fund Development, LCDS, Doug Smith, Carmel Levesque, and Ineke MacKenzie, Chair of the Anniversary Committee.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each spring brings change, and we know that it will be no different in 2015. While change can be challenging, it brings renaissance, optimism and momentum as we move through a new year. At LCDS, we have much to be optimistic about and thankful for! We continue to offer quality supports to people in our services, some for 30 years and more, and also to new people seeking innovative support options. We continue to expand our services throughout Lambton County and have strong involvement and support from family stakeholders. Our employment opportunities and staff base continue to grow and we have strong support and guidance from our Board of Directors and Foundation Board. The dedication of all volunteers and employees is second to none!

Only in recognizing all of these positive accomplishments, can we go into our new budget year with optimism and excitement! At all levels in LCDS, we recognize that the future in Developmental Services will look and operate differently than it has in the past. We know that the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) will have new accountability and documenting processes and we will align our systems to ensure that MCSS has any and all information that they need when they need it. LCDS has a solid reputation of being good stewards of public funding and strong resources to meet the new requirements of MCSS and all other Ministries that we now report to: Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Health and the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office. LCDS has a committed and dedicated employee base which continues to offer outstanding supports seven days a week to those that they serve. After almost five years of no increased funding, MCSS has allocated two years of wage enhancement in a recent Service Capacity Investment. This increase is long overdue for these very patient and loyal employees. However, there are no foreseeable cost of living increases to assist our base budgets, or new dollars to address our aging homes and vehicles. We will continue to be creative, "flexible and nimble" as the Ministry recommends, while reminding them of the struggles we are facing and advocating for these much needed increases. There are many examples of where we have been and continue to be proactive:

accreditation, social enterprises, affordable housing, physical adaptations to existing accommodations, out of town supports, shared supports, highly successful fundraising endeavors....and the list goes on.

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year, take the time to reflect on the amazing agency that was created by seven loving and devoted families in 1955 who simply wanted more for their children. We are confident that they would be very proud of how LCDS has evolved and what has been accomplished over these six decades!



Adrian Vermeiren
President



Maureen MacSorley
Interim Executive Director

LCDS IS GOING TO THE OBAA'S!

LCDS has been nominated for an Outstanding Business Achievement Award through the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce in the category of Social Profit of the Year! The awards take place annually and recognize Chamber members in 15 categories. The Social Profit Award recognizes and rewards excellence and innovation of a Social Profit (Not for Profit) organization resulting in significant social impact within and external to the Sarnia Lambton Community. This year's awards ceremony takes place on March 27th at the Imperial Theatre.



OASIS

OASIS representatives continue to have a very strong voice for provincial issues in the Developmental Sector. The OASIS Labour Relations Committee has continued to be the lead for the Employer's group involved in the recent Workforce Stability discussions. The Workforce Stability group is comprised of representation from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Unions and Developmental Services Employers. Despite best efforts, there have been many areas of confusion and/or disagreement since the discussions concluded in December in regards to the announced System Capacity Investment toward wages. OASIS representatives continue to be involved in discussions with the Ministry to ensure clarity and consistency.

February was a very busy month for OASIS with representation and submissions to the government for the Provincial Budget Consultation and in response to the proposed Ontario Pension Plan. Currently most OASIS member agency employees are enrolled in Defined Contribution Plans, where the contribution rate is on average 3% employee/3% employer or greater. During the 2014 Ontario general election, it was understood that the proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) would be mandatory except for "those already enrolled in workplace pension plans". However, an ensuing consultation paper has stated the preferred option is not to provide an exemption for Defined Contribution Plans, group RRSPs or pooled registered pension plans. If this is the case, DS agencies cannot afford this additional unexpected cost in the form of mandatory participation in the ORPP.

The OASIS messages to the Government for the Provincial Budget Consultation on how to improve services for Ontario's most vulnerable are:

1. Ensure increased funding is used to implement programs that fit a long-term developmental services strategy.
2. Work with agencies to form an inter-ministerial committee on developmental services.
3. Divest the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia and other decommissioned properties and reinvest the proceeds directly to relieving pressure on waitlists.

Jane Joris, who will be stepping down as Past President of OASIS but remaining on the LCDS Board of Directors agreed to have her name submitted as a candidate for the Developmental Services Advisory Group representing LCDS.

At this time, LCDS would like to thank Jane for her nine year commitment and dedication to the OASIS Board. Her participation in and voice at this provincial table has been invaluable to LCDS and the Developmental Sector as a whole. LCDS will continue to support Wilma Arthurs on the Board, thereby ensuring that LCDS stays involved in all of the exceptional work that OASIS does provincially.



Wilma Arthurs



Jane Joris

2015 LCDS CORPORATE APPRECIATION



Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS) hosted their 2015 Corporate Appreciation on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015 at Victoria Playhouse. Among many businesses in attendance, LCDS honoured three in particular for their generous support in 2014. Pictured from left are: Adelle Stewardson, Manager of Fund Development, LCDS, Patsy Garside, Dave Ferguson, Lambton Federation of Agriculture, Dave Peters, Ron Bourque, Kel-Gor Limited, Doug Smith, Pam Smith, Integra Technologies and Kari Lupton, LCDS Board of Directors.

Following the presentation of the Corporate Appreciation awards, LCDS launched the celebration of their 60th Anniversary year, with the revealing of the 60th Anniversary merchandise and the announcement of the 60 for 60 Fundraising Campaign.

COMMUNITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT KITCHEN PROJECT



It's "out with the old and in with the new" in the kitchen at CSD these past few weeks! The kitchen has been gutted and cleaned out, a fresh coat of paint applied and the new floor installed. The cupboards have arrived and are awaiting the new counter top and appliances to be installed. The kitchen is expected to be completed in the final week of March, with a Grand Opening on April 10th at 10am. This project was made possible with the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Petrolia Rotary, International Order of Alhambra, Algarva #168, the Carruthers Foundation and many individual donors! The impeccable

work of William Standen Company, both with their innovative design and the coordination of the project, will provide an accessible, durable and functional space for teaching. We look forward to assisting people we support to realize the opportunities and positive outcomes that this new space will provide!

Terry Chesney, who attends CSD on a regular basis for recreation, learning and social opportunities, is eagerly anticipating the completion of the kitchen. Terry enjoys cooking, baking and canning, and wishes to increase his skills and independence. He only experienced limited participation in the past due to inaccessibility

of the kitchen; he required staff to complete portions of tasks for him. Features of the new kitchen such as the adjustable stovetop, lowered sink and island, sliding door fridge and touchless faucet will enable Terry to complete tasks from start to finish with physical independence. Terry is looking forward to baking cookies on his own and his friends are looking forward to eating them! This is one of many examples of how this project will enhance the lives of the people we support.



Pictured is Terry at the entrance of the CSD kitchen, currently off limits to everyone but contractor personnel.

LCDS WINS THE FOX MORNING COFFEE BREAK!

In January, George Hayes and Sarah Woodley of the Fox FM Morning Show visited the LCDS Administration office and brought goodies with them from Global Donuts and Deli, Manley's Basics, Grower Direct Fresh Cut Flowers and the Shoebox! Thanks to the Fox and these supporting businesses for that much enjoyed coffee break!



Grand Opening of the CSD Kitchen

Friday, April 10th, 10am

339 Centre Street, Petrolia

LCDS Trivia Night

Thursday, May 14th, 7pm

Petrolia Legion Hall

*For more details and to register a team call
Heather at 519-882-0933*

LCDS Annual General Meeting and Volunteer and Donor Recognition BBQ

Monday, June 22nd, 5pm

339 Centre Street, Petrolia

**debut of the LCDS Music Group*

LCDS/Woods Pearson and Associates Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 23rd, 9am

Widder Station, Thedford

*For more details and to register a team call
Elaina at 519-882-0933*

LCDS/Petrolia Lions Annual Charity Pork BBQ

Wednesday, August 12th, 5-7pm

Greenwood Recreation Centre

More details and tickets coming soon

LCDS Annual Banquet

Friday, October 2nd, 5pm

Camlachie Community Centre

More details and tickets coming soon

LCDS Family Information Night

Tuesday, October 20th, 7pm

339 Centre Street, Petrolia

More details coming soon

Fusion: A Discovery of Local Food, Wine and Craft Beer

Friday, November 13th and

Saturday, November 14th, 5-10pm

Degroots Nurseries

More details and tickets coming soon

LCDS Valentines Charity Auction

February 2016

More details coming soon

We are currently accepting donations of new items for the Auction!

*For more information about donating items for the
Auction call Elaina at 519-882-0933*

LCDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Adrian Vermeiren

1st Vice President: Tony Hogervorst

2nd Vice President: Kari Lupton

Treasurer: Frank Backx

Secretary: Greg Bond

Directors: Gordon Bregman
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Orrin Farr
Frank Huybers
Jane Joris
Helen Ollerenshaw

Executive Director: Candace Burchart-Etienne

Interim Executive Director: Maureen MacSorley

Staff Representative: Jen Salaris

LCDS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chair: Steve Hull

Directors: Ernie Cocozzoli
John Douglas
Tony Hogervorst
Kari Lupton
Debbie McNeil
Helen Ollerenshaw
Bob Tanner
Adrian Vermeiren

Executive Director: Candace Burchart-Etienne

Interim Executive Director: Maureen MacSorley

Manager of Fund Development: Adelle Stewardson

We invite you to
consider a *gift of \$60* or more to

Lambton County Developmental Services

in celebration of the
60 YEARS
of our work in communities
across Lambton County!

LCDS supports 163 people.

*Our goal with the
60 for 60 Fundraising Campaign
is to raise \$10,000 which would mean
163 gifts of \$60 or more!*



***Thank you
for your generous support!***



In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, we would like to send you future newsletters electronically.

Please send an email to hwillemse@lcds.on.ca with "**newsletter**" in the subject line. In the body of your email please provide your name. You will receive a verification email and your next FOCUS Newsletter will come to you by email.