

### OUR VISION:

A community that celebrates inclusion and inspires possibilities.

### OUR MISSION:

We are committed to supporting people with an intellectual disability to achieve their goals and dreams; empowering them to flourish as full citizens who are valued in their community.

### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The value of each person as an individual citizen | Individualized and flexible supports | Choice, control and safety for each person supported | Support networks | Community partnerships | Advocacy | Accountability

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# ABOUT US

A community that celebrates  
**INCLUSION** and inspires **POSSIBILITIES!**

Supporting people of all ages who have an intellectual disability and their families since 1961.

September, 2023

## OUR PAST

Prior to 1961, families in Essex County came together to demand and create services and supports for their children. Supporters began with a one room school house with one teacher, four students and a borrowed station wagon.

In September, 1961 the organization was incorporated and is now one of hundreds of Community Living organizations in Ontario serving people who have an intellectual disability and is part of a network of thousands involved in community living supports across Canada.

## OUR PRESENT

Community Living Essex County has a strong membership governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, elected annually, and consisting of family members, advocates and other community leaders.

As a fully accredited organization through Focus Accreditation, supports and services are provided to over 700 children, youth and adults who have an intellectual disability and their families throughout Essex County. Supports include individualized supported community living options, community involvement supports, virtual supports, employment supports, short break or respite supports, Special Services at Home (for children) and Passport (for adults). We work in partnership with Ensemble (family leadership) and New Day (advocacy and leadership) – we believe we are stronger together!

## OUR GROWTH .....

*1961...*

- 37 people receiving support
- Six (6) employees
- A handful of volunteers
- \$35.5 thousand budget
- One leased property
- One borrowed station wagon

*Present ...*

- 700+ people receiving support
- 480+ (full time equiv.) employees
- Hundreds of volunteers
- Just under \$40 million budget
- 60 owned/leased properties
- 68 owned vehicles

## OUR GOALS

The Board of Directors, together with families, people supported, employees and community input, has established the Strategic Directions for 2021 - 2026. These are fully highlighted in a separate brochure.

- **Transform Services and Enhance Support Offerings** (*expand innovative and flexible supports; re-imagine service delivery; advance technology enabled and virtual supports; design new accommodation supports; increase focus on youth with complex special needs*)
- **Expand Key Partnerships and Strategic Connections** (*pursue connections in other sectors; leverage/develop collaborations; showcase Career Compass Employment Service; expand outreach with education sector*)
- **Strengthen the Agency Business Model** (*assess learning from pandemic; develop employee recruitment and retention strategy; drive innovation; regular reviews to direct activities to support adaptability and growth; diversify and increase revenue streams; anticipate/prepare for changes in government funding models*)
- **Enhance Stakeholder Engagement** (*champion Together One Dream; nurture and strengthen connections with families; development of a lifespan approach to services; meaningfully engage all employees; enhance relationships with community supporters, members, volunteers and donors*).

## OUR ANNUAL EVENTS

Mayor's Luncheon (May) | Annual General Membership (June) | Charity Golf Tournament (July) | Ruthven Apple Festival (September) | Jingle Bell Run-Walk-Wheel (November) | Holiday Gift Wrapping at Devonshire Mall (November and December)

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ....

- Ensemble, providing family
- New Day, providing advocate leadership

**ensemble**  
Strengthening Families Together

**NEW DAY**  
LEADERS OF TODAY