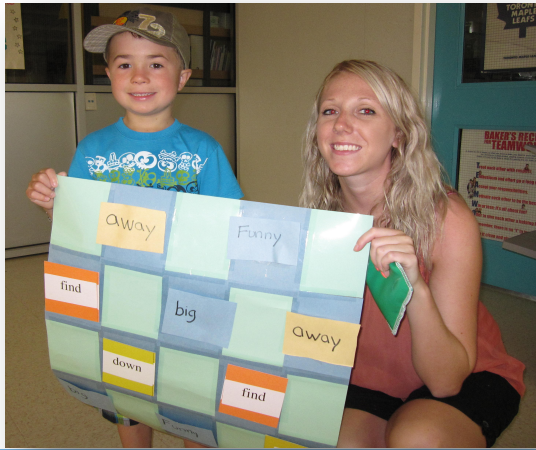




Idanr • Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Annual Report 2012



Helping individuals
reach their full potential

Our Vision

LDA-Niagara Region's vision is that of a strong and inclusive society where individuals living with learning disabilities are confident, successfully educated, resilient and self-sustaining.

Our Mission

Our purpose is to provide resources and support to individuals who are affected by learning disabilities within the Niagara Region. We provide leadership in learning disabilities advocacy, research, education and services, and advance the full participation in society of children, youth and adults with learning differences.

2012 in Review

Hello LDANR Members and Friends,

On behalf of the LDANR Board of Directors it is a pleasure for me to be able to share with you a few words about our association. Our fiscal year came to a close at the end of March 2012 and during the past year we saw many successes. First and perhaps most importantly, LDANR saw great success with our literacy, social support, and advocacy programs that were offered at a number of locations throughout the region. These programs served over 200 individuals with learning disabilities and their families. I would like to congratulate the LDANR staff, facilitators, interns, research assistants, and volunteers supporting our programs. These people work tirelessly to ensure our programs are of the highest quality.

The agency also experienced a strong financial year. As a non-profit organization, the LDANR relies solely on the generous financial commitments, donations, and grants from our members, community organizations, and granting agencies. With the significant increase in LDANR programming, the agency's expenses increased accordingly. However, I am happy to report that LDANR's revenues also increased to keep pace with our increasing program expenses and overall our agency completed the fiscal year with a balanced budget. The LDANR Board of Directors along with Executive Director and staff are grateful for all of the generous financial support for the agency.

It is important also that I extend thanks to some specific people that are integral to our organization. Foremost, I would like to thank Ashley Short, our Executive Director for her dedication and commitment to the agency. Ashley has been with the LDANR for two years and since that time, the

agency has seen tremendous growth and success with programs, financial stability, and community awareness and advocacy. We look forward to another successful year of Ashley's incredible leadership. I would also like to extend a special thanks to the LDANR staff including Sarah Farrell, Chantelle Keay, Annette Coté. And Sherri Raso. Our staff is the backbone to our day-to-day operations. Also, I would like to recognize the LDANR Board of Directors who volunteer their time to guide and support Ashley and her staff. Our 2012 members included Bill Booth, Karen Csoli, Yvonne Diodatti, Nicole Dumais, Lianne Fisher, Kim Hamilton, Melissa Legros, Lisa Linders, and Angela Marinelli.

We are pleased to wrap up and celebrate our 2011/12 year at our Open House and Annual General Meeting held on Thursday September 20, 2012. This is an important event for our agency as we have a chance to celebrate our achievements over the past year and look forward to the year to come.

Finally, I wish to thank and congratulate everyone who has been a part of the LDANR over the past year. We have had a terrific year and I look forward to seeing our progress in 2012/13.

John McNamara,
President LDANR

2012 in Review

Chair:

Dr. John McNamara

Treasurer:

Kim Hamilton

Director:

Dr. Karen Csoli

Director:

Lianne Fisher

Director:

Melissa Legros

Executive Director:

Ashley Short

Program coordinator:

Sarah Farrell

Project Coordinator:

Chantelle Keay

Bookkeeper:

Annette Cote

What an exciting year to reflect on! LDANR had a successful 2011/12-year all around. To begin, an increase in programming for children and youth occurred across the Region as LDANR had a well-funded year. Reading Rocks! remained to be the most in demand program serving 126 kids with over 115 tutors. Through a partnership with The St. John's Ambulance therapy dog program, Reading Rocks! successfully incorporated therapy dogs into programming at various program-sites. This year LDANR hopes to continue this partnership and eventually study the effects that the therapy dogs have on the participants. There was an increase in the self-advocacy and social skills programs, B.E.S.T. and S.T.E.P.S. through partnerships with NCDSB's St. Patrick's Elementary and the RAFT. Sunshine Learning Achievement & More (SLAM), the full-day summer learning program had a successful first year in three cities. SLAM participants worked on their academic and social skills, closing the summer learning gap they would have experienced otherwise. New LDANR programs were offered in both the Fall and Winter serving adults and younger children. Parents Advocating – Children Excelling offered members a chance to connect with one another and engage in a structured support program. PACE guest speakers provided education and resources with the goal of increasing parents confidence in advocating for their child. Reading Rocks Junior, an early literacy intervention program had a very successful first year serving 36, 4 – 6 year olds in Niagara Falls. With significant increases in literacy discovered, a second year of funding was made available to continue, and expand Reading Rocks Junior into more cities. LDANR hopes to offer Reading Rocks Junior as an on-going regular program to prevent children from falling behind their peers in literacy and struggling with the first and secondary characteristics of a reading

disability. LDANR offered a structured support group for adults with LDs in both the Fall and Winter and look forward to exploring a drop-in program starting in the current year.

LDANR had a strong year in regards to the research that was done on programming through a partnership with Brock University and this has continued into the 2012/13 year.

Partnering with LDANR's funder and supporter, United Way of St. Catharines, LDANR became involved with the UW After-School Matters Programming in St. Catharines and Beamsville. LDANR started offering Just Add Music, a musical literacy program as well as Changing Hearts, Attitudes and Minds for Personal Success (CHAMPS) a homework club at a few of the after-school program sites. With success, LDANR is happy to build on the partnership and offer JAM and CHAMPS at more locations with UW in the 2012/13-year.

The success of such a strong programming year at LDANR would not have been possible without the growth of our volunteer base. In the 2011/12 year, LDANR had approximately 100 program volunteers changing the lives of many children living with a learning disability. LDANR sincerely thanks each and every one of the volunteers for their time and dedication. I would like to thank our dedicated bingo team, led by Heidi Mori as they take time each month to support our agency. I hope to see a much-needed increase in bingo volunteers through our membership this year.

In the 2011/12 year, LDANR attended numerous community events increasing the awareness of learning disabilities across the region. Increasing awareness is an on-going goal for LDANR and we are recruiting LDA ambassadors throughout the year! Thank you to our supportive board of directors and a dedicated staff for making the 2011/12-year such a successful one!

Ashley Short, Executive Director

Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31st, 2012

Revenues	2012	2011
Business Education Council of Niagara	16,483	-
Canadian Tire Financial Services	1,020	-
Niagara Community Foundation	1,000	490
The Branscombe Family Foundation	24,300	-
Ontario Trillium Foundation	52,800	27,100
United Way	58,814	62,808
Bingo Revenue	8,066	7,171
Donations	2,066	13,066
Membership fees	1,447	890
Nevada income (schedule 1)	-	875
Other revenues	483	1,102
Program fees	6,267	11,615
Total revenues	172,746	125,117
Expenses		
Accounting and Bookkeeping	5,257	7,237
Bank charges and interest	681	797
Bingo expenses	200	675
Fixed asset purchases	1,322	3,949
Insurance	1,825	2,105
Memberships	291	413
Office supplies	2,008	899
Other expenses	110	-
Permits and rental fees	1,583	4,209
Photocopying expenses	4,456	3,947
Professional development	867	533
Program facilitator fees	28,992	7,350
Program supplies	1,485	335
Public awareness and advertising	346	7,809
Rent	7,800	6,000
Resource materials	2,134	401
Salaries and benefits	92,126	81,996
Telephone and internet	1,790	3,024
Travel	1,265	2,160
Total expenses	154,538	133,839
Excess of Expenses over Revenues for the year	18,208	(8,722)



The Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region is supported financially by grants, individual and corporate contributions, partner support, membership and program fees. Continued financial support is important to maintain LDANR's programs and services across the Niagara Region.

5 – 10% of children live with a learning disability. Many of these children are not identified or diagnosed, but still require support services and programs

Monetary donations can be made in cash, by cheque, credit card or visit www.ldaniagara.org to donate online. Cash and cheques are preferred, as it does not cost the agency processing fees. You will receive a donation receipt and recognition as a donor. Please visit our website to see what items are in need.

Signing up for a program? We ask families to make donations when involved in programming to help keep the programs low to no-cost.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

LDANR Programs

Reading Rocks!

Reading Rocks! is a one-on-one literacy program for children who struggle with their reading skills. Through this program children are matched up with literacy instructors who adapt a workstation and literacy program according to the child's needs (phonics, sight words, fluency, comprehension, reading, spelling, sentence structure). This program is designed to support children with reading difficulties by working on their literacy skills, self-esteem and motivation.



Reading Rocks Junior

Reading Rocks Junior is a program that supports young children who are struggling with early literacy skills. Children work in small groups at workstations and receive some one-on-one support. This year a parent-component has been added to increase parent's knowledge on the importance of early literacy and provide them with strategies and resources. This program has expanded and now offered in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, St. Catharines and Thorold.

Let's R.E.A.D. READ, EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

An 8-week literacy intervention program designed to support children (Grades 3-5) with an identified or non-identified learning disability. While participating in *Let's R.E.A.D.*, children will work on increasing their literacy skills, self-motivation, and confidence. Children will work within a small group setting and have the opportunity to work one-on-one with a literacy instructor in the area of their greatest need.

B.E.S.T.

Better Emotional and Social Times provides explicit instruction in social skills, interpreting body language/facial expressions and self-advocacy. Through discussion, games, role-playing and direct instruction in small groups, children learn how to interact successfully and how to fit into social situations with proper actions and reactions – touching a variety of topics.

S.T.E.P.S.

Social Teen Empowering Program to Succeed focuses on effective and relevant support and strategies that adolescents need in preparation for the next step in their academic life. Through group discussion, role-playing and hands-on activities, youth gain a deeper understanding of their disability and how to use this information to enhance their own success.

S.L.A.M. & March Break Boost

Sunshine Learning Achievement & More and March Break Boost are programs designed to support children with learning disabilities during school breaks. Children spend approximately 50% of their time working on their academic skills (literacy and numeracy) and approximately 50% of their time having fun with recreational activities (crafts, games, sports, swimming, etc.) and 100% of their time working on social skills. Children will work and play in a friendly, supportive environment with low adult-child ratios.



Adult Programs

Adult Support Group

For adults (18 yrs. and up) who are looking to learn more about their learning disability, coping strategies and meet other individuals going through similar challenges and experiences.

P.A.C.E.

Parents Advocating-Children Excelling is LDANR's parent support program designed to provide knowledge, information, tools, and strategies for parents of children and youth with learning disabilities.





This program helped my daughter with her letter sounds. I would recommend this program; it has made a world of difference in my daughter's life.

- Reading Rocks Junior parent



My daughter said she thoroughly enjoyed her experience at SLAM, she didn't feel left out, meaning the kids were at the same pace, reducing her anxiety levels.

- SLAM parent

2012 Programming and Services...

LDANR is happy to continue offering the following programs: Reading Rocks!, B.E.S.T., S.T.E.P.S., P.A.C.E., Reading Rocks Junior, S.L.A.M. as well as introduce Let's R.E.A.D. – a small group literacy program.

A few things to note...

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!

LDANR is now partnered with the United Way of St. Catharines & District and The RAFT to help offer after-school programs. Specifically, LDANR will offer a homework club, C.H.A.M.P.S. and Just Add Music (J.A.M.) a musical literacy program throughout the school year.

Thank you to the following...

Volunteers

Stephanie Agnew
Maegan Archer
Hailey Babcock
Amanda Bahnuk
Rebecca Banfield
Melanie Best
Dustin Block
Emily Booth
Michelle Breckenridge
Holly Brown
Kathryn Boundy
Justine Burnside
Lindsay Campbell
Diana Carbone
Gianina Carletti
Dayna Carlton
Krystal Clements
Becca Cosgrove
Karen Csolli
Smantha DeProphetis
Joanna Dickson
Yvonne Diodati
Tess Dimroci
Cherri Dobbie
Melissa Doornekamp
Suzanne Eden (Morrish)
Leana Fedorovitch
Lianne Fisher
Nicole Franklin
Elana Friedman
Jelayna Gadula
Feven Gidey

Leidy Carolina Giraldo
Chris Golem
Garrett Goodbrand
Rebekah Granger
Melanie Grice
Hilary Grieve
Brianna Griffiths
Kim Hamilton
Melissa Hancock
Ryann Harrington
Caitlin Heit
Smantha Helmeczi
Denyelle Huellemann
Nathan Hutley
Ryan Huxley
Jessica Ip
Chelsea Kellner
Brittani Kempt
Sarah Klassen
Brooke Kostyshyn
Nicholas Kurzawa
Sarah Lane
Melissa Legros
Maggie Lewis
Lisa Linders
Mike Mackett
Angela Marinelli
Alyxandra Martin
Victoria Maxmen
Larissa Mazarella
John McNamara
Magda Mohos
Heidi Mori
Emily Moore

Rebecca Morse
Josh Nunn
Victoria O'Connor
Mary Packer
Brent Page
Stephanie Peltier
Katie Petropanagos
Lisa Pollak
Ibrahim Qureshi
Marc Rosati
Trista Rouselle
Kameet Samra
Ruth Schwendinger
Gemma Shugg
Amanda Simpson
Emily Skinner
Marjorie Slinn
Kristen Smart
Crystal Smith
Jonathan Sullivan
Amy Summerfeldt
Conor Thompson
Renee Timmermans
Anthony Tosoni
Greg Troy
Kara Turner
Stephanie Vanderwielen
Livia Vitatern
Hailey Webb
Erika Wheeler
Dayna Wilkinson
Nicole Wirkowski

Placement Students

Natalie Adamyk
Amanda Antidormi
Lauren Clapdrop
Chantelle Duguay
Vanessa Edward
Deboroah Forgie
Elana Friedman
Stephanie Galati
Melinda Goslin
Maria Hellquist
Janine Kraemer
Sara Kramer
Greg Langton
Jennifer Lone
Judith Martin
Katie Montgomery
Courtney Morin
Kristen Ridge
Diana Ruiz Castro
Fabio Taule
Nicole Wallace

Facilitators

Kirsten Archer
Katie Atkins
Katelyn Boyd
Hope Cowan
Kelsey Dick
Emily Faulkner
Kelsey Gleason
Kristen Golia
Chantelle Hunter
Erica Hutton
Carly Jones
Ashley Miller
Brittani Mulder
Shannon Paisley
Lourdes Rosito
Samantha Sendzik
Keltie Shields
Alexandria Szwec
Rochelle Tkach
Joanne Van Lierop
Emily Vint
Ashley Voyer
Angela Wallace

To join the LDANR team, visit www.Ldaniagara.org

Volunteer intake form online!



Thank you to our Funders...



Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

*Reading Rocks
B.E.S.T.
S.T.E.P.S.*



*St. Catharines
South Niagara
Niagara Falls/Greater Fort Erie
(Programming & services)*



*S.L.A.M.
New sign*



*Sunshine Learning
Achievement & More!*



Reading Rocks Junior



Idanr • Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

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