

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023



HELPING PEOPLE. IMPROVING LIVES.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CAROLYN WARKENITIN & BOARD CHAIR - MARIA GOMER

SECC has been serving the community since 1973. The original proposal outlining the need for a “community service centre” in South Essex, outlined that the centre needed to provide access to existing community services, provide assistance in various languages, work with partners and foster good community relations, and be sensitive to the present and future needs of the community.

50 years later, the original concept of a “community council” still holds. SECC continues to do the work its founders intended and to be a trusted and reliable community partner. Our founding principles are based on partnership and good community relations for a reason. Our founders knew no one organization can do it alone. It takes many dedicated people to make SECC the fine community organization that it is today, and we are so grateful to the many people who have delivered front line services, volunteered and supported our efforts over the years. We rely on our partners to make sure the people we serve have access to all of the services they need.



There is a reason why the word “community” is part of our name. SECC believes in its community. The organization is an anchor in our community. You cannot always see it, but the organization is there, holding fast to the ideals that founded it, using its strength to build others up and working diligently to make our community a better place—one person at a time.

Throughout this report, you'll have the chance to see the impact SECC has had on the community in 2022/2023 through statistics and impact stories. To read more stories, visit secc.on.ca/blog.

58 YOUTH AGES 10 -14 ATTENDED THE JR YOUTH PROGRAM FROM SEPTEMBER 2022- MARCH 2023.

THE YOUTH CAME FROM FIVE NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS: ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE CATHOLIQUE ST. MICHEL, QUEEN ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL, MARGARET D. BENNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND CARDINAL CARTER CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL.

31% OF CAREER HUB CLIENTS WERE YOUTH.
78% OF THESE YOUTH WERE EMPLOYED IN FULL-TIME JOBS.

75%
OF CLIENTS IN CAREER
HUB SECURED FULL-TIME
EMPLOYMENT.

SENIOR YOUTH PROVIDED 41 HOMEWORK HELP SESSIONS TO 5 PEERS. 1 YOUTH OBTAINED THEIR GED AND 1 YOUTH WAS ACCEPTED INTO PRE-HEALTH AT ST. CLAIR.

2 LINC STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GED PREPARATION CLASSES.

4 LINC STUDENTS JOINED THE SKILLED TRADES PROGRAM WITH Y POWER TRADES.

HIRING A FULL TIME LINC TEACHER ALLOWED US TO OFFER

15 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION PER WEEK TO 12 MORE LITERACY STUDENTS.

145 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN OUR LINC PROGRAM.

MEET BETANIA

Betania came to Canada in 2021 as a refugee claimant from Mexico. While living in Mexico, she experienced violence and discrimination for being a Transgender woman. Unfortunately, those experiences didn't stop when she moved to Canada; Betania experienced workplace harassment in her new community. She came to SECC for support. It was important to Betania that her immigration documents reflected her gender and chosen name.



Throughout these challenges, Betania has been able to rely on her Settlement Worker to help her overcome barriers and vent her frustrations. Betania has been an active participant in SECC's workshops for the Newcomer LGBTQ2+ community, where she has shared her experiences and supported others to successfully navigate life in Canada. Betania is now a protected person and has found employment at a company where she is safe from harassment and discrimination. Betania is a well-known member of the community and is always helping others. Her continued resilience and determination to build a better life and to support others through similar struggles has always been apparent.

45 SETTLEMENT CLIENTS BECAME CANADIAN CITIZENS.

19 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS COMPLETED SECC'S 6-SESSION CITIZENSHIP EXAM PREPARATION COURSE.

SECC RECEIVED A GRANT FROM GREEN SHIELD THROUGH THE WINDSOR ESSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING TO SETTLEMENT ORGANIZATIONS, GREENHOUSES AND OTHER BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO WORK WITH NEWCOMERS AND MIGRANT WORKERS. IN 2022/2023, SECC PROVIDED

40 SESSIONS TO 367 PARTICIPANTS IN 32 ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.

ACHIEVEMENTS



SECC purchased a new accessible van for its fleet in June 2023. The new Dodge Ram Promaster is a seven passenger van with the ability to accommodate two wheel chairs. Since being put on the road in September, the new van has travelled **17,758 kilometres** which is the equivalent of traveling across Canada from east to west and back again (with 2,638 kms to spare).

In March 2023, SECC was the recipient of a **\$10,000 grant** from the Rotary Club of Leamington. The Children & Youth team made a pitch to the grant committee to pilot a mental health program for children ages 10-13 in our after school program at Leamington United Mennonite Church. The pilot project will focus on youth mental health by addressing basic needs and providing them with tools, information and confidence.



In March 2023, SECC acquired the space formerly occupied by Service Canada. The **additional 6,770 square feet** will provide space for Front Line staff, as well as a community gathering space for volunteers, students, clients, partners and members of the general public.

SECC entered into a **new partnership with the Faith Mennonite Church** in February 2023, to facilitate its Adult Day Program. Participants now have access to more indoor and outdoor space, and there are plans to expand the program in the 2023-24 fiscal year.





In October 2022, SECC, together with United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Arts Can Teach, **launched Ignite Academy** at Queen Elizabeth Public School and St. Louis Catholic Elementary School. A total of 68 are participating in this after school program, which is a solution implemented by ProsperUs, a collective impact strategy to with a vision to ensure that “every young person in Windsor-Essex has the opportunity and support to succeed—from cradle to career”. For more information, visit: weunlockpotential.com

SECC became a **proud partner of the TeaMWork** (Together Empowering Access for Migrant Worker Outreach, Resources, and Knowledge). The project, spearheaded by Workforce Windsor Essex, includes community partners across Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton. SECC is currently providing settlement and outreach services, weekly drop-in services in Leamington and Kingsville and English language training. We will also add a health system navigator in the coming months to help migrant workers gain better access to health care and health information. For more information, visit: workforcewindsorsex.com/teamwork



SECC was successful in receiving additional funds from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development through its Skills for Success initiative. The funds will be used beginning in July 2023, to **provide workplace related English language training to temporary foreign workers**. SECC received funding in 2021 to develop and pilot workplace English language curriculum population for this population and this new funding will allow us to continue the work, alongside the TeaMWork project.

MEET DEB

Deb is a highly intelligent and caring individual who lives with various health conditions including Cerebral Palsy, Arthritis, Diabetes, Hypertension, and Diverticulitis. Although she uses a wheelchair to get around, she does not let this stop her from living her life. Deb registered for SECC's accessible transportation service in 1991 and since then has completed close to 1,000 trips! It is safe to say that Deb is one of the programs longest standing clients!



Deb and her caregiver and sister, Karen, have come to depend on SECC for all of their transit needs. The duo use Transit to get from their home in Kingsville to Wal-Mart and Food Basics in Leamington on a weekly basis. They also rely on the bus to get to their medical appointments at the hospital, the doctor's office and the dentist's office.

According to Deb, "If I didn't have SECC, I wouldn't be able to go anywhere!" Both Deb and Karen have developed a very amicable working relationship with each SECC staff.

484

RETURNS WERE PROCESSED
DURING OUR SIX WEEK
INCOME TAX CLINIC.

SIX VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED A
TOTAL OF

192

Hours

IGNITE ACADEMY'S FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH 58 REFERRALS TO 30 DIFFERENT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.



MEET DANIEL

In Mexico, Daniel was an Electrical Engineer and a successful business owner. In 2008, Daniel decided that he wanted to move to Canada and had a dream of working here as an Electrician. Unfortunately, his degree was not recognized in Canada so he needed to quickly shift gears and determine a suitable career option.

It didn't take long before Daniel was employed at a local greenhouse where he was constantly promoted. After a layoff and with the help of SECC's Career Hub, Daniel focused on his job search, credential assessment, and apprenticeships; however, he always returned to his goal of being an electrician in Canada, but he needed to improve his English. Daniel enrolled in SECC's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program, where he improved his English and gained the confidence to apply for further education to make his dream a reality.

Daniel's Employment Consultant at SECC presented information on the Power of Trades Program at the YMCA. This free program is designed to help newcomers access jobs in the skilled trades in Ontario. Daniel applied for the program and was accepted!

MEET OMAR & AHMAD

Omar and Ahmad are the epitome of determination and success. They immigrated to Canada in hopes of securing a promising future for themselves and their mother, and they worked tirelessly in their first year here to make this a reality. Almost immediately upon arrival, Omar acquired a job and became the family's sole provider while attending SECC's English Classes, while Ahmad worked on advancing his education by attending a local high school.



Both Omar and Ahmad attended SECC's Newcomer Youth Group and were active participants in all of the programming and activities offered to them. Some noteworthy milestones include: completing 40 community volunteer hours, getting their licenses, saving up to buy a car, finding a house in Kitchener and making the decision to move their family hours away.

Omar and Ahmad are two of the most respectful young men we have had the pleasure of supporting. They are very positive and hopeful despite the challenges they have had to overcome and their positive attitudes made it a pleasure to support them over this last year and a half. Omar and Ahmad have the tools and drive to build themselves an amazing life in Canada, and we have no doubt that they will do exactly that.

COATS FOR KIDS DISTRIBUTED

368 COATS

34 SNOWS PANTS

754 WINTER ACCESSORIES

TOP 3 SECTORS IN WHICH
CAREER HUB CLIENTS
FOUND WORK:
**PROCESSING/MANUFACTURING,
SALES AND SKILLED TRADES**

145 VOLUNTEERS

**CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF 4,199.26 HOURS
SUPPORTING 13 PROGRAMS/SERVICES
AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

At the current Windsor/Essex County "living wage" of \$16.03 (as calculated by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit) that equates to \$67,314.14 in donated labour costs not funded by any government source that SECC would not otherwise be able to provide.

**SECC RECEIVED \$18,270 IN ONTARIO COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OSCP)
FUNDING FROM THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION (OCSA) LAST
YEAR.**

With this, SECC provided \$12,000 in gas gift cards to Meals on Wheels volunteers in order to ensure that 9,703 meals could be delivered to 189 unique individuals, many of whom live in remote or rural locations.

MEET BAS

Phoolsonbat, who refers to himself as Bas, is from Thailand. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and took on full-time work as an automation and production engineer.

He and his brother arrived in Canada on a cold, blustery day in February 2021. He recalls being excited to experience snow for the first time.



Bas quickly got a job at a local assembly plant and started attending English Classes for Newcomers (LINC) at SECC. On a typical day, Bas arrives at school with a big smile on his face, graciously greets his classmates and teacher and begins learning. After class, he returns home and enjoys lunch with his brother, continues practising his English skills and then goes to work from 3pm to 12am. While at work, he often listens to English podcasts to further improve his language skills. Recently, because of Bas's credentials, work experience, and with the support of SECC's Career Hub, he was accepted to the YMCA's Power of Trades pre-apprenticeship program. He will begin this month and is thrilled to be working in his field of expertise once again. In the future, Bas plans to complete his master's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

303 MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TOOK PART IN SECC'S CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING.

404 NEWCOMER CLIENTS WERE GIVEN A NEEDS ASSESSMENT WHICH RESULTED IN 687 REFERRALS TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.



MEET MITCH

Mitch first became interested in volunteering after his grandfather had a positive experience with SECC. During his interview, Mitch was asked if there was something in particular that was of interest to him. He responded that he had a passion for sports and physical activity.

Considering his interests, availability and working a full-time job, we suggested he consider helping with the Friday morning seniors' exercise group. This suggestion really peaked Mitch's interest. "I am a big believer in the benefits of physical activity, not only on physical health but also on mental health," he says. For the past seven months Mitch has helped to create a welcoming, fun and safe exercise experience for local seniors. The program participants really enjoy his easy-going personality and expertise in physical fitness.

Mitch says, "I particularly enjoy my role because I get to help others stay active and provide the opportunity to make positive social connections with others."



RECOGNITION

STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE

20 Years of Service: Sandy Boivin
5 Years of Service: Laura Fanjoy

STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Integrity: Milka Pieper
Community Builder: Thin Win
Inclusivity: Ana Radulj
Executive Director's Choice: Rachelle Ligotino
People: Vicki Noland
Compassion: Hailey Toth

BOARD MEMBERS

Maria Gomer, Chair
Harpreet Bassan Singh, Vice Chair
Heather MacPherson, Treasurer
Waseem Abunnadi
Shelley Beaudoin
Helen Bergen
Art Krueger
Anna Kudros
Jill Nicholson
Diane Quadros

\$11,770 IN EMERGENCY GROCERY CARDS WERE GIVEN OUT.
117 INDIVIDUALS & 40 FAMILIES WERE SUPPORTED.

967 FREE MEALS

WERE PROVIDED TO THOSE IN NEED THANKS TO GENEROUS COMMUNITY DONATIONS (A VALUE OF \$8,399).

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AT
LARGE, SECC SUPPORTED
31 REFUGEE FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED 19 FAMILIES
SECC SUPPORTED 12 FAMILIES

SECC OBTAINED ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE (ALC) FUNDING FROM ONTARIO HEALTH WEST (OHW) TO INCREASE SECC'S ADULT DAY PROGRAM CAPACITY AND TO MEET HIGHER DEMANDS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2023.

This funding allowed 7 clients to join the program and/or to increase their days of attendance. It also allowed SECC to hire and employ a 3rd PSW.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Donate



Volunteer



Talk about SECC

SECC IS A NON-PROFIT, COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH ESSEX.

MISSION

**HELPING
PEOPLE**
IMPROVING LIVES

VISION

Building a stronger
community one person
at a time.

VALUES



PEOPLE

We put them
first.



INTEGRITY

We do the
right thing.



COMPASSION

We care.



INCLUSIVITY

We welcome
everyone.

SECC IS GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS WITH WHOM WE WORK. SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Broadmind Strategies for Mental Health, Canadian Mental Health Association, CareLink, Faith Mennonite Church, Family Services Windsor-Essex, Green Heart Kitchen, Housing Information Services, Kingsville BIA, Leamington Chamber of Commerce, Leamington THRIVE Network, Leamington United Mennonite Church, Meadow Brook Church, Mucci Farms Ltd., Municipality of Leamington, ProsperUs, Queen Elizabeth Public School, Salvation Army Food Bank, St. Louis Catholic Elementary School, TeamWork, The Bridge Youth Resource Centre, Town of Kingsville, Windsor Essex Community Health Centre, Windsor Essex County Health Unit, Workforce WindsorEssex, United Way—On Track to Success, and VON.

secc.on.ca



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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



United Way
Centraide
Windsor-Essex County

