

2025-2026

Annual Report

SUPPORT, RESPECT, CHOICES



Ongwanada

Developmental Services

Support, Respect, Choices



About Us

Who We Are

Ongwanada is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting people with developmental disabilities, with a specific focus on those with complex needs and their families.

Founded in 1948 and working in developmental services since 1967, Ongwanada has long been a trusted organization in Kingston and across Eastern Ontario. We provide person-directed, community-based care, bringing together a wide range of supportive living, clinical, and therapeutic supports.



Our Mission

We are privileged to support people with developmental disabilities, with a special focus on those with complex needs and their families; driven to support lives of dignity, choice, and connection.

Our Vision

A world where every person with developmental disabilities is treated with dignity and respect, enjoys meaningful relationships, and has the freedom to make choices that guide their own life.



Our Values

Support:

We enact practices that will encourage personal growth, self-expression, and positive self-image within a supportive environment. We promote and nurture individual well-being, positive relationships, and active participation in community life.

Respect:

We strive to facilitate empowerment by promoting continual growth, self-determination, and risk management. Within this context, we recognize that individual rights will be balanced by personal and organizational responsibilities.

Choices:

In our interactions, we will demonstrate respect for the individual, their ideas, choices, opinions, and differences. We will support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing opportunities for people to make informed decisions, with the goal of increasing quality of life.



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From the Desk of

Allan Twohey Board of Directors' Chair

To our supported individuals and families, staff, partners, and fellow board members,

It is my privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for such a remarkable organization, and I am proud to reflect on the past year at Ongwanada.

As you will read throughout this report, this has been a year of stabilization, a year of thoughtful, steady progress and continued improvement in the quality of service and support we provide to the individuals we are honoured to serve.

In my view, success at Ongwanada is built on two foundational beliefs: great people and meaningful communication. And when I look across this organization, I see both in abundance.

We are truly fortunate. We have families who trust us with the care of their loved ones, a responsibility we do not take lightly. We have staff who show up every single day and make a genuine difference in people's lives. We have supervisors, managers, and senior leaders who lead by listening first, and who are committed to creating an environment where every person has the opportunity to grow and reach their full potential. And we have partners at the Ministry who provide guidance and advice that allows our board to make informed, thoughtful decisions on behalf of those we serve.

Our board is made up of talented and dedicated individuals who share one common belief: a deep and genuine commitment to the quality of life of the people Ongwanada supports, and a desire to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to pursue their goals and live life on their own terms.

That commitment is our board's guiding principle, and I can assure you it will continue to shape every decision we make.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to each and every person who contributes to making Ongwanada the organization it is today.

With appreciation,



Allan Twohey
Chair, Board of Directors,
Ongwanada Developmental Services



Lak Chinta Chief Executive Officer

To our supported individuals and families, the Board, partners, and staff,

This past year marked a defining chapter in Ongwanada's journey. I am deeply grateful to have shared it with all of you.

We began 2025–2026 facing real challenges: a funding rollback and the need to stabilize. One year later, we are stronger. We achieved a balanced budget and launched a new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan rooted in person-centered care. Most importantly, we supported 603 individuals honouring their choices, dignity, and belonging every day.

This progress was not accidental; it was made possible by people.

To our Board, thank you for your steady leadership. To our staff, your resilience made thousands of clinical sessions and community experiences possible. To our families and caregivers, your trust guides us. To our partners at MCCSS, your collaboration strengthens our work.

We achieved significant results: a 54% increase in QAM compliance without recurring findings; implementation of a new HRIS and scheduling systems to improve staff efficiency; embedded an Enterprise Risk Management framework to enhance organizational safety; and began renovations in 15 homes, directly improving living conditions. These milestones demonstrate our commitment to excellence in care.

As we look ahead to 2026–2027, our focus is clear: we will strengthen leadership through targeted development initiatives, deepen the Journey to Belonging with enhanced person-centered programs, and translate our progress into measurable impact by defining new outcome metrics and sharing these results transparently.

With sincere gratitude,

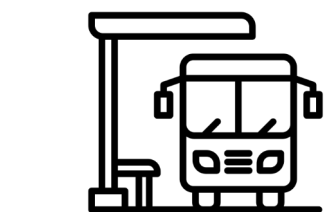


Lak Chinta
Chief Executive Officer,
Ongwanada Developmental Services

Year In Review

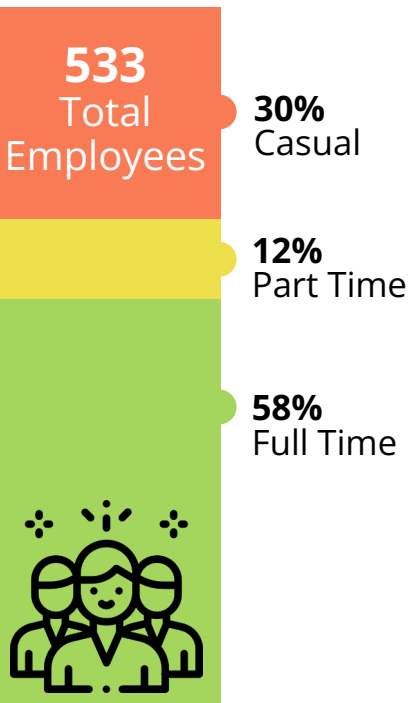
Individuals
Served

603



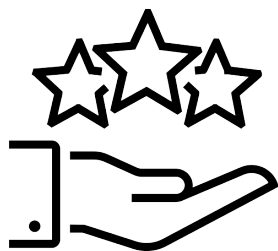
45

Supported Individuals
living Independently
in the Community



33

Individuals living
with Host Families



3677

Direct supported
individual sessions
by Clinical Services

70

New Hires



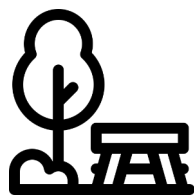
24 Supportive Living Locations



3 Specialized Accommodation Locations



3 CPS Locations



159

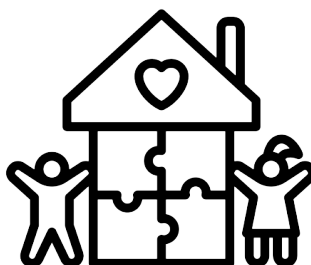
Supported Individuals
served at
Community
Participation Supports

1886

Hydrotherapy Swims



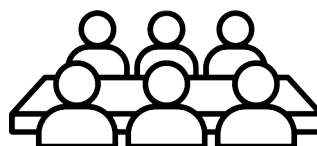
7029



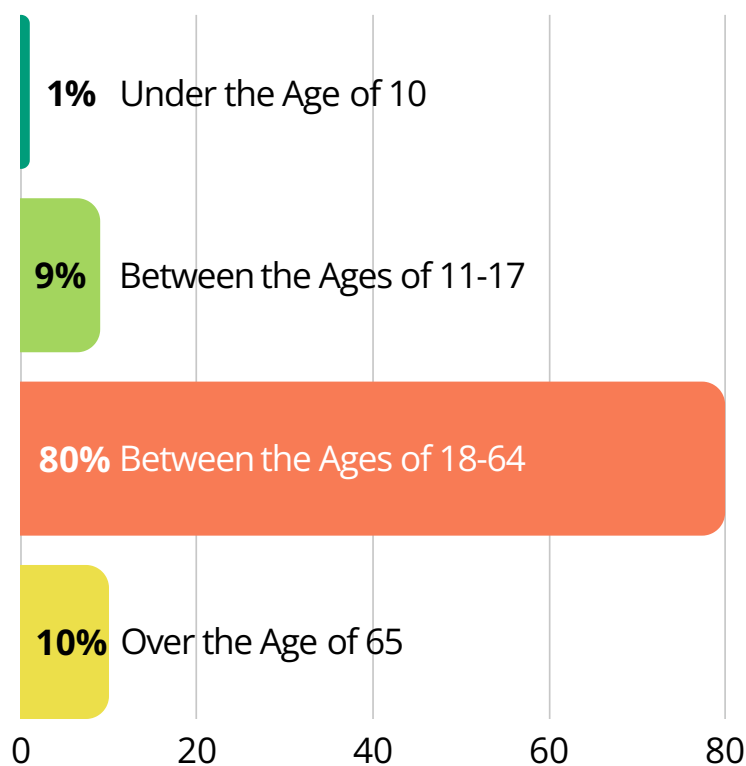
Community
Inclusive
Activities

10

Board Members



Percentage of Supported Individuals



Beyond Boundaries: Celebrating Courage & Community

At Ongwanada, our mission is to support people with developmental disabilities, particularly those with complex needs and their families, by promoting dignity, choice, and connection. We are committed to delivering person-directed services that empower individuals to live autonomous lives and thrive within their communities. It is a mission that guides every decision we make, and every now and then, a moment comes along that brings it to life in the most profound way. This past year, we were fortunate enough to witness two of those moments.



Thanks to the inspiration and encouragement of Occupational Therapist Shauna, Crescent staff came together to create a meaningful community experience for Crescent Community Participation Supports participant Logan. The team brought Logan to the Boiler Room, where he had the opportunity to try rock climbing in a supportive and inclusive environment. With the help of staff members Joey, Tracy and a Boiler Room staff member, Logan got out of his wheelchair, was fitted with a harness, and made his way along the climbing wall, reaching out to touch the rocks as he went. It was a quiet but powerful testament to what becomes possible when a dedicated team places an individual's goals and potential at the very center of their work and when an individual's dreams and perseverance take center stage.

That same spirit of courage and community was on full display when Karla took on the Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Ontario, something she never would have imagined herself doing. Motivated by her genuine desire to support the many individuals Ongwanada serves who participate in Special Olympics, Karla set a fundraising goal of \$300 and surpassed it by over \$100. Her determination and generosity were a source of inspiration for everyone around her.



These two stories, while different in nature, speak to the same truth: when individuals are supported, encouraged, and genuinely believed in, there is no limit to what they can achieve. They are a reflection of our mission in action, and a reminder of why the work we do at Ongwanada matters.

Congratulations to Logan and Karla. You have inspired us all.

Connected, Empowered, & at Home: Technology Supporting Everyday Life

85 New
Devices
Configured

Promoting dignity, choice, and connection is at the heart of everything we do at Ongwanada, and increasingly, technology plays a meaningful role in making all three possible. In today's world, personal devices are not simply conveniences; for many of the individuals we support, they are essential tools for staying connected, expressing preferences, and engaging fully in the life of their community.

\$85,353
Utilized in Passport
funding for
technology

This past year reflected that reality more powerfully than ever. The 2025–2026 year marked our highest volume of new device setups to date, with eighty-five devices, including tablets, smartphones, smart televisions, and other personal electronics, configured and made ready for use, supported by \$85,353 in Passport Funding. Every device is thoughtfully and individually set up, with account creation, accessibility settings, and custom software adjustments tailored to the unique needs and preferences of the person it belongs to. Because no two individuals are the same, no two setups are either.

238 Total
Technology Supports
Resolved

For some, that means seamless video calls with family members who live far away. For others, it means access to a curated music library, a favourite streaming service, or virtual religious services and community events that keep them connected to the things and people that matter most. For the ladies of Robinson Community Setting, it means something as simple and delightful as a new smart bird feeder, watching their winged visitors arrive and depart, right from the comfort of a tablet. And for individuals like Bryon, pictured here in front of his flourishing garden, technology can play a quiet but powerful role in turning a new space into a true home. When Bryon recently moved to a new community setting, four of his personal devices came with him, each one carefully reconnected and reconfigured so that his new surroundings felt familiar and comfortable from the very first day.

Supporting individuals to live autonomous lives means ensuring that the tools they depend on are always working for them. Throughout the year, 153 additional support requests were handled, ranging from quick troubleshooting and app fixes to full hardware repairs, component replacements, and the implementation of collaborative cybersecurity support. Each instance, regardless of size or complexity, reflects our commitment to empowering individuals to thrive, not just on the day a device is set up, but every single day that follows.



Making Memories That Last: The Power of Passport Funding

For many of the individuals Ongwanada supports, Passport Funding has brought smiles, laughter, and unforgettable moments into their lives, creating experiences that feel joyful, meaningful, and close to the heart.

Passport is a provincial program that gives adults with a developmental disability the opportunity to engage with their communities, participate in activities of daily living, and pursue their own interests. Ultimately, Passport is rooted in choice and dignity, providing individuals and families with the freedom to fill their lives with meaningful experiences.

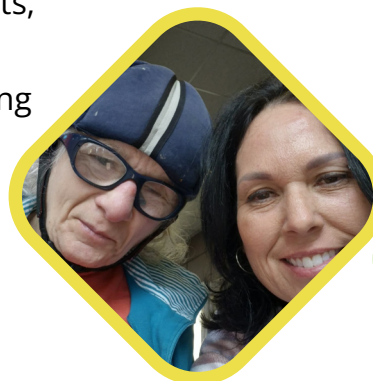
This past year, that freedom translated into some extraordinary experiences. In 2025/2026, supported individuals accessed over \$39,000 in live event tickets, using their Passport Funding to attend a remarkable range of concerts, sporting events, and one-of-a-kind performances alongside Ongwanada staff.

Music lovers enjoyed memorable evenings at The Grand and The Spire, attending tribute concerts to the sounds of the Eagles and ABBA. Those passionate about live performance experienced the magic of Disney on Ice in Ottawa, while fans attended concerts by Darius Rucker and other notable artists.

Sports enthusiasts also had much to celebrate. From the excitement of Kingston Frontenacs games to trips to cheer on the Belleville Senators, Toronto Blue Jays, and Ottawa Senators, individuals experienced the thrill of live sports supported by our team.

These were not simply outings; they were experiences that built confidence, fostered community connection, and created memories that will be talked about and treasured for years to come. They are a testament to what becomes possible when individuals are empowered to direct their own lives and supported in doing so.

At Ongwanada, we feel privileged to walk beside individuals as they make the most of their Passport Funding, and we look forward to sharing even more memorable moments in the coming year.



The Power of Volunteering: Making a Lasting Impact

Volunteers are at the heart of what makes Ongwanada's community so special. Their generosity, compassion, and commitment touch the lives of the individuals we support in ways that are both deeply personal and far-reaching. This past year offered no shortage of reminders of just how true that is.

One of our most celebrated volunteer milestones this year belongs to Desiree Simpson, who marked an extraordinary ten years as a volunteer with Ongwanada. Desiree first connected with Bert, a gentleman supported by Ongwanada, through the Ongwanada Friends Program a decade ago. What began as a new friendship has grown into something truly remarkable, built on shared adventures that include everything from zip-lining to memorable trips to Niagara Falls. This month, the two are headed back to Niagara Falls to celebrate both their ten-year friendship and Bert's 69th birthday. Their story is a beautiful reminder of the meaningful and lasting connections that volunteering can create.



The impact of our volunteers extends well beyond individual friendships. Ongwanada is also fortunate to have thirteen dedicated volunteers who support our Charitable Bingo program at Play! Gaming and Entertainment Centre, contributing approximately two shifts per month. The funds raised through this program have had a direct and transformative impact on the individuals we serve. In May 2025, proceeds were used to purchase a Hippocampe All-Terrain Wheelchair, an incredible piece of equipment that opens up a world of new possibilities, allowing individuals to explore rocky terrain, sand, water, and even snow that were once out of reach. Most recently, in March, \$46,000 raised through Charitable Bingo went toward the purchase of a brand-new accessible van, further expanding the independence and mobility of the people we support.

These are just two examples of the profound difference volunteers make, both directly in the lives of individuals and in the broader support they provide to our organization. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of them, and we are always welcoming new volunteers who share our commitment to building a more inclusive and connected community.

To Desiree and to all of our volunteers, thank you. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and the impact you make is immeasurable.

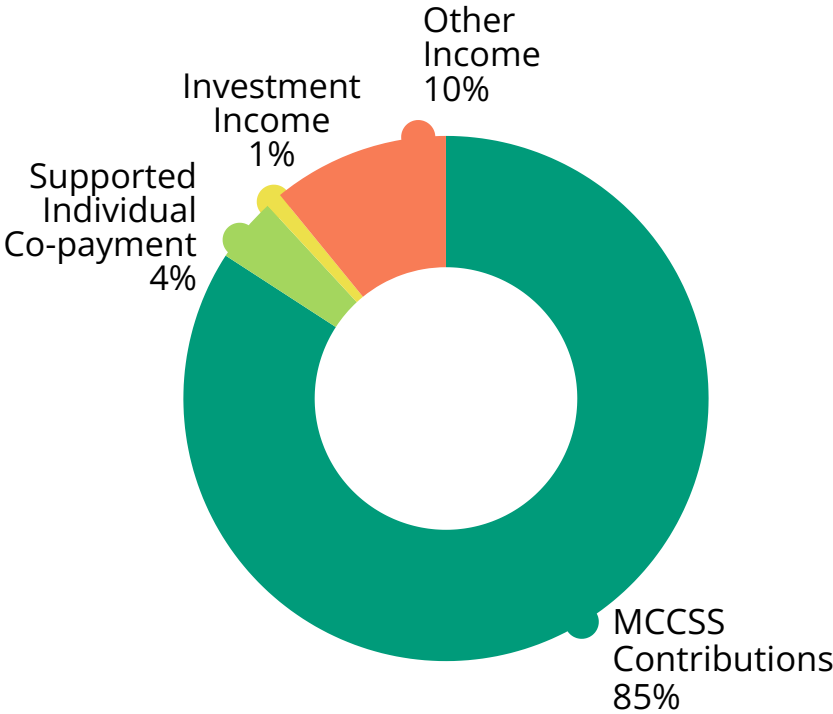
Financial Highlights

Financial Statements 2025-26 (unaudited)

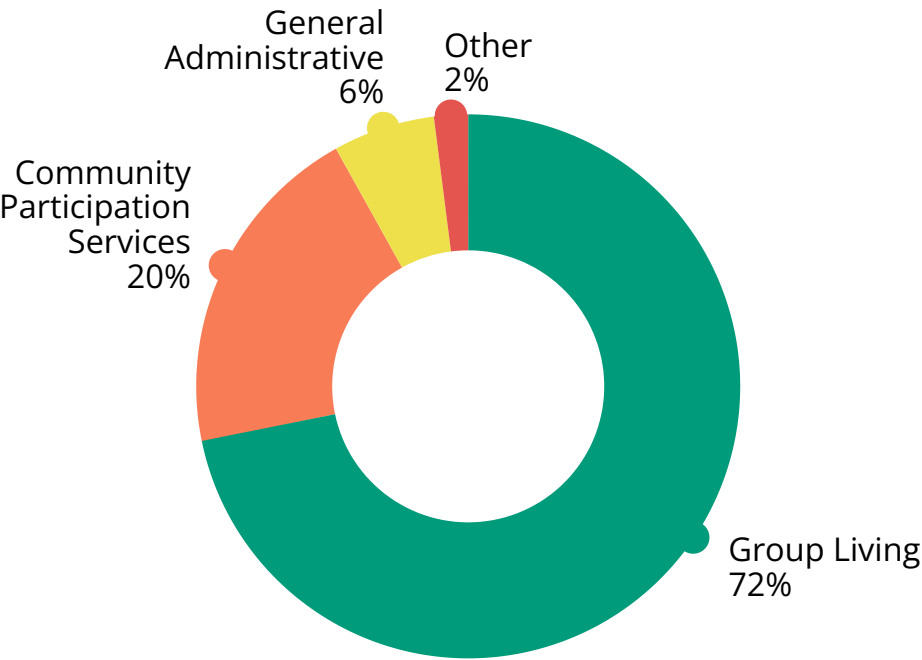
Ongwanada’s focus remains on offering high-quality, individualized, and community-based supports and services, while responsibly managing public and donated funds. Financial results for Ongwanada are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. These financial results will be audited by our external auditors at KPMG. Audited financial statements, accompanying financial statement notes, and KPMG’s audit report are available upon request through the Ongwanada Executive Office or on our website.

Total revenue remains stable, at \$57.3 million. Fiscal funding from the MCCSS increased by 0.5% due to funding adjustments during the year for individuals brought into our care. Total gross expenditure decreased by 0.3% for a total of \$57.3 million, resulting in a nominal deficit of \$16,000 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

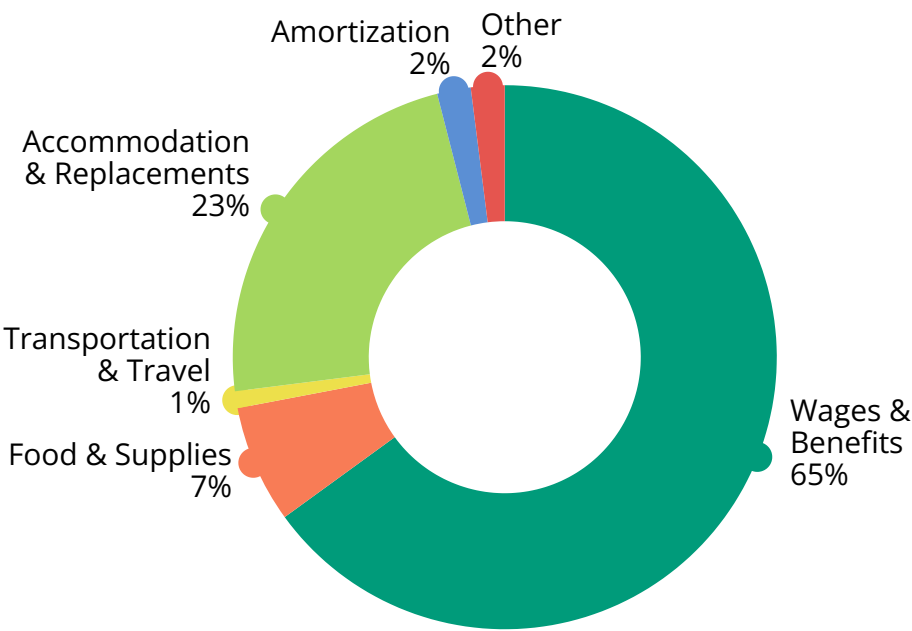
Total Revenue
(unaudited)



Total Expenditures
(unaudited)



Functional Breakdown of Expenditures
(unaudited)



Acknowledgments

2025-2026

Board of Directors

Allan Twohey - Chair

Mary Kloosterman - Vice Chair

Michael Dominik - Treasurer

Lak Chinta - Secretary/ CEO - non-voting

Dr. Elizabeth Grier - Medical Director - non-voting

David Ariss - Director

Carol Cartier - Director

Jennifer Gilmour - Director

Patrick Legresley - Director

Victoria Mustard - Director

Dr. Shandana Pervez - Director

Peter Stokes - Director

Jack Thompson - Honorary Member

Dwight Boyce - Honorary Member

Senior Leadership Team

Lak Chinta - Chief Executive Officer

Kate Baker - Senior Director of Community and Support Services

Katie Roberts - Senior Director of Professional Services and Partnerships

Stewart MacNabb - Senior Director of Corporate Services

Donors

M.J. Ogryzek

Neighbourhood Sharing Centre

PayPal Giving Fund

Estate of Mary Moreau

Maureen McGrath

J. & A. Short

A. Larsen

J. & M. Sheppard

C. Lester & C. Beckmann

C. & B. Mallette

Various Anonymous

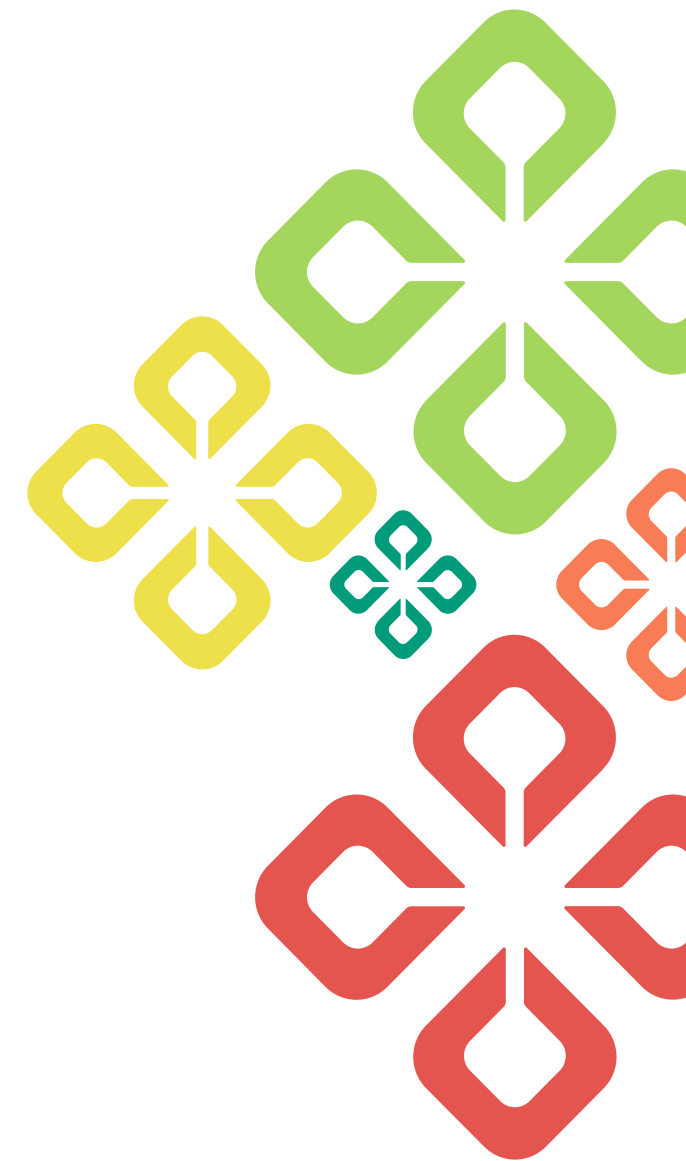
Special Thank you's

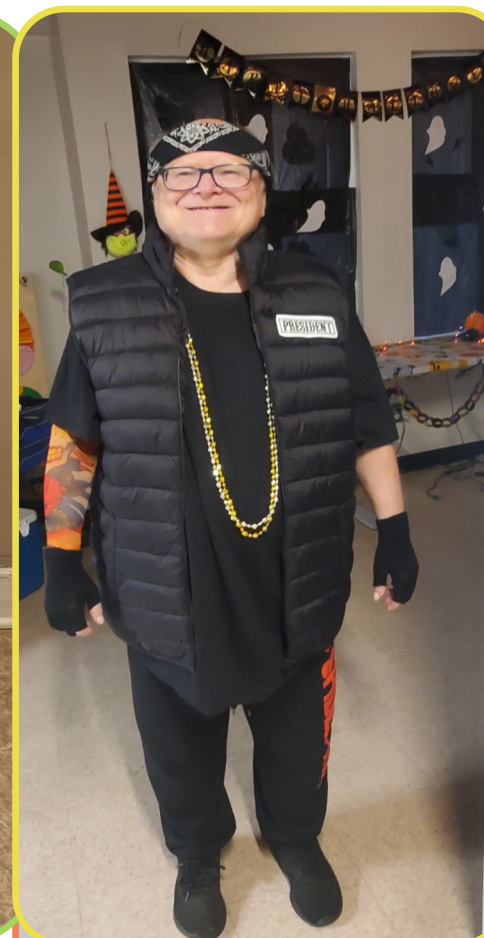
We are grateful to **Community Foundation for Kingston & Area** for their generous Spring 2025 Grant, which made a meaningful difference in the work we do and the individuals we serve.

A sincere thank you to **Boccia Canada** for their grant funding, which covered the cost of accessible Boccia equipment and instructor manuals, opening up an exciting new opportunity for the individuals we support to engage, compete, and thrive.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **The Ballytobin Foundation** for their generous support, which made it possible for Crescent CPS participants to take to the stage and perform at the Isabel Bader Centre, an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Thank you to **Play! Gaming & Entertainment Centre** and **Charitable Gaming. Community Good.** for their ongoing support and partnership, which has enabled us to raise funds, make several significant purchases, and create a lasting, tangible impact on the lives of the individuals we serve.







Ongwanada

Developmental Services

Support, Respect, Choices | Appui, Respect, Choix

