Early Childhood Community Development Centre Annual Community Report April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

eccdc

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care since 1993

Collaboration | Innovation | Leadership | Respect | Professionalism | Wellbeing



Welcome to the April 2022 to March 2023 Community Annual Report

Pedagogy And Curriculum Resources ~ Professional Learning Opportunities ~ Coaching, Mentoring and Organizational Supports ~ Roots of Empathy Coordinating Agency ~ Mentoring Pairs for Child Care

The ECCDC Board and Staff Team is pleased to present our Annual Community Report for the year beginning **April 1, 2022** and extending to **March 31, 2023**.

The year was an inspiring time for our Team in supporting early learning and child care programs in Niagara and across Ontario with new projects, innovative resources, cutting edge professional learning opportunities, and informative coaching and mentoring supports. We were also excited to launch our new Strategic Plan and begin planning strategies for documenting ongoing progress with the accomplishment of our ambitious strategic directions.

During this timeframe, a common theme of several of the projects we were thrilled to support related to recruitment and retention in the sector. The ECCDC was honoured to partner with Niagara College for the development and implementation of a new accelerated

continued on page 3



Early Childhood Education Diploma program which saw many dedicated educators working diligently to earn their ECE diplomas through an online delivery model, while maintaining full-time employment. We were thrilled the program saw 63 educators graduating from the Early Childhood Education Program from 25 agencies, providing critical relief to an increasing staff shortage in Niagara. Our Team was also pleased to support Niagara Region Children's Services with the beginning development of two additional recruitment initiatives; a Supply Staff Pilot Project within one local municipality and administering a New Hire Tuition Grant for ECE Students graduating in the ECE Program who work a required number of hours in Niagara following their Spring graduation. Another initiative related to the important issue of retention was the redevelopment and launch of the Mentoring Pairs for Child Care Program, originally offered by ECCDC over a decade ago. The new program has been updated and offered in a virtual format to support Supervisor peerto-peer mentoring. Having the inspiration to rejuvenate this exciting Supervisor training and retention tool brought many new learnings and opportunities for continued reflection and growth as the program is piloted within three communities in 2023 and 2024.

During the year, the ECCDC was grateful to be the recipient of a fouryear financial commitment from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for the lease of a Community Outreach Van. The van has helped to expand resource delivery and outreach services to programs across Niagara Region. The acquisition of the van helps ensure child care programs in various municipalities throughout Niagara continue to have access to valuable resources, despite not having the availability of extra staff to visit the ECCDC resource lending library to borrow pedagogical resources in person. ECCDC offered customized professional learning opportunities in over 33 early learning agencies across Ontario to more than 4,000 educators. Additionally, November 2022 brought the return of Niagara's Awards of Excellence in person. The evening was a lively night of celebrating, reconnecting, and re-inspiring one another while recognizing the exceptional accomplishments of so many administrators and educators who make Niagara's early learning and child care system one of the best in the Province. The ECCDC Team was honoured to have 444 guests join in celebration and recognition for this important annual community event.

The 2022 and early part of 2023 was certainly a rewarding time for our Team and an exciting time to support the early learning and child care sector. We thank you for your ongoing engagement with the ECCDC and we look forward to having the privilege of serving you over the coming year.

Respectfully Yours, The ECCDC Board and Staff Team



Kim Cole, ECCDC Board President



Lorrey Arial Bonilla, ECCDC Executive Director

Community Annual Report 2022-2023

- 5 Get to Know ECCDC Our Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Values
- 7 Our Board and Staff Team
- 9 Our Funders and Donors
- 12 Our Work
- 26 Highlight on Kiwanis Clubs
- 28 Our Stories ~ Testimonials from Our Stakeholders
- 31 Financial Report



Get to Know the ECCDC

Our Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Values

Mission

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care through the provision of innovative training, quality resources, and insightful organizational supports.

Vision

Early learning professionals will be empowered through having access to innovative supports.

Purpose

The ECCDC exists so that early learning professionals are supported in offering children exceptional opportunities to grow, learn and develop and families are engaged and informed about early learning services.

Values

Collaboration • We take pride in developing strong partnerships to respond to the emerging needs of the early learning and child care community.

Innovation • We are dedicated to developing quality resources and services that align with emerging trends to support early learning professionals in making an impact every day.

Leadership • We bring our dedication and guidance to elevate the profession by fostering opportunities for professional growth.

Respect • We support, recognize, and value the important work of early learning professionals.

Professionalism • We bring together knowledge, expertise, and understanding to mentor those working in early learning programs to promote high quality experiences.

Wellbeing • We provide opportunities to support the overall health, happiness, and vitality of early learning professionals.

66 I would like to thank you at ECCDC for the ongoing partnership in helping support the early childhood educators in our district. It's been a pleasure working together to provide professional development and educational resources to the childcare staff and programs within our region.

I've been working with ECCDC staff for the past 2 years and am pleased to acknowledge their professionalism and efficiency in exploring and accessing resources and training for our staff. The staff at ECCDC were open and eager to help design customized training sessions to meet our personal needs. The ongoing feedback from educators receiving the training and from programs who have received the resources have been both positive and appreciative. The new learning kits have inspired staff to create new innovative experiences for children and the training has helped build new leadership skills and provided pedagogical strategies for early childhood educators working in our childcare programs.

April Gagnon, RECE, Quality Assurance Supervisor, Child Care Service Management, District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board

Our Board and Staff Team

We Have a Dedicated and Enthusiastic Team

Board of Directors

Kim Cole, Board President • 10 years Donna Dalgleish, Vice-President • 8 years Angela Wyrcimaga, Director • 3.5 years Melissa McLauchlan, Secretary/Treasurer • 1 year Jennifer Smith, Director • 3 months Sarah Maragoudakis, Director • 1 month Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Ex-officio • 8 years

Staff Members

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director • 27 years Kelly Bol, Early Learning Training and Events Consultant • 13 years Patricia Couroux, Coaching and Mentoring Services Coordinator • 9 years Darlene Drouin, Information Systems Administrator • 14 years Jennifer Mosher, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 16 years Katie-Lynn Parkinson, Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant • 5 years Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator • 5 years Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator & Confidential Secretary • 23 years Marc Uger, Finance & I.T. Infrastructure Manager • 4 years Ginette Wilson, Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant • 9 years Hayley Wutzke, Early Learning Training and Events Consultant • 6 years

The ECCDC has become a wonderful partner with our organization. We have had incredible support while developing our salary scale, developing and designing our Annual Community Report, and continued support with our Board of Directors and Executive Director. ECCDC continues to be an integral part of the Childcare community!

Michelle Good, Executive Director, St. Thomas Early Learning Centre

Our Funders and Donors

We have committed and supportive Funders and Donors

Our Primary Funder

Our Board and Staff Team extends our respect and deepest gratitude to our Primary Funder, Niagara Region Children's Services, for their unwavering support of the work of the ECCDC.

Our 2022/23 Project Funders

This year's project funders allowed us to coordinate many innovative projects and special activities. We are very thankful to have your support.

- Roots of Empathy for funding ECCDC to serve in the role of Niagara Coordinating Agency working alongside our partners at Niagara Catholic District School Board and the District School Board of Niagara.
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development Skills Development Funding for Accelerated ECE Program
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for the Financial Commitment of Four Years for a Community Outreach Van
- Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program for supporting ECCDC's recruitment of summer students

Our 2022/23 Donors

This year's donors helped ensure Niagara's Educators and Administrators were recognized and celebrated through the 2022 Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence.

- Louise Kool and Galt
- District School Board of Niagara
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Mountainview Building Group
- Beatties











We are Committed Community Planning Partners

We thank the International Office of Roots of Empathy and our partners at District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School Board for the opportunity to coordinate Niagara's Roots of Empathy Programs.



Our Team is represented on the following committees to support ongoing planning across Niagara's early learning sector.

- Niagara Children's Planning Council
- Niagara Region Workforce Recruitment and Retention Table
- Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee
- Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee
- Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee
- Young Children Priority First with the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara

We are Grateful Hosts of many Students and Volunteers

We thank Brock University's Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program and Child Studies Program for our student placement partnership. We also send sincere gratitude to Canada Summer Jobs for the funding to hire our valuable summer student interns.

The ECCDC team did an amazing job when they came to our Child Care Centre providing Environmental Support to our infant room and preschool room. They collaborated with our team by first observing the children, classrooms, and connecting with the staff to see where they could best support our program. Then the ECCDC team returned with ideas that were shared with the educators to re-create the classroom environment to meet the needs of our children. The team also brought borrowed materials from ECCDC to enhance the changes made to the environment and also suggested new material and furniture that could be purchased to support the program. The changes made by the ECCDC team were very considerate and complementary to the child care program, also the collaboration with the ECCDC gave the educators the opportunity to grow in their profession. With the support given to the educators, the infant and preschool environment became a calm inviting space for the educators and children to engage and learn. Thank you for all your support, it is much appreciated.

Brenda Steele RECE, Supervisor Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre

We are excited to have the following agencies and programs hold memberships to the ECCDC Resource Lending Library. We also partner with many of these agencies for community planning, initiatives, and projects.

ABC Davcare A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara Anna's Day Care Au Coin des Petits – Centre Préscolaire Althorp Montessori School Inc. Anna's Day Care Beacon Christian School Beamsville Early Learning & Child Care Centre Bethesda Children's Services Beyond Montessori School Inc. **BGC** Niagara C. Sisters of the Sacred Hearts Children's Day Care Childcare Central Child's View Child Care Services Corporation Community Living Welland Pelham - Children's Services EarlyON Bethlehem Place EarlyON - Centre de Sante, Coin Des Familles EarlyONs - NCDSB École élémentaire catholique du Sacre-Coeur Family & Children's Services of Niagara Fonthill Montessori Preschool Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre

Garden City Nursery School Glendale Day Care Centre Grapeview Day Care Great Lakes Christian Preschool Greenbelt Academy and Early Learning Centre Inc. Grimsby Community Preschool Heartland Forest Nature Experience James Morden Public School John Brant Public School Kids & Company – Wee Care Daycare Kids Kastle Co-op Kids Place Kidzdome Preschools Kinder Academy La Boîte à soleil Coopérative La Petite Etoile De Niagara Inc. Lakeview Public School Les Coccinelles Zélées Mini Retreat Childcare Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre Niagara Region Children's Services Niagara Support Services - Preschool Services North End Co-op Preschool Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School

Parents' Peace of Mind Pathways Academy & Early Learning Centre Port Dalhousie Nursery School Power Glen Early Learning & Child Care Prince Philip N. Public School Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care St. David's Cooperative Nursery School St. Thomas' Children's Day Care Stamford Green Day Nursery Strive Niagara The Chestnut Tree Pre-school Inc. The Dav Care Centre Thorold Community Child Care Services Toks Christian Daycare Top of the Ridge Day Care Tots n Tikes Trail Ridge Montessori Preschool Under the Rainbow - Wakanioten Child Care Wainfleet Kiddy Kollege Way to Grow Daycare Inc. Wee Watch Private Home Day Care West Lincoln Co-operative Nursery School YMCA of Niagara Your Preschools (Smithville Christian Preschool)



Resource Lending Library and Meeting Spaces

ECCDC provides a variety of learning materials
for children. We are so thankful to be able to add to the children's curiosity with their kits. We have benefited greatly with borrowing kits and the delivery service makes it that much easier to access.

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Educators had access to resources, organizational supports, a technical workroom and meeting spaces through Library Membership

1041

Visits were made by educators dropping into the Resource Lending Library or were made directly to child care programs delivering resource materials



Programs had access to resource library membership and meeting facilities

3057 Curriculu were bo

Curriculum and Pedagogy Resources were borrowed or purchased



Hours were made available for resource borrowing, staff collaborative curriculum planning, and networking

172 h

New Learning Kits were designed for borrowing or purchasing



Curriculum and Pedagogy Resources were made available for borrowing



Professional Learning and Community of Practice Network Meetings Keep up the great work with online book studies like Risky Play. Thanks. ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

127

Advertised community-wide training sessions were offered in person or virtually

Educators and Administrators attended customzied professional learning in person or virtual training sessions

7113

Educators and Administrators attended advertised community-wide training sessions

191

Educators and Administrators were supported through **28** community of practice network sessions held virtually



Customized professional learning and training sessions were offered in person or virtually to community early learning agencies upon request

Our organization was connected to the ECCDC for Board Governance Support and Executive Director Coaching. Coming on as a new Executive Director, these services have been priceless. You quickly realize that these types of leadership roles can be extremely isolating as many don't understand what your task lists look like, but Lorrey has a way of making you feel valued and heard and has had such a positive impact on my leadership skills. In addition to this, our Board of Directors is operating the best it ever has with the amazing guidance we've received in developing our Governance Policies. I feel confident going into meetings with reports that are meaningful and designed to be efficient as the time these volunteers put in for our organization is invaluable. With these services I feel like I have been able to focus on more of what is most important, providing my staff what they need to flourish and watching the children they serve learn and grow.

Courtney Kreamer, Executive Director, Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre Inc.



Recognizing, Celebrating and Supporting the Early Learning Sector

Theme: A Dazzling Tribute to 25 Years of Celebrating Exceptional Early Learning and Child Care Professionals in Niagara on Tuesday November 29, 2023



Individuals celebrated Niagara's Early Learning Community at the annual Awards of Excellence in November 2022



Businesses sponsored the event with a financial contribution



Individuals or programs were recognized by community organizations at the Awards of Excellence

24 | Local businesses contributed to the Silent Auction





Coaching, Mentoring and Organizational Supports and Quality Child Care Niagara Training and Program Visits



Connections were made with programs offering organizational supports through **324** visits



Educators attended **13** QCCN Reflective Practice Training Modules or QCCN Conversation Cafés

92

QCCN visits were offered either in person or virtually

602

Individuals were supported through the QCCN Program Visits

736

Educators and Administrators were supported with curriculum planning, team building, playground naturalization, board development, or technical needs

Marketing and Communications: **ECCDC** Website and Social Media

66 Thank you! I always look forward to the email **99** notifications that I receive from ECCDC. ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

51,230 Visits were made to www.eccdc.org

3662 | Likes were received on ECCDC's Facebook page

175,329 | Page views were made on www.eccdc.org



 1787
 Individuals viewed Le

 Facebook page daily
 Individuals viewed ECCDC's 915 | Twitter followers

596 Instagram followers

The Board of Directors for Grimsby Community Preschool was fortunate to connect with Lorrey to discuss ECCDC offerings in regard to board development and policy governance. In the fall of 2022 Lorrey took the time to educate the whole board on what policy governance is and what it could look like for GCP. Following that, she worked with the President of the Board and the Executive Director of Grimsby Community Preschool to meticulously develop a packet of policies in order to transition the preschool from an operational Board to a policy governance Board of Directors. The policy development process was formulaic; Lorrey has a tried and true procedure to complete, working from template documents that the GCP Board adjusted to reflect active practices at the preschool and set high standards for the future. Lorrey led difficult conversations and explained challenging concepts while taking the time to ensure every question was answered. This massive change for the preschool was only possible because of the direction received from Lorrey and the ECCDC resources.

Amelia Van Hoffen, Board President, Grimsby Community Preschool

Supporting Families in Finding Early Years Services through Parent Direct Niagara Supporting the Early Learning and Child *Care Sector with Recruitment*



63,533 Visits were made to www.parentdirectniagara.ca



5,491 Job listing views on the Employment Board

223,449

Parent Direct Niagara page views

202 Job postings submitted to ECCDC



Parent Direct listings

As a Childcare Services Coordinator, I am always looking for new ways to engage educators in continual professional development. Finding the services of the ECDCC and the opportunities it provided is truly the best thing that could have happened. The educators are motivated and excited to participate in professional development opportunities and as a coordinator, I have witnessed the educators using the tools that they have acquired during some of these sessions in their classrooms. The vast array of subjects makes it possible for every educator, supervisor, coordinator, or executive director, to find something that will expand their learning, enhance their understanding, and provide new and exciting ideas that they can bring back to their centres. As an agency, we will continue to use the services of the ECDCC as part of our continual growth plan.

> Tammy Nevills, Childcare Services Coordinator, All Star Children Services Inc.

Other Special Initiatives from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Classrooms within the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board were supported in hosting the Roots of Empathy program for the 2022/2023 school year

16

ECCDC is a Roots of Empathy Coordinating Agency

For the 2022/2023 school year Roots of Empathy transitioned back to traditional programming of in person family visits. The District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School Board ran 16 traditional programs.

ECCDC hosted a Co-learning and Collaborating Partnership event for 53 (fifty-three) DSBN Youth Counsellors and NCDSB Child and Youth Workers that celebrated 20 years of Roots of Empathy in Niagara. The event offered the participants a session on Child & Youth Grief and Bereavement Services and Reducing Gaps Between a Child's Emotional Brain and Thinking Brain: Tier 1 Social-Emotional Learning Framework to Build Empathy, Understanding, and Connection. A special presentation and question and answer period was offered by Mary Gordon, Founder and President of Roots of Empathy.



Seeds of Empathy

ECCDC is **sponsoring a pilot of Seeds of Empathy within 5 (five) Niagara Licensed Child Care Centres**. ECCDC **hosted 3 (three) separate trainings** for **79 (seventy-nine) educators** to become certified to offer the program. The **program supported 48 children** within their centres to take part in Seeds of Empathy.



Other Special Initiatives from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Accelerated Early Childhood Education Program

The ECCDC Team was honoured to support our colleagues at Niagara College with the planning and implementation of the Accelerated ECE Program. Our collaborative Team was pleased to see **sixty-three (63) participants earn their ECE Diploma**. These dedicated educators worked tirelessly upgrading their professional qualifications, while maintaining their employment.

The shortage of Registered Early Childhood Educators working in the sector continues to be a critical issue in Niagara and beyond. This program had an immediate benefit by enabling staff to upgrade their qualifications without leaving their positions. The program supported agencies in having a greater number of Registered Early Childhood Educators working within their programs, allowing them to meet the increasing need of families looking for child care. Having the opportunity to collaborate alongside our partners at Niagara College was highly rewarding and brought new learnings and new skills to our Team.





Ontario 😵



Other Special Initiatives from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Mentoring Pairs for Child Care

The ECCDC was honoured to have the opportunity to launch Mentoring Pairs for Child Care (MPCC) in 2009, a provincially-funded program that enhanced child care quality by matching more experienced child care supervisors with less experienced supervisors. Mentoring Pairs for Child Care enhanced the quality of care in Ontario's licensed child care centres by expanding child care supervisors' knowledge and understanding through a process of group learning, guided communication, site visits, and one-on-one coaching and interaction. Opportunities were offered for supervisors to deepen their capacity for excellence in child care administration. In addition to the benefits of this one-to-one mentoring relationship, Mentoring Pairs for Child Care provided networking, professional development, and recognition opportunities and mentees gained skill sets that allowed them to accelerate their careers and achieve higher levels of job satisfaction.

After more than a decade, the ECCDC is proud to relaunch a revitalized, virtual Mentoring Pairs for Child Care Program that leverages the past Mentoring Pairs process and framework, while providing updated curriculum in alignment with today's trends in early learning and child care. Through Mentoring Pairs for Child Care, we look to inspire longstanding supervisors to work alongside their newer colleagues to help support the development of emerging leadership skills, develop a deeper knowledge and understanding, and support the critical issue of retention through building strong, trusting, and collaborative relationships.



Katie-Lynn and the ECCDC 66 team did a great job when they came to our Child Care Centre providing Environmental Support. Katie-Lynn collaborated with our team by first observing the children, classrooms, and connecting with the staff. Then she re-created the classroom to meet the needs of all our children. Katie-Lynn also suggested new material and furniture required. The changes Katie-Lynn made in our Child Care Centre was not only supportive, but it gave the staff the opportunity to learn and grow while creating a calm and inviting environment.

> Stephanie Perdue RECE, Supervisor Welland Regional Child Care

Highlight on Kiwanis Clubs

The Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara ~ Supporting Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Community

The ECCDC has had the privilege of partnering with the Stamford Kiwanis Club in Niagara Falls, the St. Catharines Kiwanis Club, and the Welland Kiwanis Club for more than 15 years. Over the last 15 years, the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara have generously donated approximately \$385,000 to Niagara's licensed child care programs through various projects. We are incredibly grateful to the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for their partnership and support in bringing these projects to life.

In Spring 2022, the ECCDC received a four year financial commitment from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara for close to \$50,000 to support a Community Outreach Van. The generous sponsorship has increased the ECCDC's ability to support Niagara's early learning programs by delivering pedagogical materials, resources, and organizational supports to over 170 licensed child care programs in the region. As of March 2023, the Community Outreach Van has completed close to 300 visits to various child care centres throughout Niagara delivering close to 1000 pedagogical resource kits from the ECCDC's Resource Lending Library.



Our agency loves to use ECCDC's professional development opportunities. It's very easy to sign up and choose different workshops catered to individual programs/interests. All of the sessions are very informative and continue to motivate our team. I highly recommend checking out ECCDC for training opportunities with your staff.

Natasha Buda, Building Opportunities Home Daycare Agency



Understanding that children learn best through play, it is important that the educators are able to change the environment, adding new items which will engage the families and provide opportunities for exploration and inquiry.

This is where the provocation kits that our centre was fortunate enough to purchase from the ECCDC come into the picture. These kits were created by ECCDC staff specifically for a Family Support Program. In family support programs, our activities must meet the needs of children as well as their parents/caregivers. They must provide engaging and educational activities for a variety of ages of children. The ECCDC carefully curated items that meet those high standards and that have longevity and will last through the kind of play our little ones have to give.

Susan Robbins, RECE, Coordinator - EarlyON Child and Family Centres, YMCA of Niagara You have a great selection of resources available. Amazing idea to have a resource delivery service. Great job and thank you to all who are involved in selecting the materials and putting together of kits, etc., for us to enhance our programs.

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

The ECCDC are such a wonderful team to work with. They are knowledgeable and care for the children and teachers in our communities. Thank you, I appreciate all that you do.

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Thanks so much for the great work that you do! Really enjoy checking out your website. ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

We greatly appreciate the lending library and its delivery service. Thank you for listening to our suggestions for materials and implementing them. ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

66 We use the resource delivery service on a regular basis. We greatly appreciate the convenience of having items delivered right to our door! The children now have a variety of toys and equipment that doesn't **99** affect our budget. Thank you.

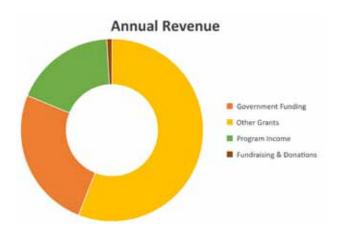
ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

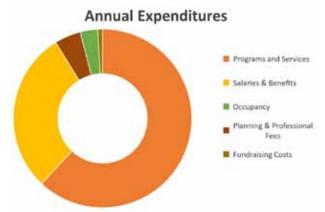
I am so appreciative of the extension of your services and education workshops to include people across the province. Thank you.

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Financial Report





Year ending March 31, 2023

Revenues		
Government Funding		856,750
Other Grants		1,902,085
Program Income		608,822
Fundraising & Donations		31,028
	Total Revenues	3,398,685
Expenses		
Programs and Services		2,026,128
Salaries & Benefits		957,144
Occupancy		104,331
Planning & Professional Fees		154,466 28,538
Fundraising Costs		
	Total Expenses	3,270,607
Operational Surplus (Deficit)		128,078
COVID-19	Recovery Benefits	1,288
Fund Allocation		
Program Termination Fund		10,798
Business Continuity Fund		1,288
Facility Development Fund		100,000
Workforce Stabilization Fund		14,791
Awards of Excellence Fund		2,490

Auditors: Steinbachs & Chapelle, Niagara Falls. A complete set of audited statements is available upon request



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