



Education • Support • Family First

Annual Report 2019/2020

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### President and Executive Directors Report

The school year of 2019 – 2020 won't be forgotten to soon, if ever. At the beginning of the year, however, Strive saw some positive outcomes worth noting;

The improvement of our building in Welland with an enhancement to the child care wing, increasing our ability to support more infants, the replacement of doors & windows and thanks to a grant from the Trillium Foundation, a major overhaul of the HVAC system in the building. All to improve the quality of the building and enhance our services.

Strive worked in partnership with Niagara Children's Planning Council in an exciting community project that supported Child Care and Family Resource programs around the science and knowledge of Infant Mental Health and how that work supports parents in their parenting and an understanding of child development, as well as building their confidence in engaging with their child. A pilot that ran at Strive, developed by Dr. Ryan Van Leishout, (Building Resilience in Youth – A CBT based educational curriculum) where the results clearly demonstrated an increase in infant temperaments, and improvements in depression, anxiety, and emotional regulation in the most distressed participants.

As we all were speechless with the announcement that came on March 13, 2020, the drive and commitment of Strives dedicated staff kept going. They continued to support families with phone calls, drive-by graduation congratulations, amazing posts that demonstrated ways to engage with your child, child development, cooking demos, zoom meetings with participants and porch drop-offs for products that were needed during the crisis. What a testament to Strive staff!

Shirley-Anne Ogilvie, Board President  
Sandy Toth, Executive Director

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### Our Beginnings

Strive was founded in 1993 as a direct result of the 1989 report, "Teenagers becoming parents: A Niagara Perspective". This report identified the lack of services available to teenage parents and their children in Niagara resulting in the parents' inability to complete their secondary school education or to be supported in their new role as parents.

### What We Do

Strive operates 3 licensed child care programs and 3 Before and After school programs. In partnership with the District School Board of Niagara and the Catholic District School Board, we offer a unique classroom without walls, which includes opportunities for young moms to gain high school credits, parenting, emotional and crisis support and life skills training.

### Preventative Programming Post -Poning Parenting 'till Your Ready

A peer to peer model educating grades 7 – 12 students on the challenges of having a child at a young age. Strive participants present their stories to their peers and engage in frank discussions about the impact of parenthood and the life altering decisions that accompany teenage parenthood. Students complete pre/post surveys in order to capture their understanding of the information shared from the presentation. Strive collaborates with Public Health in the delivery and promotion of the program and is funded by United Way Niagara.

### Yung Dads Drop In

In partnership with Public Health and funded by United Way Niagara the Young Dads Program assists participants to make the best possible decisions for them and their family. They learn from and connect with other young dads and engaging facilitators who can help with referrals and advice.

### Board of Directors

Sandy Toth, Executive Director  
Shirley-Anne Ogilvie, President  
Zach Dadson, Vice-President  
Victoria Sanko, Secretary/Treasurer  
Berni Candeloro  
Sandy Dupuis



### 2019 - 2020 stats.

Number of Children: 270  
Number of Families: 223  
High School Credits Achieved: 1106  
Number of High School Graduates: 8  
Resource Supports: 31 children, 28 families



**Community Action Program  
for Children (CAPC)  
Niagara Brighter Futures**  
&



**Canada Prenatal Nutrition  
Program (CPNP)  
Healthy From the Start**

CPNP Healthy from the Start is a drop-in program for pregnant moms that provides programming to support the health and well-being of the mother through her pregnancy, increase the rates of babies born with healthy birth weights and improve maternal-infant health. Mothers are also supported and encouraged to breastfeed their babies. CAPC Niagara Brighter Futures helps families with young children ( Birth to 6) living in conditions which may impact on their ability to reach optimal health. The program assists vulnerable families to increase both adult and child health, problem-solving skills, social networks, and to engage in their communities.

**STATS**

**CAPC, Niagara Brighter Futures:**  
328 Families supported  
**CPNP, Healthy From The Start:**  
133 Pregnant moms supported



# Statement of Operations & Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2019

	Current Year	Prior Year
<b>Revenue</b>		
Municipal government grants and subsidies	\$ 2,255,552	\$ 2,265,371
Federal government grants and subsidies	465,738	467,959
Fee for service	551,146	540,268
Other grants	82,268	109,547
Other Income	14,808	2,833
United Way	40,980	40,022
Donations	17,562	8,752
Deferred Contributions	18,689	17,117
	<u>3,446,743</u>	<u>3,457,868</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	\$ 57,678	\$69,393
Amortization	41,404	31,468
Occupancy	238,678	273,492
Programs and professional Fees	215,078	248,525
Salaries and Benefits	2,933,346	2,907,070
	<u>3,486,184</u>	<u>3,530,948</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(39,441)	(79,081)
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ <u>688,486</u>	<u>767,567</u>
Fund Balances, end of year	\$ <u>649,045</u>	<u>\$ 688,486</u>



Supported By:



Funded By:



*The Branscombe Family Foundation*

