

Through education and support, Strive Niagara empowers young families so that they can make informed healthy decisions, and transform their lives.

Executive Director Report & Presidents Message

It is with lots of gratitude and appreciation that we bring a summary of our year to you in this report. As most of us have felt, these past few years have been especially difficult for so many. The challenges we continue to experience are growing. We continue to see how the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on our way of life and on our community. There have been so many challenges over the pandemic. However, our team and staff here within Strive Niagara have overcome so many of these challenges.

We have watched our staff come to work and be present, supportive, dedicated, and willing to rise to the challenges put in front of them. We have seen our programs expand into virtual offerings (something not previously available) to reach more families than before. We were pushed to be creative in how we connected with our families during a time of isolation and disconnection. Through this creativity, we were able to support the families and children who continued to utilize our services and programs. Many of our staff needed to teach themselves new software, had to be flexible and collaborated with other teammates through the process. We cannot thank our staff enough for all of the hard work, dedication, love, and support that they gave and continue to give each day.

This year I brought new leadership to Strive Niagara. With my vision and leadership, Strive Niagara will continue to make a positive impact on our community, our staff, and those we support each day. We also reinstated the Director of Operations position and welcomed Micki Horton into this role. In this role, Micki will be able to provide an extra layer of support for our supervisors and staff. Our Board of Directors welcomed two new members. We are pleased to have Patricia Bernardo and Nick Oreskovich join us as our newest board members. A shout out to the Strive Board who has been a great support during the transitions over the past year.

Although times were challenging, our programs continued to thrive. With virtual offerings, we saw an increase in consistent participants in our evening and weekend programs. Families who would not previously have had access to our programs due to physical barriers in attending are now able to. Our Niagara Brighter Futures and Healthy from the Start staff continued to serve their clients by having drive-up donation days to gather items for our families, they drove to distribute food cards to our families who needed extra assistance and to distribute prenatal vitamins to expecting mothers. The Before and After school programs offered emergency care for our essential worker families, providing them options when there were not many.

Our Young Moms Outreach students continued to overcome the challenges of online learning and the physical barriers in place that changed the delivery of their classes. They rose to the challenge and have continued to work hard, learn, and gain credits towards their high school education. We are so proud of them and their dedication.

Our Facebook page served as a way for us to reach families with activities, safety tips, and updates from our staff. You will see our social media presence grow as we expand upon on how we offer support.

As we continue to grow from this experience, we look forward to what the future holds for us as an agency and what we offer to the community. The resiliency of Strive Niagara staff, students, and families is a testament to the importance of connection, support, and the ability to adapt on our community.

Tracy Belcastro & Zach Dadson

2021 – 2022 Stats

In response to the needs for essential workers, we offered emergency childcare for one week in January 2022 at two locations.

Child Care Program	Number of Families	Number of Children
Emergency Care	34	43
Before & After Care (3 locations)	110	106
Pine Grove Child Care Centre	38	39
Sven H. Dohnberg Centre	44	49
Welland Parent Child Centre	48	51
Total Resource Supports (4 locations)	29	31

At our Grimsby EarlyON location in 2021 – 2022 we served 197 families and 229 children.



Family Support Promoters Update

It has been a challenging, busy and very productive time in our Outreach programs as we are once again back together in in-person learning post pandemic. It has been an absolute joy to see all of our students back in class and back walking our Centre hallways. The spring was filled with laughter and hard work and celebration.

As we approach June the outreach students have been working so very hard on their academics.

Number of Graduates for June 2022	14
Total High School Credits Achieved	208

Keep up with what we are doing by following our social media

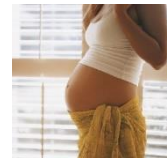


@striveniagara





Community Action Program For Children (CAPC) Niagara Brighter Futures & Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) Healthy From The Start



As we went into the second year of the pandemic, we had to navigate through some obstacles. Both CAPC and CPNP programs continued to run all programming virtually and through several lockdowns. Staff have done a remarkable job continuing to support our families virtually while implementing new and creative programming to keep our participants engaged. Our numbers for both HFTS and CAPC virtual programs have remained consistent over the past year and continue to do so. We are happy to report that both HFTS and CAPC programs this summer will be offering some in-person programming.

As of June 16, 2022, HFTS will be operating out of a new site at the Thorold EarlyON Centre. From there, we are offering an in-person prenatal program every Thursday morning. All participants attending the drop-in program will have access to support regarding pregnancy, childbirth, Mom and baby aftercare, and healthy eating. Anyone attending will also be eligible for free prenatal vitamins, vitamin D drops, and healthy snacks.

Throughout this past year, CAPC Niagara Brighter Futures identified a need for more programming for children entering kindergarten. CAPC Staff have worked hard to develop a 5-6-week "Ready to Learn Program" that will be offered in-person at our Welland site starting June 14, 2022. Children attending this program will learn alongside one another. The design of the program rooms encourage play-based learning that support their development of kindergarten readiness skills such as social skills, transitioning between activities, and communication in a group environment. We will also be including one take-home lunch per child, and a tool kit with resources and materials needed to build on the skills that we shared throughout the 6-week program.

The plan for both CAPC and HFTS is to offer a hybrid model of programming. This includes continuing with virtual programming where we capture and support working families, as well as, offering in-person drop-in programs in Welland, Thorold, and St. Catharines.

Brighter Futures (CAPC) **105 Families** Supported
Healthy from the Start (CPNP) **64 Pregnant Women** Supported

Statement of Operations & Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Revenue		
Municipal government grants and subsidies	\$ 1,975,945	\$ 1,443,420
Federal government fgrants and subsidies	480,354	468,800
Fee for service	410,745	281,412
Other grants	28,272	36,244
Other income	-	128
United Way	27,516	17,167
Donations	115,175	2,967
Deferred Contributions, capital assets	16,721	19,206
	<u>\$ 3,054,728</u>	<u>\$ 2,269,344</u>
Expenses		
Administration	\$ 46,266	\$ 46,145
Amortization	42,165	45,674
Occupancy	357,492	161,939
Program and professional fees	117,165	97,094
Salaries and benefits	2,732,786	2,638,347
	<u>\$ 3,295,874</u>	<u>\$ 2,989,199</u>
Other Income (Government Subsidies)	<u>(442,313)</u>	<u>(957,592)</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	201,167	237,737
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 886,782	\$ 649,045
Fund balances, end of year	<u>\$ 1,087,949</u>	<u>\$ 886,782</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Belcastro, Executive Director
Zach Dadson, President
Matthew Skubel, Vice President
Zoya Kalugina, Treasurer/Secretary

Nick Oreskovich Sandy Dupuis
Jeremy Delacruz Patricia Bernardo

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Strive Niagara

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