

# Annual Report 2018-2019

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION  
OF WINDSOR – ESSEX COUNTY



**Idawe** • Learning Disabilities  
Association of Windsor-Essex County

*The right to learn, the power to achieve*

# Letter from the Board President



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year was another success for the Learning Disabilities Association – Windsor Essex (LDAWE). The 2018-2019 fiscal year found the LDAWE continuing to prosper and thrive. Our membership has remained steady, our programming is constantly being refined to serve children, youth and adults with learning disabilities and ADHD, and much progress made to ensure more focused direction in the years to come.

This past year, we initiated the strategic planning process in order to map out the direction of the organization for the next three years. Our board has been actively engaged in the strategic planning process and we are excited about identifying new goals and priorities for the Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex as we look to a stronger and brighter future.

You may notice throughout this report that our association has made great strides in accomplishing our mission over the past year. We value and need your continued support and feedback to ensure that together we can enhance the support provided by the LDAWE. Please continue to check our website and social media (Twitter and Facebook) for programs and supports that we offer.

Sincerely,

Tammy Wilcox  
President of the Board of Directors

# Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

## Mission Statement

LDAWE's mission is to assist children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities, and those who support them, through information sharing, support, and relevant programs.

## Vision Statement

LDAWE is an established organization clearly recognized as a leader in the provision of innovative services to address the wide range of needs of those living with the challenges of a learning disability.

## Vital Statistics

- 54 members as of November 1, 2019

## Services Provided

- Information and referral services
- LDAO member lending library
- Public meetings, workshops, presentations
- Social skills training for children
- Basic literacy and numeracy tutoring for children
- After-school programs and summer camps for at-risk children
- Transition planning program for youth
- Computer enrichment and assistive technology training for youth
- Recreation program for youth
- Advocacy training for parents
- Scholarship for post-secondary students
- Employment supports for individuals 16+
- Client intervention services for adults
- Psychological assessments for adults who meet the eligibility criteria



## Volunteer Involvement

Many volunteers contributed hours to LDAWE during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The value of these hours are not reflected in the financial statements. Volunteers helped with administrative tasks, workshop preparations, facilitating programs, and sitting on the Board of Directors or other committees. Without the support of our many volunteers, LDAWE would not be able to offer all of the services and programs that are currently offered to the community.

## Program and Service Development

The following proposals were submitted to potential funders and funding was received during this fiscal year. These proposals were submitted in response to the needs identified by LDA members and the community.

## Grants

- The **May Court Club of Windsor** continued to provide funding for program subsidies for the child social skills programs, computer enrichment camp, and transition planning programs.
- **Service Canada** provided funding through the **Canada Summer Jobs Program** to provide summer employment opportunities for ten (10) youth in Windsor-Essex.
- **Caesar's Windsor** provided funding for the Supported Employment Program.
- **W.E. Care for Kids** provided funding for math and literacy materials for our children's ABC123 Tutoring program.

## Service Contracts

- The **City of Windsor** continued a service contract with the organization to provide client intervention services and psychological assessment services for adults currently receiving Ontario Works benefits, who are experiencing difficulty meeting program requirements.
- The **Ministry of Community and Social Services** renewed its service contract with the organization to provide employment supports to adults with learning disabilities or ADHD through the Ontario Disability Support Program – Employment Supports (ODSP-ES) program.

- The **Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board**, with targeted funds received from the Ministry of Education, entered into a service contract with the organization to provide an after-school tutoring program for children who are not achieving curriculum standards in reading or writing from grades 3-6.
- The **Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board** renewed its service contract with the organization to provide assistive technology training to students with disabilities who have recently received Special Equipment Amount equipment.
- The **Greater Essex County District School Board** renewed its service contract with the organization to provide assistive technology training to students with disabilities who have recently received Special Equipment Amount equipment.

## The LDAWE Scholarship

Two awards of \$500 are awarded annually, one to a student at St. Clair College and one to a student at the University of Windsor, who has documented learning disabilities. Students can apply in a variety of formats (i.e. video, PowerPoint, essay, or audio recording).

Congratulations to Elizabeth Elliot (University of Windsor) and Mya Palumbo (St. Clair College), who were announced as recipients of the LDAWE Scholarship. LDAWE wishes both Elizabeth and Mya the best of luck in their studies!



## Community Workshops, Conferences and Presentations:

One of the roles of LDAWE is to provide information referral services and to educate the public about learning disabilities, several workshops and presentations were made about learning disabilities and ADHD in this fiscal year.

### Workshops and Presentations:

Date	Venue and Topic
October 12, 2018	ADHD Awareness Day - Panel
November 26, 2018	Mason Education Centre – Employment Supports
December 4, 2018	Essex High School – Employment Supports
April 10, 2019	ETFO – SEA Training
April 11, 2019	Client Intervention Services – City Of Windsor Social Services
April 16, 2019	Client Intervention Services – City of Windsor Social Services
April 18, 2019	Client Intervention Services – City of Windsor Social Services
April 30, 2019	GECD SB Strive – Technology Workshops for Students
May 30, 2019	CUSP – University of Windsor



## Donors and Funders 2018-2019

### Government

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City of Windsor

Ministry of Children, Community and Social  
Services

Service Canada

### Service Contracts

Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

Greater Essex County District School Board

### Service Clubs, Organizations, Groups, etc...

May Court Club of Windsor

Banwell Community Church

WECHU

Riverside Minor Baseball

Caesars Windsor

Rotary Club of Windsor - Roseland

Knights of Columbus Council 9528

St. John the Evangelist Council, #4555

W.E. Care for Kids

## Individual and Family Donations

Thank you to the many individuals and families, who made individual donations, or made memorial donations!

## Statistics



728 Volunteer Hours



348 Children participated in Programs



37 Clients participated in Employment Services



309 Client contacted LDAWE for support & services

## **Slate of Directors 2019-2020**

### **Tammy Wilcox-Groulx**

Tammy is a Special Education Coordinator for the Greater Essex County District School Board. She has received her Bachelor of Arts in Behavioural and Cognitive Neuropsychology, Bachelor of Education, Special Education Specialist, Math Specialist as well as obtaining her Principal Qualifications. As a parent of children with Learning Disabilities, Tammy became very invested into learning about and volunteering for the cause. She has worked with the Scottish Rite Learning Centre as both a Tutor and as the Centre Director in the past. She is also a trained and registered Parent Advocate. Tammy is on the SEA Coordinator Council for Southwestern Ontario as well as being a representative in Assistive Technology for the GECSDB. Tammy has been a member of the board for the LDAWE since 2006.

### **Lucie Lombardo**

Lucie Lombardo is a municipal retiree from the Corporation of the City of Windsor with over 35 years of experience in Health, Social Services, Human Resources and Recreation. Her final post was the Executive Director of the Municipal Long Term Care Home. Ms. Lombardo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Administration. She maintains professional membership with the Municipal Managers Association and the Canadian College of Health Leaders. She continues to be an active volunteer in her community and is presently a board member with Life After Fifty; Hotel Dieu Health Care; The Learning Center; and the Ontario Trillium Foundation - grant review team for the Essex, Kent and Lambton region.

### **Gabrielle McMillan**

Gabrielle McMillan has progressive municipal and school board management experience with a background in human resources management, finance, marketing, facility management, and administration. Since 2009, she is the General Manager at Student Transportation, Windsor-Essex. She has her Honours Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Windsor and a Human Resources in Action Certificate from Queen's University. Some of her volunteer experience include the Leone Residence (President and Treasurer); Life After Fifty (President and Treasurer); Downtown Mission (Treasurer); House of Sophrysne (Board Member); Victim Services (Volunteer).

### **Nick Simonitto**

Nick is a former client of the LDAWE who has benefited from the LDAWE's many programs including the AT training program, which assisted him to better understand his own learning disability and master the use of assistive technology. Nick has worked and volunteered for the Association for the past four years in various roles, including summer camp counselor, after-school tutor and ABC123 tutor. Nick, has also served on the Association's Joint Health and Safety Committee for two years and has been the consumer representative on the Board of Directors since 2017. In 2015, Nick graduated from the St. Clair College Developmental Service Worker program and received a Bachelor of Professional Arts in Human Services program through Athabasca University. He has also worked for a number of not-for-profit community-based organizations and schools supporting individuals with Developmental Disabilities.



### **Alicea Fleming**

Alicea is the Manager of Community Development and Investments with United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County. She is a graduate of the University of Windsor, where she obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master of Social Work degree. She held multiple volunteer and employment roles with the Association from 2008 - 2014. She is passionate about supporting individuals who learn differently, cultivating impactful community partnerships, and working to reduce poverty in our local community.

### **Shannon Bacik**

Shannon Bacik, CPA, CGA was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario and currently is the Controller for Maryvale. She obtained her accounting designation in 2001. She has spent a number of years in both private and public industries and brings a wealth of knowledge around business administration, operational strategies, finance and accounting.

### **Christian Janisse**

Christian is a lawyer, with a primary focus on tax law, at Legal Focus LLP. He is a recent graduate of Western University's Faculty of Law, as well as a graduate of the University of Windsor's Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. In addition to legal experience, Christian also has a background in finance, consulting, marketing, and operations management. He is passionate about supporting his community, having previously been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters "Game On!" program and provided pro bono consulting services to local start-ups through the University of Windsor's EPICentre.

### **Lucy Coppola**

Lucy Coppola is a Registered Nurse and works as the Director of Client Services at John McGivney Children's Centre. She has her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and a Master of Health Studies. In addition, she has recently completed training to be a Capacity Assessor for the province of Ontario. Lucy has worked in many areas throughout her career including obstetrics, medical-surgical nursing, and home care. Lucy is a parent of an adult daughter who has a learning disability. She is passionate about advocating for those with learning disabilities for all stages of their lives to ensure their success academically, and in their careers. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family in Kingsville, Ontario and traveling.



# **Idawe** • Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County

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## **Hours:**

Open Monday to Thursday 9 am to 4pm

## **Office Location:**

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## **Contact Us:**

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## **Connect With Us:**



ldawe.ca



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LDAWE1



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## **Support Us:**

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/LDAWE/>

A tax receipt can be provided for donations of \$10 or more.