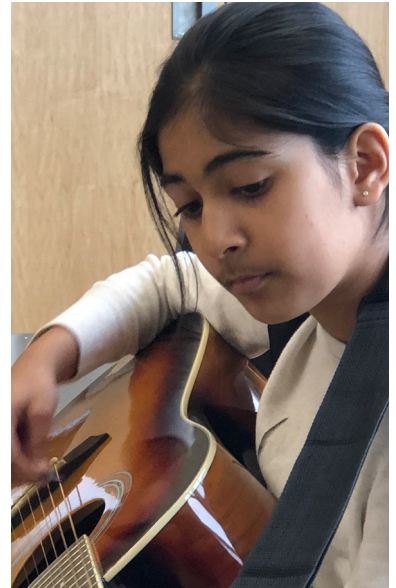
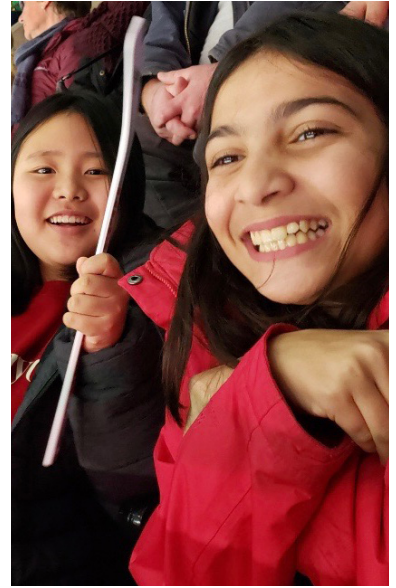
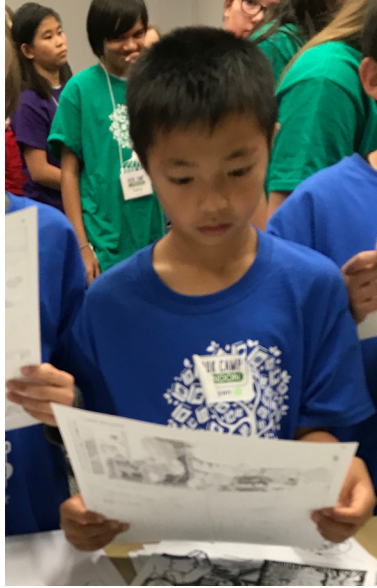


Providing Opportunities for Children

TO LEARN, GROW AND THRIVE.

Investing in Children's Annual Report 2019-2020



OUR MISSION: Investing in Children is committed to improving the well-being and learning of ALL children, youth and families.

OUR VISION: We collaborate with our local communities to provide inclusive opportunities for children and youth to thrive emotionally, physically, artistically and academically. Our impact will support all children to reach their full potential and accomplish their goals.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES • PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES •

At Investing in Children (IIC), we have an impact on thousands of families each year. We make our community stronger by providing opportunities for children to learn, grow and thrive. With programs focusing on literacy, numeracy, leadership, proper nutrition, the arts and other keys to future success, we collaborate with our partners to enrich the lives of ALL children, youth and their families.

Nutrition

1,700,000

OSNP LONDON/MIDDLESEX
Over 1.7 million healthy meals or snacks were served at 90 schools through the work of the Ontario Student Nutrition Program London/Middlesex. As chair of the Children's Nutrition Network, IIC proudly assist in this critical campaign.

4,480

SUMMER SNACK PROGRAM
4,480 healthy snacks were served at summer playground program camps.

4,600

SNACK STOP
4,600 healthy snacks were given out during the summer at various libraries and community centres.

Literacy

1,830

FAMILY LITERACY AND MATH EVENTS
1,830 children and parents attended 20 TVDSB and 3 LDCSB events this year.

2,400

BLUE BOXES FOR BOOKS
Blue bins filled with books are located throughout the city as part of the Blue Boxes for Books program which aims to give all children access to free books. Approximately 2,400 books were provided.

395

Newcomer Literacy
395 newcomer family members participated in a three-part foundational literacy program.

Arts

200

GUITAR PROGRAM
200 Youth participated in our 12-week Free Youth Guitar Program.

25

SONGWRITING
25 Youth participated in our 12-week Free Youth Songwriting Program.

40

BOOK CAMP LONDON
40 aspiring young writers attended a five-day camp at the London Public Library Central Branch, where they learned from nine industry professionals.



Community and Leadership

21

HARK – Healthy, Active, Resilient Kids
Our HARK After School Program hosted 21 children, 9 volunteers and 11 program visits from 9 community organizations.

100

KIDS POWER CONFERENCE
More than 100 students in grades 6 and 7 from 23 schools took part in an all-day leadership conference with six workshop presenters.

5,000

KIDS 1ST DAY
Over 5,000 children and their families participated in free or low-cost activities at 57 partner locations in London.

1,000

TVDSB SPECIAL OLYMPICS
1,000 youth and their peer coaches participated in the three-day event at TD Waterhouse Stadium.

200

VOLUNTEERS
Almost 200 volunteers helped to provide and prepare for Investing in Children programs.

7

INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS
Investing in Children mentored seven students this year from Kings, Althouse, Western and Fanshawe.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my profound privilege to present you with Investing in Children's 2019 Annual Report – which marks the end of two decades of our service to the children, youth and families of London and area! Over the past year, our team of Program Co-ordinators have been busy providing creative, inclusive and invaluable programs geared to offering London's youth every opportunity to learn, achieve, and aspire to be the very best they can be!

We have helped to provide nutritious snacks for students through our Children's Nutrition Network partnership. We have assisted school boards and families nurture Early Literacy and Math capacity through our Family Literacy initiative, our Blue Boxes for Books program, and inspired "up and coming" authors through our Book Camp! We have coached hundreds of youth to learn how to play the guitar, and even compose and professionally record their own songs! More than 1,000 students with special needs have had the opportunity to participate and "compete" at our annual Special Olympics, which we proudly support through a collaboration with the TVDSB.

As we look ahead to 2021, we realize all too well the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. We truly appreciate all of our funders who so graciously "search deeper" to find creative ways to continue to support our work – realizing our full and relentless commitment to serving the children and youth in London, as they fight barriers such as poverty, lack of opportunity, and exclusion. We are appealing to you to continue to support our work financially, because never before has the need been greater nor the purpose so honourable.

We will continue our work with London's children, youth and families, and look forward to modifying our programming to address the needs of our "new normal" directly.

However, a couple of things remain starkly evident; first, the needs are even greater than ever before in our history, and, ALL of our fantastic programs and collaborations would not exist without the support of a tremendous Board of Directors, nor without the benevolent generosity of people like you!

On behalf of London's children, youth and families, and all of us here at Investing in Children, thank you for your continued past support of our work, and for your cherished consideration for future support!

Sincerely,



Ted Gorski, Executive Director

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Investing in Children does not work alone. We partner with businesses, the Boards of Education, service clubs, community organizations and individuals to create opportunities for children.

- Adient Seating Canada
- Agape
- ArtVenture
- Barry Graham
- Budweiser Gardens
- Caesars Windsor
- CIBC - The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- City of London
- City of London - Child & Youth Network
- Cowboys Ranch
- CUPE Local 7575
- Downtown London
- East Park Gardens
- Ellison Travel
- Exodus London
- Family Centres London
- Fanshawe College
- Financial Horizons
- Forrest City Fitness
- Grand Theatre
- Growing Chefs of Ontario
- Harrison Pensa
- Harry E. Foster Foundation
- Ilse Bierbaum
- Jill Wilcox Fund
- King's College
- Kiwanis Club of Forest City London
- Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll
- Kiwanis Club of West Lorne
- Laser Quest
- Leners LLP
- LHSC - Developmental Disabilities Program
- Lions Club of Strathroy Caradoc
- Lions Club of Thamesford
- London Chamber of Commerce
- London Children's Connection
- London Community Foundation
- London District Catholic School Board
- London Fire Department
- London Inter Community Health
- London Knights Hockey Club
- London Lightning
- London Police Association
- London Public Library
- London Regional Children's Museum
- London St. Thomas Association of Realtors
- LUSO
- Marcus & Associates
- Middlesex London Health Unit
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Nandos London
- Nash Jewelers
- Palasad
- Peat, Andrew
- RBC
- Richard Haddad
- Selectpath Benefits & Financial
- Special Olympics Ontario
- St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs
- Subway Restaurant - Richmond Row
- Sunningdale Golf and Country Club
- Suzanne Haddad
- Sweaty Successful Moms
- TD Bank Group
- Thames Valley District School Board
- The Optimist Club of Middlesex
- Unifor Local 27
- Unifor Local 302
- Via Rail Canada Inc.
- VON Canada
- Walmart
- Western University
- Westminster College

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tony D'Oria, Chair, Secondary School Principal, LDCSB
- Rosine Salazer, Vice Chair, TVDSB
- Elissa Da Cunha, Treasurer, Commercial Banking Officer, RBC
- Marty Denomme, Financial Advisor Desjardins
- Melina DiCarlo, Elementary School Principal TVDSB
- Jacqueline Fortner, Associate Lawyer, Leners LLP
- Danielle Gauvreau, Civil Litigation Lawyer, Leners LLP
- Amy Shamoon, Elementary School Principal TVDSB
- Christine Giannacopoulos, Secondary School Principal, TVDSB
- Eric Sorrentino, CIBC Private Wealth Management
- Todd Wilcox, Elementary School Principal LDCSB
- Audrey Stephen, Elementary School Principal, TVDSB

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Investing in Children is proud to provide you with this Annual Report. Thank you to Sarah Finch for her hard work in putting this report together. I am honoured and proud to be chair of a board of directors that works collaboratively and effectively for such an important and much needed organization in our community. The members of our board of directors are dedicated individuals with representation from a variety of fields including, education, health care, law, and business. Each member brings their own professional perspective and witness to the needs of so many of our young children and youth. That is why, as a board, we are proud that Investing in Children is committed to working with families and our community partners (many of them are mentioned in this annual report) to improving the well-being and learning of all children and youth. We are an enthusiastic and innovative team who meet regularly to focus on providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth to thrive physically, emotionally, artistically and academically. By working relentlessly to break all barriers, we encourage all children and youth to reach their full potential and accomplish their goals.

The pages in this Annual Report present many of the programs we run and operate and how, through the generous donations of our community friends, we continue to make a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Whether it is providing opportunities for children to grow (such as our nutrition and breakfast programs), learn (such as our literacy/numeracy events and camps and our Blue Boxes for Books campaign) and thrive (such as our Special Olympics and after-school programs), it is clear that together, we are making a real difference. It is imperative that we continue to keep meeting the variety of needs of so many children and grow as an organization to continue to meet these needs, especially as the needs change and become greater in our shared community.

Thank you to everyone involved with Investing in Children for your sincere passion and unending drive for the mission of the organization and for making this another exciting and successful year!

Sincerely,

Tony D'Oria, Chair, Board of Directors