

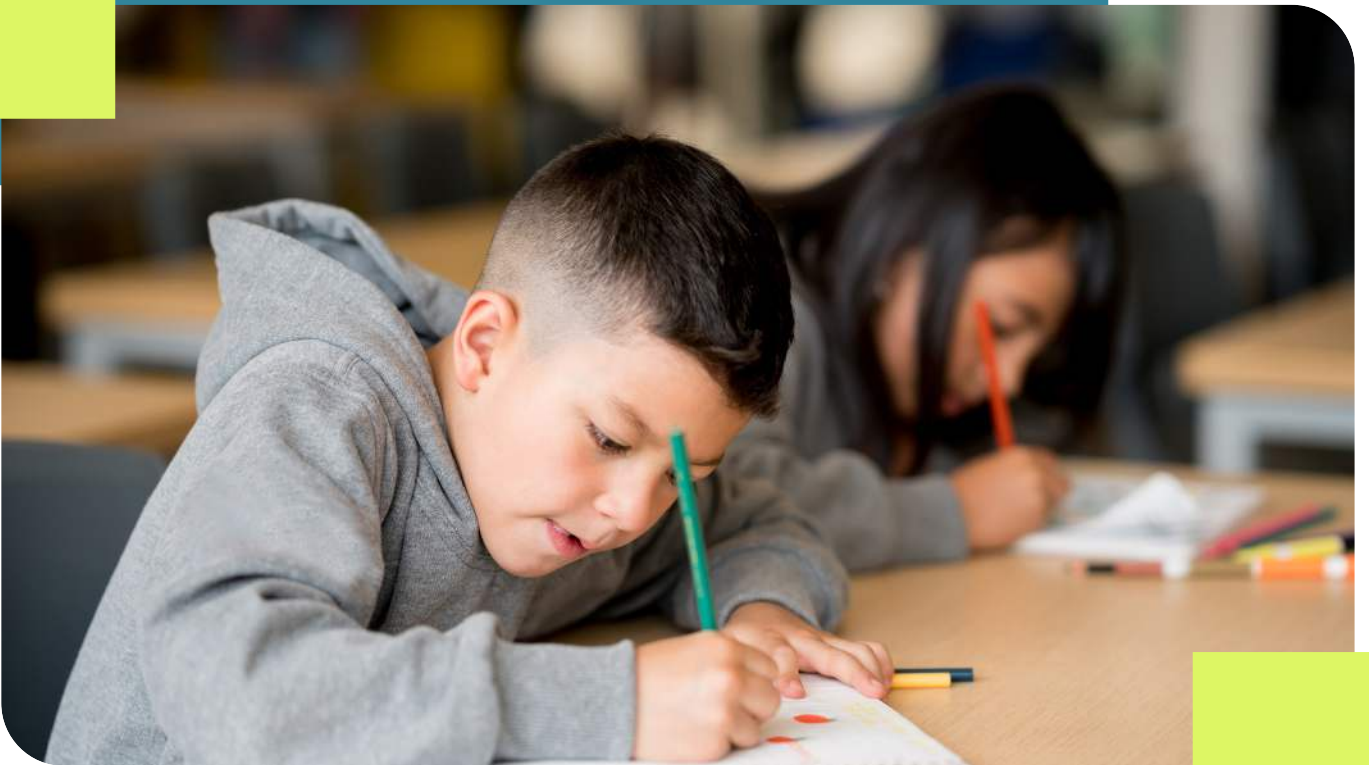


LDANR • Learning Disabilities
Association of Niagara Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



United Way
Niagara

Proud community Partner

Our Vision

The Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR)'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

LDANR's 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.

The LDANR acknowledges that the land on which the LDANR is located is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.



2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Lorenzo
Chair

Steve Aikenhead
Treasurer

Victoria Everett
Secretary

Mark Casburn
Director

Brenda Taylor
Director

Stan Shadrin
Director

Mark Carl
Director

Kaila Henderson
Director

Debbie-Ann Fender
Director

Aishah Sonekan
Director

Board Chair Message

Firstly, I would like to personally thank our past and current board members, coordinators, program staff, and volunteers for the dedication and enthusiasm they bring to their roles. Being new to the role this past year, I have felt an overwhelming amount of gratitude for how well the board works together, and how well our personnel work together to achieve our mission.

This year, we said goodbye to long-serving board members Stan Shadrin and Kaila Henderson, and we thank them sincerely for their years of service and support. We were pleased to welcome Aishah Sonekan and Debbie-Ann Fender to the board in Spring 2024, and more recently, Janine Tessmer and Allison Flynn-Bowman. We are excited for the insight and energy they bring to our organization. As a non-profit, LDANR thrives because of your hard work and commitment.

Of special note, we continue to navigate staffing changes due to maternity and medical leaves. These fluctuations led to some interruptions in programming, including the cancellation of our annual Trivia Night. We appreciate your patience and understanding, and we remain hopeful for more stability in the coming year. The LDANR's fundraising events and ways that we can bring in extra revenue to support our programs and services will be a significant focus for us this coming year.

LDANR is incredibly thankful for its generous sponsors and donors. Your support allows us to continue offering meaningful programming and financial assistance to families across the region.

The 2024–2025 year hallmarked some exciting initiatives:

- We launched our new website in Spring 2024, offering a refreshed and user-friendly experience.
- We adopted restated by-laws in Fall 2024, aligning with the revised Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).
- We partnered with the DSBN and Niagara Catholic to offer our Let's R.E.A.D. program.
- We continued partnerships with Niagara Catholic and DSBN in Spring 2024 and 2025 to deliver our TIPS for Post-Secondary workshops to high school students.
- We also partnered with Niagara Catholic in Spring 2024 and 2025 to offer our SOAR to Secondary program.
- Our core programs—Reading Rocks, JUMP Math, and S.L.A.M. Camp—remained popular and impactful.
- We secured a 3-year OTF Grow Grant to expand our LD Student Social program, providing vital peer support for youth with learning disabilities.
- In Fall 2024, we hosted a well-attended hybrid presentation on the IEP and IPRC process for parents, presented by Justice for Children and Youth. We hope to offer more of these informative sessions in the future.
- LDANR continues to update policies and procedures to ensure we are well placed for many years to come.

In closing, on behalf of the entire LDANR board, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our community. We are proud of the work we do and remain committed to supporting children and families so they may thrive in everyday life. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Wishing you all the best and thank you for your continued support,
David Lorenzo
Board Chair

Executive Director Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 year, I'm proud of the resilience, growth, and impact we've achieved together. Compiling this report reminds me of the incredible dedication shown by our community – through donations, volunteer hours, and participation in our programs.

This year brought exciting developments, including the launch of our new, accessible website and the adoption of updated by-laws aligned with the Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), strengthening our governance.

We also navigated leadership transitions within the Learning Disabilities community, mourning the loss of Lawrence Barns, CEO of LDAO, whose legacy continues to inspire us. We welcome Dr. Steven Reid as the new CEO and look forward to continued collaboration.

Internally, staffing changes due to leaves of absence led to some disruptions, including the cancellation of our annual Trivia Night. Despite these challenges, our team remained committed, and I'm confident in the stability ahead with Taylor Lloyd stepping in as Interim Executive Director this September while I begin my maternity leave.

In regards to our programs, we expanded our reach through partnerships with local school boards, delivering Let's R.E.A.D., TIPS for Post-Secondary, and SOAR to Secondary workshops. Our core programs – Reading Rocks, JUMP Math, and S.L.A.M. Camp – remained strong. We're especially proud to have secured a 3-year OTF Grow Grant to grow our LD Student Social initiative, fostering peer support for youth with learning disabilities.

We also hosted a successful hybrid parent presentation on the IEP and IPRC process, led by Justice for Children and Youth, and look forward to offering more empowering sessions.

Thank you for standing with us through a year of transformation. Your support fuels our mission, and we're excited for what's ahead.

Warmly,

Samantha Sendzik-Sinclair
Executive Director

2024-2025 OFFICE STAFF

**Samantha
Sendzik-Sinclair**
Executive Director

Taylor Lloyd
Social & Community
Coordinator

Jessica Yaguchi
Literacy Coordinator
(Maternity Leave Coverage)

Ann Ai
Math Coordinator
(Maternity Leave Coverage)

**Valerie Lozancic &
Ushna Malik**
Administrative Assistant
(Maternity Leave Coverage)

Madeline Cipriano
Math Coordinator &
Administrative Assistant
(on Maternity Leave)

Emily Morrison
Literacy Coordinator
(on Maternity Leave)

Annette Cote
Bookkeeper

Financials

**Learning Disabilities Association Of Niagara Region
Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
Revenues		
Grant revenue (<i>schedule 2</i>)	\$ 177,993	\$ 219,138
Operating revenue (<i>schedule 1</i>)	65,568	56,750
Fundraising income (<i>schedule 3</i>)	28,333	40,292
Donations	14,269	12,278
Program partnerships	6,400	5,823
Interest	5,455	6,697
Sponsorships	3,750	3,000
	<u>301,768</u>	<u>343,978</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	261,322	289,338
Rent (<i>Note 4</i>)	18,000	18,000
Accounting and bookkeeping	10,038	9,565
Supplies	6,737	14,034
Staff and board events	3,339	1,942
Telephone and internet	2,865	2,786
Permits and rental fees	2,533	6,164
Insurance	1,981	1,917
Interest and bank charges	1,736	1,453
Fundraising expenses	1,402	1,979
Payroll fees	1,353	1,391
Office supplies	1,036	2,251
Travel	560	236
Website and computer costs	235	1,353
Photocopying expenses	83	-
Resources expenses	-	2,500
Memberships	-	270
Public awareness and advertising	-	88
	<u>313,220</u>	<u>355,267</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses from operations	<u>(11,452)</u>	<u>(11,289)</u>
Other expenses		
Website and computer capital expense	4,862	9,448
Cyber security assessment	-	17,150
	<u>4,862</u>	<u>26,598</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (16,314)</u>	<u>\$ (37,887)</u>

Fundraising & Events



Over the 2024-2025 year, the LDANR also continued to raise money from charitable gaming centres Delta Bingo Niagara Falls and Delta Bingo St. Catharines. We are incredibly grateful to be a recipient of these funds year after year.

In May 2024, we also partnered with our fellow LDA Chapters across Ontario to offer a virtual parent conference, which featured a keynote speaker and a choice of three different breakout sessions on various topics relating to learning disabilities. This conference was attended by parents across Ontario, with some of our own families from Niagara Falls attending, as part of a chapter-led initiative.

As a non-profit, the LDANR relies heavily on fundraising initiatives to ensure we can deliver high-quality and affordable programs and services to individuals across Niagara.

Over the 2024-2025 year, our fundraising efforts and events included a Niagara Ice Dogs Fundraiser, a Boston Pizza fundraiser, as well as an IEP/IPRC Workshop, and our annual Appreciation Night event. We were saddened that we had to forgo our beloved Trivia event this year due to unforeseen staffing challenges, however we look forward to its return in 2026. In total, these efforts raised over \$3,000 for our organization and we are excited to grow this number again next year with the resumption of our Trivia Night. We want to thank everyone who participated in, and supported, these important events.



Fundraising & Events

Annual Appreciation Dinner

The LDANR was pleased to host our Annual Appreciation Event in April 2025 to celebrate all we accomplished over the 2024–2025 year.

The event was an opportunity to recognize the tremendous efforts of our staff, volunteers, funders, sponsors, and community partners who make our programs and services possible.



We were fortunate to have the Bennett and Skilnyk families join us and share how LDANR programs have positively impacted their lives. We are grateful to Julie, Sam, Hilary, and Sam for helping highlight the difference our programs make in the community.

Annual Appreciation Dinner Award Winners

2024-2025 Instructor of the Year Renée Colucci

Since joining LDANR in Spring 2024, Renée has shown exceptional passion and dedication through her work with CHAMPS, LD Student Social, and S.L.A.M. Summer Camp. She is recognized for creating safe, inclusive spaces where children feel supported, and for the genuine connections she builds with both participants and colleagues. Thank you for all your contributions to our organization, Renée!



Fundraising & Events

Annual Appreciation Dinner Award Winners

2024-2025 Volunteer of the Year
Katrina-Ann Thompson



Since joining LDANR in Fall 2023, Katrina-Ann has shown unwavering passion for helping students with learning disabilities reach their full potential. She is recognized for her kindness, patience, and ability to build meaningful connections, making a lasting positive impact on our organization. Thank you for all your contributions to our organization, Katrina-Ann!

2024-2025 Outstanding
Contributor

Delta Bingo St. Catharines &
Niagara Falls



Delta
BINGO & GAMING

Delta Bingo & Gaming has been an instrumental supporter of LDANR for over a decade. Through their charitable gaming initiatives Delta Bingo has provided stable and consistent funding that allows us to sustain and grow our programs.

Their support has been a game-changer, helping students build confidence, strengthen skills, and connect with peers. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing partnership and the difference they make for families across Niagara.

Reading Rocks

Grades 1-8

Reading Rocks is an individualized reading intervention program designed by Brock University's Dr. John McNamara. Participants work one-to-one with a trained tutor to enhance their literacy skills such as phonics principles, sight word knowledge, and reading fluency.

Between April 2024 to March 2025, LDANR offered a total of 101 Reading Rocks program spots thanks to United Way Niagara. 52 of these spots were offered in-person, while 49 of the spots were offered online.



"I was in the other room each session and could hear how engaged my daughter was. [Her tutor] was really good and kept trying different ways to do something when she didn't get something. I really appreciate all the work that went into the sessions and helping [my daughter]. Thanks again for this amazing opportunity!

Parent, Reading Rocks (Online), Winter 2025



JUMP Math[®]

Grades 1-8

JUMP Math is a curriculum-aligned classroom math program developed by John Mighton, PhD, OC, who founded JUMP Math to give every child the opportunity to successfully learn and enjoy math and achieve their full potential. JUMP Math also offers an excellent structured intervention program, which the LDANR uses to deliver an individualized tutoring program for students with a math-specific learning disability.

Between April 2024 to March 2025, LDANR offered a total of 35 JUMP Math program spots thanks to United Way Niagara. 15 of these spots were offered in-person, while 20 of the spots were offered online.



Programs & Services

S.L.A.M. Camp

Ages 9-11

S.L.A.M. (Sunshine, Learning, Achievement & More) Camp is LDANR's full-day summer literacy camp. Participants spend half of the camp day engaged in fun literacy activities, and the other half on recreation and social skill activities.

In Summer 2024, LDANR offered a total of 201 S.L.A.M. Camp program spots thanks to The Branscombe Family Foundation, with support from The Niagara Community Foundation and The Government of Canada. We had 34 unique campers in Thorold and 43 unique campers in St. Catharines.



"My daughter was struggling with reading. LDANR's S.L.A.M. summer program helped [my daughter] to be continuously engaged and stimulated in reading over the summer which will have a positive impact on returning to school. S.L.A.M. Camp provided our family with tools to make reading fun!"

Parent, S.L.A.M. Camp, Summer 2024

LD Student Social Grades 6-8



LD Student Social is a small-group program for students who are experiencing secondary characteristics associated with learning difficulties (i.e., low self-esteem) due to a diagnosed, identified, or suspected learning disability. These sessions offer a safe and inclusive space for students with learning disabilities to meet and connect with other students who share similar life experiences as a result of their learning disability. Over the 2024-2025 year, we offered 18 spots thanks to The Humeniuk Foundation (Spring 2024) and United Way Niagara (Fall 2024 and Winter 2025).

Programs & Services

B.E.S.T.

Grades 3-5

Better Emotional & Social Times ("B.E.S.T.") is a small-group, self-advocacy and coping skills program for children in grades 3-5 who are experiencing secondary characteristics associated with learning difficulties (i.e., low self-esteem, poor social and/or emotional regulation).

Between April 2024 to March 2025, LDANR offered a total of 4 B.E.S.T. program spots thanks to United Way Niagara. The Spring 2024 Program Season was our final season offering our B.E.S.T. Program as we turn our focus to expanding our LD Student Social program.



"My child struggles with social interactions and how to react when things don't go her way. She struggles with regulating emotions and it's helping her by giving her coping skills. The program helps build her confidence, it taught my daughter how to regulate her emotions and some ways to be responsible."

Parent, B.E.S.T, Spring 2024

Let's R.E.A.D.

Grades 2-4



Let's R.E.A.D. (Read, Explore and Discover) is a small-group literacy intervention program designed for students in Grades 2-4 who are a minimum of one year behind in reading due to a suspected or diagnosed learning disability.

LDANR offered the Let's R.E.A.D. program in partnership with the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) in Summer 2024 supporting 9 DSBN students, and in partnership with the Niagara Catholic District School Board in Fall 2024, supporting 16 Niagara Catholic students.

Programs & Services



Transition Programming

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the LDANR was fortunate to receive funding from the Rotary Clubs of St. Catharines, St. Catharines-Lakeshore, and St. Catharines South to support our transition programs—SOAR to Secondary (“SOAR”) and TIPS for Post-Secondary (“TIPS”). These initiatives focus on guiding students through key transitional periods to help set them up for success.

Thanks to this support, we were able to deliver these programs to 44 students in the Spring of 2025.

“[My son] now has an awareness of the benefits of his IEP. He was also taught the skills of how to advocate for himself when he needs the customized help laid out in his IEP. He was kept engaged and enjoyed participating. My son needed the SOAR program because he really did not grasp that there would be a significant change in the structure of his school day at High School. [...] The program opened his eyes to a better way of getting through high school. We're all a little less stressed about his first experience at high school. We were truly concerned it would be too overwhelming, but now we think he is better equipped to manage the challenges of high school due to SOAR. It's comforting to have some reassurance through preparedness. He needs all the tools he can get in his tool belt and SOAR has proven to be an essential tool. We don't want his anxiety to get worse and now that he has had a glimpse of what to expect, he is more confident about starting high school.”

Parent, SOAR to Secondary Program, Spring 2025

CHAMPS

CHAMPS is an after-school drop-in program that runs in partnership with United Way Niagara and The RAFT. CHAMPS specifically runs as an instructional component to United Way's After School Matters program, and intends to provide homework assistance and an extra learning experience for the children.

During the 2024-2025 year, CHAMPS was offered at three St. Catharines locations - Rykert, Manchester and Grantham.

Partnership Programs

Staff & Volunteers



Program Volunteers & Placement Students

Abby Bradley
Abby Giannini
Abigail Myers
Adam Ispahany
Addison Benjamins
Alexa Cassolato
Alyssa Flynn
Amanda Viveiros
Ambrosia Tirbhowan
Angela Ventresca
Angelina Resendes
Angeline Martha Cariquitan
Avery Greenwood
Ben Lawlor
Briana Mota - Faustino
Brianna Regan
Brooke Braverman
Brooke Pearce
Chloe Hodge
Ciera Sanders
Claire Knights
Clifford Amlie
Colleen Myers
Danial Cotton
Debby Berg (Martin)
Elena Wood
Elin Pickfield
Elisa Smith
Ella Goodale
Emily MacKay
Erin Swan
Faduma Abokar
Faduma Abokar
Gabrielle Morse
George Trendafilov
Graciane Tshianza
Gurshanpreet Singh
Ibinabo Bob-Manuel
Isabelle Robinet
Isha Brar
Jenna Mezinis
Jessica Tibbetts
Jillian McPherson
Justine Smith
Kaitlyn Bens
Karling Gordon
Katelyn Hein
Katrina-Ann Thompson
Kendall McAninch
Kyle Wong
Lainey Janke
Lauryne Beriault
Lisa Clark
Luchen Liu
Lukas Kosanovich
Mackenzie Boyes
Mackenzie Buchwald
Malori Reid
Maria Demetriou
Marissa Vaessen

Program Staff

Aaron Stevens
Alyssa Breen
Alyssa Kovacs
Amelia Ferracuti
Ashley Kovacs
Bronwyn Duffy
Cassie Tonin
Christina Maltsev
Diane Bishop
Emily Glencross
Emma Coffey
Emmy Suparmin
Erica Simmanivong -
 Elizarraras
Jaimee Near
Jaskaran Bhamra
Kyra Omland
Lilian Wang
Lucinda Whitworth
Mackenzie McRae
Madi Maguire
Malak Shaath
Mary Stimac
Mofe Adenuga
Renee Colucci
Robin Kim
Samantha Strayer
Sana Jacob
Sophie Pullen
Ushna Malik
Xan Mercier
Zoe Sisson
Zoe Gagnon

Staff & Volunteers

Program Volunteers & Placement Students Cont'd

Mark Kyeyune
May van Haastrecht
Mia Szurkowski
Mick Mernick
Mike Bartakovic
Miriam Ilozue
Nahla Nadour
Nasma Nasr
Natasha Weldon
Navneet Kaur
Nicholas Giles
Nicole Mcdonagh
Nikolas Kosanovich
Nisma Ibrahim
Preet Kaur Sharma
Priyanka Shourie
Qurat Afridi
Rebecca Mako
Rebecca Wilford
Rhea Marok
Rilee Brown
Rory Watson
Sammee Mayer
Sara Permanand
Sarah Battrick
Sarah Draper
Sarah Kerr
Sarah MacNeil

Senna Cushing
Shannon Rey
Shayan Heybati
ShyAnne Laundry-Hiddink
Sofia Rodriguez
Sonia Hanessian
Sophia Strickland
Stella Clarke
Sukhmandeep Kaur
Taylor Gruber
Trishty Yadav
Victoria Stewart
Yifei Wang
Zahra Musa
Zeena Gabi



Lend a hand! Become an advocate, volunteer, sponsor, donate, fundraise, or simply spread the word!

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

Thank you to our Funders



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Ashley Burkholder
Brenda Taylor
Dario Petri
Dineen Kenn
Hilary Skilnyk
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Jill Bachorski
Kaila Henderson
Rachel Turcotte
Shena Coupal

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Matt Taggart
Benjamin Moore
Megan Jenter
Monique Boehm

Supporters

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Association of Niagara Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

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