VISION STATEMENT
Everyone’s included! Catch the excitement! Join in!

MISSION STATEMENT
We are dedicated to supporting individuals and families to achieve their full potential through:

• Leadership, innovation, collaboration and advocacy
• Developing valued supports and services that respond to evolving community needs
• Being a diversified and engaged community organization

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CQL
The Council on Quality and Leadership
Partners in Excellence, Leadership for the Journey
In July 2011, Simcoe Community Services (SCS) welcomed new Chief Executive Officer Marion Peck. Marion has a long history working in the Developmental Services Sector, most recently as the executive director of the Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living, and brings with her a wealth of experience at the provincial level.

Effective July 4, 2011, the province of Ontario established a new application process for developmental services for adults – called Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). The DSO now serves as the single point of access for Ministry-funded adult developmental services, ostensibly to create a system which is easier to access, fair and more consistent.

In the fall of 2011, Georgian College launched the Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) Program giving adults who have an intellectual disability a post-secondary education option.

In November 2011, SCS was re-accredited by the Council on Quality and Leadership, an international person-centred accreditation body. SCS is the first organization in Canada to be awarded the accreditation designation of Person Centred Excellence.

During 2011, the Family Home Program celebrated its 30th anniversary. Celebratory events included a picnic, presentations at Barrie and Orillia City Hall as well as multiple opportunities to educate both internally and externally about the Family Home accommodation option.

During March 2012, the Youth Program hosted a 3 day conference at Geneva Park to more than 50 local youth offering workshops, guest speakers and entertainment.

Despite the launch of the Board of Education’s full day JK/SK program, both Sunny Park and Rotodale Nursery Schools continue to enjoy virtually full-time enrolment, achieved with consistent marketing and successful placements.
Bright sunny days are always welcome but high humidity makes life very difficult for people with respiratory disease and it means that the elderly, many of whom may not have access to air conditioning, need to spend more time in public places that have it. The wall of heat that greets us in late afternoon can sometimes take the breath away. Me thinks we need to be thankful because it was not too long ago that we had the last vestiges of winter’s icy fingers, tendrils of cold spilling down our spines. Now it is rivulets of moisture that tingle down our back and let us know that our internal system is working hard to keep us cool.

And so, I wax poetic. It is the dog days of summer and our fields are filled with corn and wheat maturing in the hot sun. Our gardens are showing signs of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, beans, squash, peppers and all manner of fruits and vegetables. The strawberries are gone and we hasten to harvest whatever the season will bring forth in its own good time.

People often compare the growing cycle to the life cycle….. birth, life and death. At SCS we make strong bonds with the people we support. Many are medically fragile and their span on this earth is measured by the days in which we are able to make the most of each moment we have with them. When that moment is passed and they leave us, it is often a very difficult and trying time. In addition, like most of the general population, people who have been with us for many years are now advancing to the twilight time of their life and we know that our work with them has made a profound difference in their lives and in ours.

To all of our staff who have lost a friend, a companion, a soul mate with whom you have worked to support and with whom you have shared your life, I extend my profound condolences. The Board of Directors and Management of SCS sincerely acknowledge the passing of each and every person with whom we have shared their lives in our care.

The future for SCS lies in change. It lies in the next generation of service and service providers. It will be over the next ten years that a new cohort of managers, staff, volunteers and even the people we support, will change with ever expanding expectations of fulfillment in the lives they want to live and the work they want to do.

It is up to us here and now to lay down the foundations to support this growth, to continue the fight for the rights of the people we support and to make our working environment a safe, progressive and enlightened place of employment where people are happy and fulfilled in their work. We have committed to being a learning organization here at SCS and to always strive to be on the cutting edge of new and innovative means of meeting the needs of our community, our staff and the people and families we support.

We will do this even in the face of the many challenges that continue to stand in our way. To this, we are committed and to this we make promise to be faithful to the best of our ability as long as our strength gives us leave.

Sincerely,

David Barber
President SCS
Reflecting over the past year I would begin by telling you how “at home” I feel at SCS. The staff members, Board teams and the people we support have joined together in extending a very warm welcome, and with their help, I have learned a tremendous amount about SCS in a short time. The organization is filled with committed, skilled professionals and volunteers who work very hard to contribute to the highest quality of services which has brought recognition to SCS as a leader in developmental service delivery in the province. In November 2011, the organization underwent a formal re-accreditation process conducted by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). A focus group of approximately 60 participants including staff members, family members, self advocates and other community partners gathered to reflect on the accomplishments that SCS had made to date and to set forth three substantial goals for SCS over the next four year term. SCS is the first organization in Canada to be awarded the accreditation designation of Person Centered Excellence. What a wonderful achievement! Thank you to Maxine Johnson and the Team Excellence group who helped us maintain our focus on achieving the organizational goals that led to this most valued designation.

Over the course of the year we have contributed a significant amount of time assisting the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to initiate their provincial data base through the newly formed Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). This new application entity will manage all information related to new applications for services and programs that are funded by MCSS. This includes wait lists for services as well as information about people currently receiving services. Our central records team members have completed the work to migrate data relating to the wait lists and are now engaged in transferring information relating to people in service to the DSO. This has been a very large project and we commend Lynn Miller and her team for their diligent efforts.

As the transformation of Developmental Services moves forward, we anticipate changes to funding models and are positioning ourselves for these changes at the program and data collection level. Through our representation at many regional and provincial groups such as Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) and Community Living Ontario, SCS has continued to send messages to our government partners about the need for ongoing funding commitments to assist us in meeting the increased needs for the people who receive our services and maintaining the quality of services we currently provide, through the One message Many voices campaign. This year the Ministry responded to some of our requests for capital investment, support for specific individual services and staff education. The newly designed entrance at 39 Fraser Court has improved its accessibility and is much more efficient for people accessing the building safely. Capital funding has also made possible improvements to a number of program areas. We are most grateful for these contributions to our funding resources and appreciate the ongoing support we have received from our partners at MCSS and MCYS.

On a more local level, the Management team has reviewed recommendations received by consultants with respect to the Supported Independent Living, Family Home and Administrative Infrastructure reviews. The initiation of some internal changes as a movement towards achieving some of the recommendations, utilizing existing resources, is now underway. The value of our commitment to being a learning organization is shining through and there are many staff members who have taken on new assignments and promotions because of their investment in continued learning. As we move forward, the need to increase our efforts in the absence of new funding becomes a greater matter for concern. We have renewed our collective agreements and made promises to our professional staff team that we are committed to meet. As a group, we have been working on plans that will allow us to continue to provide the highest quality of services and utilize our resources in the most effective way possible. Recently, a variety of large projects reached successful completion at SCS. The emergency preparedness committee completed their work on the development of a comprehensive emergency plan and procedures for the agency. The quality assurance measures committee, through their work, assisted SCS in meeting the requirements of a recent compliance review. The website committee launched the fresh, new accessible SCS website in May 2012. We are thankful to the staff members who worked on these and other initiatives over the past year.

It has been a year of growth, opportunity and recognition for SCS. I am very proud of the work that has been done and the accomplishments we have achieved. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers on the SCS Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees who support our efforts through successful fundraising initiatives and providing guidance and leadership for the organization. Their time and commitment is most appreciated. David Barber, the President of the SCS Board of Directors, has played a key role in keeping our presence felt and our organizational needs in the forefront through his relationships with provincial committees and government officials. I am very grateful for his support of the initiatives we are working towards.

I am proud to lead such a vibrant organization of skilled professionals. The agency is strong and thriving and I intend to maintain and continue to improve upon that. It is such a great feeling to speak with people who receive our services and hear their expressions of the positive way we are impacting their lives. Some of our valued employees retired from SCS this year, with a total of more than 70 years of service among them. Mari Lafleur (Director of Accommodation), Blake Francis (Property Manager) and Dawn Dobell (Resource Teacher Supervisor) have decided to embark upon the retirement phase of life. Their varied contributions to the agency greatly enhanced the lives of so many people. We will miss them and wish them well.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention my appreciation for everyone who extended a welcoming hand and assisted me in settling in this past year. It has been a whirlwind with so much new information and people to meet. I am thankful to the Directors, Managers, Administration team, the individuals receiving services from SCS, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, the direct support staff members, volunteers and of course Terry MacMillan who helped me along the way.

As we approach our 60th anniversary next year, we will celebrate the long successful history of SCS and hope you will join us in that recognition.

Marion Peck
Chief Executive Officer
The Road to Accreditation

One Person At A Time

In 2007, Simcoe Community Services (SCS) received its first four year accreditation. Over the next four years, the agency worked hard at person-centred excellence both for people individually as well as organizationally. There was ongoing dialogue with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) to ensure that areas we were previously beginning to implement were in fact, now seeing results.

After numerous criteria had been met and data submitted, in November 2011, a group of SCS stakeholders was assembled to review the agency’s performance around key factors and success indicators that determine quality in person-centred supports.

The following indicators were chosen as the current focus.

- Participants, families and advocates evaluate supports and providers
- The public is kept informed
- Individual budgets are both fair and ample

Once these indicators are achieved, other identified priorities will be addressed.

As part of re-accreditation, the halls at 39 Fraser Court were decorated with a variety of displays of art created by numerous people we support. Two participants, one a cartoonist and one an author, “found” each other because of this event. Please share their story below.

It All Began with a Poster

It all began in the city of Barrie during a chilly day in the month of November. An author named Brian Waring was venturing through the hallways of a Community Living building during an event called “Artist Alley.”

Brian stumbled upon a piece of art done by Brant Mawdsley of Orillia. It was a poster encouraging environmental awareness which was inspired by a World War II poster and along with that piece was also a good food rainbow.

Amazed at these masterpieces, Brian had decided that Brant was the particular artist that he wanted to illustrate for his novels, “Master Adventures.”

As soon as Brant was given this opportunity of a lifetime, he took it. Brian and Brant got started one month later and are still going.

The End

Brant Mawdsley      Brian Waring
As Accommodation Services continues to support over 400 children and adults, we are continually faced with the need to create services that truly meet the wants and needs of those we support. Recognizing that people should direct their own services, we are actively creating systems that provide opportunities to hear from people. Conversations about goals and dreams shape our supports and ensure that we are in tune with what people expect from us as an agency.

Recent statistics identified that the largest population of people we support is aged 51-60 years old. This data reflects a new trend affecting all community supports including health care and the developmental sector. As people age, the need to create alternative options for retirement living is becoming increasingly popular. SCS has one retirement living option in Shanty Bay that provides a relaxed and comfortable alternative for those who wish to “slow down and smell the roses.” O’Brien House has been a successful venture in supporting people who are ready for a slower pace and wanting to “officially retire”.

As we focus our attention to the upcoming years, we are pressed to continue the milestone of accreditation but not rest in its completion. Our supports will always require adaptation as people’s needs change and evolve. Identifying the needs of an aging population is only one area that will require our attention. As we support people from birth to end of life, all ages, needs and wants are equally important and worth our energy and commitment.

**Family Home Celebrates 30 year anniversary**

2011 marked the 30th anniversary of the Family Home Program (FHP). The FHP provides an alternative to group living. Children and adults who have an intellectual disability have the opportunity to live with carefully screened and selected home providers who offer a supportive, caring and nurturing family environment.

To celebrate their 30th the following events were held:
- A kick-off at the MacLaren Art Centre which included mingling, reminiscing and testimonials about the program by both families and people living in the program
- A Family Home Awareness Week designed to raise awareness of the program both within SCS and in the larger community – this included presentations by home providers as well as people supported at Barrie and Orillia City Councils
- Staff members visited all program sites within the agency to further share info re FHP
- Family home staff were guests on Daytime on Rogers Television
- A Christmas celebration for families “wrapped” things up

Close to 60 people are supported by the FHP with some having lived with the same families for close to 20 years. Congratulations to everyone for this significant achievement!
Community Support Services (CSS) continues to strive for enhancement of our programs and services with a goal of increasing the quality of life for the people we support and their families. Over the past year we have formed many partnerships in our communities which have provided people with opportunities to become more fully engaged. The connections that have been made in both the Barrie and Orillia communities have provided persons we support with opportunities to increase their confidence and self esteem, allowing them to live more independent lives within their community.

CSS staff are proud of the work that they do and especially the accomplishments of the individuals they support. Whether it is supporting people in a new employment opportunity, joining an artist group, volunteering or just having the chance to play a new sport for the first time, we recognize that each of these opportunities provides a sense of achievement and allows people to develop new relationships in their community.

As we move forward into 2012/2013 it will be our goal to continue to work toward building inclusive communities that are accepting of all its members. Many accomplishments have been achieved but there is much work still to be done.

Community Support Services
Contributing to Community Life in both Orillia and Barrie

For the past few years, Orillia’s local art community has held an annual “streets alive” public art project during the summer. This year’s theme is Leacock Chairs, in honour of Stephen Leacock - Celebrating 100 years of Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town.

Because of a donation to CSS, SCS was able to sponsor a chair and select the artists for the project. (All sponsors are free to pick the artist(s) who they want to represent their organization/business).

A group of artists from CSS Orillia collaborated, created and painted on a chair their interpretation of Stephen Leacock. Their work is titled “A Fishing Hole”. The artists include: Sam, Sean, Bill, Jim, Tracy, Leanne, Heather and Lyndell.

This chair, along with 49 other chairs painted by local artists, was stationed along Mississaga Street in Orillia for public viewing over the summer.

In addition to the Leacock chair, other groups of artists involved with CSS painted banners for the Festival of Banners Orillia, another local art project. Banners are hung on street light posts, decorating the main street. Our artists completed two banners this year, one of a sunflower and one of Leacock’s boat house.

Being a part of the community comes in different shapes and colours.

To Whom It May Concern:

Partner as described in the dictionary – 1) an ally or companion, a partner in crime, 2) one of a pair of players on the same side in a game, 3) either member of a couple in a relationship, 4) a person who shares with another in some action or endeavour, 5) either of two people who dance together. I think that describes the relationship between Simcoe Community Services (SCS) and Roberta Place beautifully.

The staff of SCS and the people they support, are here to enhance the lives of our residents, families and staff members by providing services like setting tables, escorting folks to events, serving refreshments, helping in the hair salon, Garden Angels, or running programs like the Couch Crew. Our “side” in this game of life is the side that helps the residents enjoy their lives more fully by stimulating them, making them feel cherished and by showing by example that, no matter what life throws at you, life is wonderful and should be embraced to its fullest.

Every person from SCS comes through the door with smiles and enthusiasm for their position and it is reflected in their excellent work ethic and the duties that they provide.

Although we don’t dance to music, we do dance to the joys of life and that brings happiness to all they encounter.

Our lives are truly blessed by the partnership with SCS.

Sheila MacDonald,
Coordinator of Volunteer Services
The Family Services Department continues to undergo a number of changes this year. The Department review undertaken last year along with the pending retirement of the current Department Manager has led to some restructuring within. We are pleased to announce that Laurie Straughan, one of our Accommodations Managers, will be the new Family Services Manager, bringing with her, the Family Home Program. The Family Services Department will now consist of Family Support, Family Relief, Family Home, Youth programs and Barrie Housing Support Services.

In addition, a new position, Family Services Supervisor, has been created. Michelle Postill started in her new position in July of this year, and will be responsible for supervising the staff in Family Support, Family Relief, Barrie Housing Support Services and Youth program.

Family Support:
We are pleased to report that we have been gradually able to reduce the number of people on the wait list for Family Support over the last year. The wait time is still longer than we would like, but is improving. By offering additional Resource Days, and using social work students on placement, we have been able to address short term needs of many of the people on the wait list. Unfortunately, recent staffing changes and resulting shortages have meant that we have had to put a temporary hold on Resource appointments.

Our partnership with CTN continues. Restructuring within CTN has resulted in some minor changes in the role that Family Support Workers play in the process. As Single Plan of Care (SPOC) Coordinators, Family Support staff co-ordinate the services provided by a host of service providers and ensure that plans are developed and carried out to best meet the needs of the child. Although the goal remains the same — to provide the best service to the child with special needs — the focus of our work has shifted from supporting the family to supporting the service provider team. Family Support Workers provide SPOC coordination to approximately 40 families, along with Resource appointments to approximately 48 other families a year.

We also continue our partnership with Behaviour Management Services of York Simcoe in offering the Let’s Socialize program to approximately 16 youth with Aspergers and high functioning autism, and their families each year. The program runs in 2 twelve week blocks between September and May of each year and serves youth and families from across the county.

Family Relief:
With the advent of the DSO (Developmental Services Ontario), new changes have come to Family Relief. We continue to offer the same options as in the past; however, where in the past, we were able to automatically transfer people from children’s respite funding to adult funding, now families must register with the DSO in order to access adult respite money. In addition, the demand for respite for adults is growing while the amount of funding available has not changed. This has come as a “mixed blessing”. For the first time in our history, people are having to move out of service when they reach adulthood, and move back onto a wait list for respite. The wait list for adult respite is growing as a result. On the other hand, for the first time in years, we have been able to offer respite to a significant number of children on the wait list. We have done this in two ways. Some families who have been on the wait list for a long time have been offered ongoing long term respite. In addition, we have set aside some money to offer other families one time short term respite while they remain on the wait list for ongoing service. Some examples of short term respite we provided this year are:

- One couple was able to go on vacation on their own for the first time because they received respite for their son;
• A teenage girl with physical support needs received funding for a 1:1 worker which allowed her to attend the March Break conference. We were also able to fund a 1:1 worker so she could attend a week of Youth in Action this summer;

• A young girl who was experiencing bullying in her neighbourhood was able to attend a week of horseback riding camp and enrol in dance lessons with respite funding. A worker will assist her to attend Brownies in the fall.

• A young man who was struggling in getting ready for school each day received 1:1 support to help him get up and make the transition from home to school each morning. He has now switched schools and his school day is increasing. It looks like he will be able to go to school without supports this fall.

Next year we hope to offer another group of families on the wait list the same opportunity for one time respite while they wait for ongoing support. Finally, through our partnership with the City of Barrie, we have been able to use respite funding to sponsor approximately 25 AIR and Camp Companion spots for children and youth with special needs to attend one week of day camp this summer. All of these changes have meant that we have been able to allocate funding more wisely and help as many people as possible.

We continue to co-host RespiteServices.com with Catulpa Community Support Services. In addition to linking families with qualified CHAP (Community Helpers for Active Participation), the program offers a variety of training opportunities for families and CHAP each year. These trainings are funded through the autism initiative but are open to all families and CHAP and are listed on the RespiteServices.com website. This year, some of the educational opportunities included:

• Monthly CHAP Support Worker Orientations
• Putting on a Happy Face – Assisting Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to Understand Emotions
• ASD Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies for Home, School and Community
• NVCI non-certified trainings for families and for CHAP
• Managing Sleep Disorders in Autism

Youth Programs:

“Having a child with autism, we never thought she would one day hang out with peers every Thursday night, let alone attend a youth retreat during March Break. We were very hesitant to allow Payton to go to an overnight retreat (actually 2 nights) without us. After all she was 16 and never away from us, other than with family. So over dinner one night we discussed this with Payton, only to be surprised at her excitement. Her response being “Can I pack now and can I pack my teddy bear?” Well that was it. Payton was going to camp. Mom & Dad were nervous, unsure, and just plain scared.

Camp day came and Payton was ready to go. Check in time couldn’t come soon enough. We got to Geneva Park and awaiting us was Jess. As soon as we entered the main building, Payton went through the check in process with flying colours. (mom and dad still unsure). Then she went over to her room which she was sharing with Jess. (Payton had no idea that Jess was there as her support; she just thought Jess was like her and at camp for 2 nights. Very well done, thanks to Kristi.) So we get in the room and expect to hang for a bit, let Payton get comfy and then we would make our way home. Well we were in the room no more than a couple minutes and Payton turned to us and said “SHOULDN’T YOU BE GOING?” “Ha ha ha. Well I suppose so,” we said. We headed home expecting a phone call to say “good night” or worse, “come get Payton.” Well let me tell you, we heard nothing until we picked her up 2 days later.

Payton had a fabulous time with all the other kids and the dance was fabulous. First thing she said to us was “can I go again?”

Seeing Payton do something all other kids do was absolutely wonderful for us as parents. But for Payton the excitement, the confidence, the social interaction was and has been beyond our expectations. Everyone in our family was so happy for her and proud of her. We still hear stories about Geneva Park. Sometimes it is about the workshops or the dance but they are memories and they are important to Payton so they are important to us.

This was an exciting year for the Simcoe Community Services youth program. In addition to WEB, Get OUT, Youth in Action and Circles, the youth workers took on the challenge of offering another Youth Conference at Geneva Park in Orillia. This year we offered the conference over March Break which had the added advantage of providing some respite for
families. Over 50 youth participated in the 3 day conference. Luca (LazyLegz) Patuelli and his friend, Michael Prosserman, returned by popular demand, and this time offered a day long workshop. He had everyone, including our CEO, Marion Peck, up on the floor, break dancing and showing their stuff.

Other presenters included para-athlete Rick Ball from Orillia, the MacLaren Art Centre, YMCA Drums Alive!, Photo Voice and Black Light Theatre. Students from Georgian College’s Therapeutic Recreation program organized the entertainment both nights along with a workshop on Empowering Youth, and Georgian College Law and Security students provided overnight security for the group. Special thanks go to the Kiwanis Club of Barrie and Barrett Hides Inc who sponsored the evening events; and to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Patrick Brown MPP, Fiona Pietras of Talbot Promotional Products, Lacie Pharmacy, Georgian College SAC, dentists Dr. Stephen Yauck and Petra Schalle of Wasaga Beach, and the Flight Centre, Orillia for providing swag for the youth.

One of the new elements of the conference this year was the inclusion of three graduates who came back to mentor the youth. One of the youth has started her own small business and the other two are attending the CICE program at Georgian College. Highlights of the conference included a slideshow presentation by Photo Voice participants and a song and dance black light presentation.

Barrie Housing Support Services:
This year has been a bit of a struggle for Barrie Housing Support Services. Barrie is a growing and thriving community, but this is not the case for people who are living in poverty. The average citizen in Barrie probably does not know that Barrie has one of the lowest vacancy rates in the country. A “healthy” vacancy rate is considered to be about 3%. Anything lower than that usually results in increased rental costs and an increase in homelessness. For most of the last 20 years, Barrie has had one of the lowest vacancy rates in Canada, with a current vacancy rate of 1.5%, and it is still dropping. Not only that, but a recent report says that the average rent for apartments in Barrie is $100 to $150 higher than the national average, almost as high as Toronto. Barrie is not a cheap place to rent.

And when this happens, the demand for Barrie Housing Support Services goes up. In the first six months of 2012, the program has seen almost as many people as we saw in all of last year. Our first strategy is to try to keep people housed. In most cases, it is better for both the landlord and the tenant if the tenant can pay his arrears and stay in his current housing. The landlord doesn’t lose out on rent and the tenant stays housed. One of the tools the housing support workers use is the Housing Retention Fund. The Housing Retention Fund (HRF) helps families with emergency help with rental arrears. If a renter gets behind in his or her rent because of a loss of employment, illness, or unexpected bills, and if he is able to show that he has a workable plan to pay his rent on time from now on, HRF can provide one-time assistance to pay for the rental arrears. If he is behind in utility payments but has paid his rent, the Emergency Energy Fund, Winter Warmth and LEAP (Low-Income Energy Assistance Program) are similar programs that assist with energy arrears. These are the housing worker’s main tools. Another resource is the Good Food Box, a program that provides access to cheap, nutritious, fresh fruit and vegetables to all families. Barrie Housing Support Services is a host agency for the Good Food Box, and introduces about 25 new families a year to the program.

Barrie Housing Support Services continues to work closely with the David Busby Street Centre. In addition to our office at Bayfield Mall, we provide a full-time housing support worker at the Centre. There the focus is primarily on helping people who are homeless to get off the streets and into adequate housing. By working closely with Centre staff, we are beginning to see a difference and are gradually helping people find affordable housing. This is often a very slow and tedious process, but the rewards are tremendous when you finally see people housed.

Working in the field of homelessness requires a multi-pronged approach. As a result, our housing staff members are also active on SCATEH, the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, and with the Shared Facility project. Kelly Bell, one of our housing workers, chairs the local chapter of the Alliance and represents Barrie on the Alliance Steering Committee. As our staff member at the Busby Centre, she continues to represent our needs as the Centre spearheads the move to a multi-use facility for people living with poverty.

Family Council
The Family Council met five times between September 2011 and June 2012, and took on the task of hosting the first of what is hoped will be a series of Family Information & Networking nights. The first meeting was held on October 19. The focus of this meeting was three-fold: Families were able to be introduced to Marion Peck, the new Chief Executive Officer, Maxine Johnson reviewed the agency Accreditation Plan and Andrew Walker and the staff from the DSO gave a presentation on the new adult admission process through Developmental Services Ontario. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. Most expressed an interest in attending future meetings, and plans are under way to host a second session on Transition Planning in the fall of 2012.

Other work undertaken by the Council included ongoing review of agency Standards of Practice that have an impact on the people we support and their families, a review of a proposed new agency brochure, and the development of a work plan resulting from recommendations from the Accreditation renewal process. SEAC representatives Sue Downing of the Simcoe County District School Board and Flo Friel of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board gave monthly reports to the committee. Issues highlighted included the use of blocker shields in the Simcoe County District School Board and the possible use of Evacu Chairs as an evacuation tool for students with physical disabilities in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board.
Simcoe County Infant Development Program

The Simcoe County Infant Development Program provides service to our agency’s youngest clients. Any family living in Simcoe County who has concerns about their infant’s development is eligible for service. Through play, Infant Development Workers complete developmental assessments/checklists with an infant and their family in order to identify strengths and needs, develop an individual family service plan and provide age appropriate activity suggestions. Assistance with referrals to specialized therapy services or community agencies, as well as application for funding resources is provided as needed. Infant Development Workers are members of local early intervention teams in each area of Simcoe County, providing coordinated service delivery with Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech/Language Pathologists, Vision and Hearing Specialists, Public Health Nurses, Children Aid Society, as well as Children’s Treatment Network partners and Community Care Access Centre.

Infant Workers are also in the community - at drop-in play groups ‘Ask the Professional’ sessions, Ontario Early Years Centre ‘Life with Baby’ groups as well as at Mothercare/Next Step groups across Simcoe County.

Last year, the program served over 500 infants with 8.1 full time equivalent staff. It has been challenging to continue to provide quality service for an ever increasing number of infants and families with no increase in funding. Our dedicated staff members rise to this challenge and we continue to look at service delivery and effective ways to provide family centred service in a timely manner.

Resource Teacher Program

The Resource Teacher Program is using a new model of service delivery when working with children who attend a community day care
program. The Consultation Model differs from our previous model of service delivery in that the Resource Teacher is now servicing the daycare classroom as opposed to direct work with the child. The change has allowed for increased caseload numbers and moves away from a therapeutic model to a teaching model. Essentially the day care classroom is now the client and strategies to promote inclusion and developmental goals are directed at the whole classroom instead of the individual child.

The new Consultation Model is being delivered across the County of Simcoe. In order to have consistent delivery of this model across such a broad geographical region, a group of Resource Teachers and Early Intervention Workers from across the county collaborated to develop a process and documentation standards to support the Consultation Model. The committee developed a “Classroom Working Document”, “Child Checklist” and a “How Can We Help?” menu of service options. Supporting documentation such as a “Frequently Asked Questions” document and “Step by Step” guide were also developed to ensure consistency among users. The Classroom Working Document functions as a contract between the Resource Teacher and the daycare classroom. It is reviewed every six weeks to promote accountability and guide the work of the team. Early feedback from our day care partners, about the new process, has been positive.

As part of our commitment to developing strong partnerships with child care providers in Simcoe County, the Resource Teacher Program has developed a new process to recognize exceptional staff performance. During their supervision time Resource Teachers are asked to bring forward the names of child care staff who have demonstrated exceptional performance in relation to supporting children with special needs. The child care teacher then receives a letter of commendation from the Resource Teacher Program Supervisor. The process supports our program’s goal to build a team approach towards providing excellent inclusive day care to children with special needs.

Rotodale/Sunny Park Nursery Schools

In 2010, the government’s vision for a seamless system in Ontario to support families began with the passing of the Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act. This act amends the Education Act to mandate that all school boards offer full day learning for four and five year olds. As a result of these changes, child care - Rotodale and Sunny Park - have been transferred from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to the Ministry of Education. Bringing child care and education together under one ministry will create a more integrated system that facilitates smoother transitions for young children and families.

Sunny Park Children’s Centre and Rotodale Nursery School have had a very successful year. Our enrolment has been near capacity, an indication that consistent promotion of our quality services is beneficial.

Some of our special events have included a Mother’s Day Tea, which gave the children and teachers an opportunity to recognize the importance of being a mother. Over 120 cups of iced tea were served by the children. Fathers were also given their special day with an activity and snack.

Our centres also experienced the wildly exciting animals from ZooTek. During these presentations the children learn about insects, lizards and snakes from various regions.

Rotodale Nursery School partners with the Bradford West Gwillimbury Library. Once a month, a librarian reads to the children, and engages them in an interactive circle time.

We facilitate “Essco Family Math”, a community-based program for families who would like their children to experience success in math. Research shows that students do better at school when their parents are involved in their education. Another research based program we offer to families is “Getting Ready for Kindergarten.” These programs promote early literacy and school readiness and are well received by the families attending.

OEYC RETURNS to Stroud

Through a Best Start Network Initiative, our Ontario Early Years Centre has become a key stakeholder in spearheading old and new partnerships to provide integrated services for families. It is located in a separate space attached to Sunnybrae Public School in Stroud. By cooperating, collaborating and planning services together, the agencies involved hope to be able to put the needs of children and families first, while still maintaining their own agency mandates. This ‘HUB’ location’s goal is that “every door is the right door” in order to assist families to get the services they need. We are still in the planning stages to full integration but in the meantime have moved some of our programs to this location. We have partnered with CAPC/CPNP Mother Care/Next Step program, which are on site each Wednesday afternoon. We are working with other agencies to develop a plan of service and have put out preliminary calendars to help agencies determine if space is available to meet their needs. Stay tuned for future developments in this very exciting project!
The Kiwanis Club has a long history of partnering with Simcoe Community Services. For many years they have supported the Campership Program which financially helps children and youth whose family’s financial circumstances might not otherwise be able to offer them the experience of camp. In addition, the Kiwanis Club is a very inclusive club and has welcomed people who have an intellectual disability into membership, where they play an active role. Last fall, when Simcoe Community Services launched its internal United Way campaign at a baseball game, the Kiwanis Club generously sponsored the barbecue piece of the event. Most recently, the Kiwanis Club made a donation to the Youth Conference held this past spring at Geneva Park. The Kiwanis Club has, as its biggest fundraiser, their food booth at Kempenfest.

As an organization, Simcoe Community Services encourages its staff, their family members and people we support to volunteer at Kempenfest so that the partnership has some reciprocity.

Thank you SO much to the Kiwanis Club who has been a long-time supporter and who we hope will continue to support us into the future.
**SELF-ADVOCATES’ COUNCIL**

The monthly Self Advocates’ Council meetings continue to be filled with energy and passion that you would be hard pressed to find in any other meeting or gathering. Each person in attendance participates fully, never hesitating to tell it like it is. Being respectful of each other during the debates, which can occur at anytime, is a given.

As one Council member put it “It’s really about equality. It is that simple. If only everyone got that, people with intellectual disabilities could save the energy we use fighting for equality, to be active valued members of our community.”

In 2011, Self Advocates were in attendance at three conferences: the annual Community Living Ontario Conference held in Niagara Falls, the ACE conference in Trenton, and a Self Advocates Conference held in Peterborough. Several other Community Living organizations have approached us to say how active and well spoken the Council members were during the conference sessions. Of course, this is no surprise to those who support the Council in their work.

Plans are now underway for the Council to start a six week leadership course called Finding Your Voice.

Simcoe Community Services has brought on board a Self Advocate Advisor. Barb Adamson started in the position, in May 2012. The Self Advocate Advisor is a 12 month paid position. Thank you to the Simcoe Community Services Foundation for providing funding that allowed us to offer these leadership opportunities.

In future months, you will be hearing more about the Self Advocates Council through their support and contribution to the Simcoe Community Services Accreditation work plan. After all, the energy and passion this group has to offer should be experienced by everyone.

**Member Profile**

Michael is the youngest member of the Self Advocates’ Council and one of the most recent members joining the Council in September, 2010. He is an enthusiastic young man with fresh ideas and a great sense of humour.

Michael has a passion for ensuring all people are treated with respect, have equal and fair supports and are informed about their rights. He also has a radiating energy that injects energy into the people around him and to the other Council Members.

Always full of ideas for the future work of the Council, Michael would like to educate the community about people with intellectual disabilities, assist the Council to give back to the community and improve the lives of all members of our community.

Since joining the Council, Michael has been an active participant at all meetings and he attended Community Living Day at the Legislature in May, 2011. He has participated in focus groups to assist SCS in the development of its current Accreditation work plan and attended his first conference in June, 2011 (annual Community Living Ontario conference held in Niagara Falls). Without a doubt, Michael had the best time of anyone else in attendance. He is already talking about future conferences.

If we hold on tight, Michael will help lead us into a brighter future where all people are treated with dignity and respect.
REVENUE
per Audited Financial Statements
March 31, 2012

- Subsidy - MCSS/MCYS/MMAH: 82.5%
- Other Government Grants: 3.5%
- Participants’ Contributions: 8.4%
- Other Income: 1.9%
- Expenditure Recovery: 3.1%
- United Way: 0.2%
- Donations & Fundraising: 0.4%
- Other Income: 1.9%
- Other Government Grants: 3.5%
- United Way: 0.2%

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY
per Audited Financial Statements
March 31, 2012

- Salaries & Benefits: 76.4%
- Fixed Asset Amortization: 4.0%
- Travel/Training: 1.3%
- Vehicle Operation: 1.0%
- Occupancy: 5.1%
- Other Client Related Cost: 12.1%

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM
per Audited Financial Statements
March 31, 2012

- Adult Group Homes: 50.1%
- Community Support Services - Adults: 17.1%
- King St. & Barrie St. Properties: 1.8%
- Family Support Services: 3.5%
- Supported Independent Living: 5.7%
- Children Group Homes: 6.2%
- Children Family Homes: 3.2%
- Day Services PreSchool: 6.0%
- Ontario Early Years Centres: 2.5%
- Adult Family Homes: 3.8%
SIMCOE COMMUNITY SERVICES
FINANCIALS 2011-2012

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

per Audited Financial Statements
March 31, 2012

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EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

per Audited Financial Statements
March 31, 2012
“We raise funds to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities”.

This statement is newly identified as the revised vision statement of the Foundation. We are proudly committed to generating funds and other resources needed beyond government and other core funding sources to enhance the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

To this end, the Foundation Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Simcoe Community Services Board of Directors, have developed strategic plans that will help us deal with funding challenges and changes anticipated in the future. We have taken steps to gain a better understanding of the funding challenges by working more closely with the SCS Board President.

Nothing seemed to be more challenging this year than to attract and retain a good fund developer. Linda Reid was hired and began her work with the Foundation in November but, unfortunately, left us in April. In her short time with us, however, Linda made a large contribution, developing the tools and programs needed for success, and left us with a solid game plan to follow.

Despite these setbacks, I am pleased to report that the Foundation has a new fund developer and a well-developed organizational structure, as a result of the strategic plan work undertaken this year.

Lisa Spinks was initially hired as a fundraising coordinator and was promoted to the fund developer position in May. We look forward to working with Lisa and Autumn, our Trillium social media coordinator, on completing the projects started last year and, in particular, on building a robust Planned Giving Program.

Future campaigns will focus on raising money for the following:

- Purchase of accessibility equipment
- Property renewal
- Family respite
- Campership for children and youth
- Skill development for youth
- Recreational and leisure opportunities for adults and seniors

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the many families, businesses and individuals who partnered with and supported the Foundation during the past year. I also wish to thank the many volunteers and SCS staff who contributed to our successes.

Your board is a strong and cohesive group that works together and has good skills. I would like to thank Paul Muldoon for directing the strategic planning initiative and Joan Tonner, Bonnie Martíno, Shelley Black, John Weber, and Dan Catton for their extra effort, input, and commitment to the Foundation this past year. It is because of this effort, enthusiasm and commitment that we find ourselves poised, positioned and ready to grow as we move into a new year.
The Simcoe Community Services Foundation has completed another very successful year in 2011/2012. The highlights include an update to the Strategic Plan that will chart the course for the next three year time frame. The strategic planning process, led by Fred Galloway, resulted in the emergence of a new vision statement. The Board of Trustees recognized and documented a new vision statement which reads “We raise funds to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.” The Board of Trustees are a most committed and energetic group who have worked tirelessly to ensure that trained professional fundraising staff are performing the valuable work which will help us achieve our goals. This year we welcomed Lisa Spinks as our new Fund Developer. Through a generous Trillium Grant we were also able to hire Autumn Tilley as our new Fundraising and Social Media Coordinator. Together the team has enabled us to build capacity in our fundraising efforts and further extend our online presence.

This past year the Foundation, along with the help of many volunteers and staff members hosted two successful and well attended signature events - the 17th Annual Fashion Show and 17th Annual Golf Tournament. We are grateful to the many sponsors and donors who supported our events through donations, participation and volunteer time. A new partner in our Fashion Show, Magnacom, assisted through the production of the event and created a promotional video which they contributed in-kind. This video will be instrumental in helping our community members recognize the impact of fundraising as it relates to enhancing the quality of life for the people who receive services from SCS. The Foundation staff members continue to work closely with the staff team at SCS to identify and promote fundraising campaigns that support the purchase of accessibility equipment, property renewal, assists families with respite, sends children to camp, provides youth with skill development, offers adults and seniors recreational and leisure activities.

As we look forward to celebrating the 60th anniversary of SCS we have many exciting plans and fundraising opportunities that we will be sharing with you and seeking your support with over the next several months. With your support, together we can create a more inclusive and caring community!

Marion Peck
CEO, Simcoe Community Services

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Foundation raises funds for a variety of people and needs. The following is a poem of appreciation from a young boy who received assistance.

You knew no more than my name
And that I have a need
You knew nothing of my mother’s special needs
Or my daddy’s bad knees
Or that my brother’s heart is broken because my Opa went to heaven
Yet you still opened your heart
And thought to help one little boy
Bounce his way to the heavens
Thank you, for you helped more than just me.
Kyle