



LDANR • Learning Disabilities
Association of Niagara Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



United Way
Golden Horseshoe

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.



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Lorenzo
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Bowman**
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Director

Steve Aikenhead
Director

Victoria Everett
Director

Board Chair Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to reflect on another successful year for the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR).

Throughout 2025–2026, LDANR continued to strengthen its programs, partnerships, and supports for children, youth, and families across Niagara. This work would not be possible without the dedication of our Board members, coordinators, program staff, and volunteers. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, and commitment to LDANR throughout the year.

We also experienced several changes within our Board of Directors. We thank Brenda Taylor for her time and contributions as a Board member, as well as Steve Aikenhead and Victoria Everett for their service in the Treasurer and Secretary roles. We were pleased to welcome Sean Kotyk as Treasurer and Allison Flynn-Bowman as Secretary and appreciate their continued commitment to the organization.

This year brought many exciting accomplishments. We welcomed back our annual Trivia Night fundraiser, bringing members of our community together in support of LDANR. We also entered the first year of our three-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant, supporting the expansion of our Student Social programming to include social outings and additional opportunities for youth.

LDANR also secured a three-year grant from the Branscombe Family Foundation in support of S.L.A.M. Camp and continued to strengthen partnerships that make our programs more accessible. Through our partnership with the District School Board of Niagara, families were able to access subsidies for S.L.A.M. Camp. We also collaborated with fellow LDA chapters to offer our annual Parent Conference, which welcomed families from across Ontario in May 2025.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening LDANR's programs, partnerships, and community impact while continuing to respond to the needs of individuals with learning disabilities and their families.

Thank you to everyone who supported LDANR throughout 2025–2026. Your contributions continue to make our work possible, and we look forward to another year of growth and opportunity.

David Lorenzo
Board Chair

Executive Director Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the 2025–2026 year, I am incredibly proud of all that LDANR has accomplished and grateful for the opportunity to support the organization as Acting Executive Director during a year of transition and growth.

Throughout the year, our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, funders, donors, and community partners continued to demonstrate an incredible commitment to children, youth, and families impacted by learning disabilities across Niagara.

This year brought many exciting opportunities. We welcomed back our annual Trivia Night fundraiser, expanded our Student Social Program through the first year of our Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant, and secured three years of funding from the Branscombe Family Foundation to support our S.L.A.M. Summer Camp. We also continued strengthening partnerships with our local school boards to make our programs more accessible to families across Niagara.

Collaboration remained an important part of our work. Together with fellow Learning Disabilities Association chapters, we helped offer an annual parent conference, providing families across Ontario with access to valuable information, resources, and support.

Serving as Acting Executive Director has given me an even greater appreciation for the people behind LDANR and the care and collaboration that goes into fulfilling our mission. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and support throughout the year.

Thank you for continuing to believe in LDANR and the children, youth, and families we serve. I look forward to seeing the organization continue to grow and make a meaningful difference in our community.

Warmly,

Taylor Lloyd
Acting Executive Director

2025-2026 OFFICE STAFF

**Samantha
Sendzik-Sinclair**
Executive Director

Taylor Lloyd
Acting Executive Director

Ciara Pember
Social & Community
Coordinator

Amber Taylor
Literacy Coordinator

Jessica Yaguchi
Math Coordinator &
Administrative Assistant
(on Maternity Leave)

Annette Cote
Bookkeeper

Financials

Learning Disabilities Association Of Niagara Region
Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Revenues		
Grant revenue (<i>schedule 2</i>)	\$ 221,391	\$ 177,993
Fundraising income (<i>schedule 3</i>)	33,820	28,333
Operating revenue (<i>schedule 1</i>)	31,763	65,568
Program partnerships	30,750	6,400
Donations	9,166	14,269
Sponsorships	8,500	3,750
Interest	4,040	5,455
	<u>339,430</u>	<u>301,768</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	276,712	261,322
Rent (<i>Note 4</i>)	18,000	18,000
Accounting and bookkeeping	11,251	10,038
Supplies	9,035	6,737
Staff and board events	3,256	3,339
Telephone and internet	2,865	2,865
Fundraising expenses	2,635	1,402
Permits and rental fees	2,605	2,533
Insurance	2,019	1,981
Office supplies	1,851	1,036
Payroll fees	1,383	1,358
Interest and bank charges	1,216	1,731
Travel	822	560
Training	531	-
Website and computer costs	431	235
Photocopying expenses	238	83
Public awareness and advertising	100	-
	<u>334,950</u>	<u>313,220</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses from operations	4,480	(11,452)
Other expenses		
Website and computer capital expense	-	4,862
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 4,480	\$ (16,314)

Fundraising & Events



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.

Throughout the 2025–2026 year, LDANR continued to raise funds through charitable gaming at Delta Bingo Niagara Falls and Delta Bingo St. Catharines. The Ontario Charitable Gaming Association’s slogan, “Charitable Gaming. Community Good.” truly reflects the positive impact these funds have in communities across Ontario. We are incredibly grateful to continue benefiting from charitable gaming funds year after year and for the important role they play in supporting LDANR’s programs and services.

In March 2026, we were thrilled to welcome back our annual Trivia Night fundraiser! It was wonderful to see so many members of our community come together for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and support for LDANR. The event was a great success, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who purchased tickets, participated, donated prizes, and helped make the evening possible.

A special thank you to our event sponsors, Your Water Company and Raimondo + Associates Architects Inc, whose generous support helped make the evening such a success.



We look forward to bringing Trivia Night back next year!

Fundraising & Events

Annual Appreciation Dinner

The LDANR was pleased to host our Annual Appreciation Event in April 2026 to celebrate all that we accomplished throughout the 2025–2026 year.

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

We were fortunate to have program parent Hana Hussein join us and share how LDANR has positively impacted her son Malik's life. We are grateful to Hana and Malik for sharing their experience and helping highlight the meaningful difference our programs make for children, youth, and families in our community.

We were also pleased to welcome a representative from the office of MPP Jennie Stevens and recognize the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for its generous support of our Student Social Programs, helping us expand opportunities for youth to build skills, connections, and confidence.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening a wonderful celebration of our LDANR community.



Left to right: Hana Hussein and Alyssa Breen at LDANR's Appreciation Event, April 2026

Fundraising & Events

Annual Appreciation Dinner Award Winners

2025-2026 Instructors of the Year

Alyssa Breen

Alyssa was recognized for the dedication, passion, and care she brings to her work with LDANR. Her commitment to supporting students and creating positive experiences has made a meaningful difference for the children and families we serve. Thank you, Alyssa, for your continued contributions to LDANR!

Malak Shaath

Malak was recognized for her dedication and the positive impact she has made through her work with LDANR. Her commitment to supporting students with learning disabilities and their families reflects the care and enthusiasm she brings to her role. Thank you, Malak, for all you contribute to our programs and community!



Left to right: Malak Shaath and Alyssa Breen at LDANR's Appreciation Event, April 2026

2025-2026 Outstanding Contributor District School Board of Niagara

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) was recognized for its outstanding support and partnership with LDANR. Through their continued collaboration and commitment to supporting students with learning disabilities, DSBN has helped expand opportunities for children and families across Niagara. Thank you, DSBN, for your valued partnership and continued support!



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 2025 to March 2026, LDANR offered a total of 75 Reading Rocks program spots thanks to United Way Golden Horseshoe. 40 of these spots were offered in-person, while 35 of the spots were offered online.



“Needless to say, I am thrilled with the program. [Name] has stated that he wants to attend 5 nights weekly which indicates how much he likes the program and his volunteer. Both volunteers for [names] are meeting them at their level and providing learning strategies appropriate for both. Both are eager to attend the classes and I think the one-to-one structure is what makes this program successful.”

Parent, Reading Rocks, Fall 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 2025 and March 2026, LDANR offered a total of 15 JUMP Math program spots with support from United Way Golden Horseshoe, including 16 in-person spots and 9 online spots. JUMP Math was offered during the Fall 2025 season, with programming paused for the Winter 2026 season.

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 2025, LDANR offered a total of 218 S.L.A.M. Camp program spots thanks to The Branscombe Family Foundation, with support from The Niagara Community Foundation, The Government of Canada and the District School Board of Niagara. We had 26 unique campers in Niagara Falls and 58 unique campers in St. Catharines.



"Both of my sons were so sad that they only did one week of SLAM camp and have asked to spend most of their summer next summer at SLAM camp instead of any other camps! The staff was AMAZING and very accommodating for my sons, I appreciate all they did to make the week enjoyable for them."

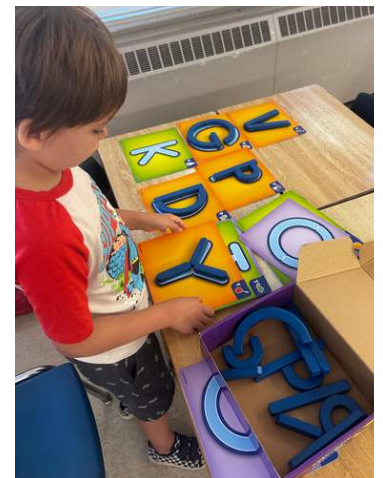
Parent, S.L.A.M. Camp, Summer 2025

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.

In Spring 2025, LDANR offered 20 Let's R.E.A.D. program spots with support from United Way Golden Horseshoe.



Programs & Services

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 to meet and connect with other students who share similar life experiences as a result of their learning disability.

Over the 2025–2026 year, we offered 23 Student Social program spots with support from United Way Golden Horseshoe, along with additional funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support social outings for participants.

"My child has had challenges with emotional regulation at school and in social settings. This program helped expose him to new experiences while outside of parental reassurance or guidance. He is more social, independent, and confident spending time with friends, and has an all-around happier attitude toward most things."

Parent, Student Social, Winter 2026

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 2025-2026 year, CHAMPS was offered at three St. Catharines locations - Rykert, Manchester and Grantham.



Programs & Services

Staff & Volunteers



Program Volunteers & Placement Students

Adrian Kaple-Perez
Ainsley Quinn
Aleeza Tariq
Alma Sheikh Al Ghannameh
Amanda Tang
Ambrosia Tirbhowan
Boehm Evangeline
Brittany Lombardo
Camille Filipetto
Caroline Bien
Charlotte Broughton
Chloe Castellan
Claire Knights
Danielle Lazovski
Eleni Janic
Ella Benay
Emily Poole
Emma Robbins
Ericka Sagastume
Erin Swan
Felix Abbott
Francesca De Avila Castro
Gabrielle (Bella) Morse
George Trendafilov
Grace Jansen
Grace Shiry
Haylie Wheeler
Ishika Kumar
Jamie Heil
Janet Marley
Jenna MacNeil
Katrina Ann Thompson
Katy Geddes

Kahlia Nevins
Katherine Tucker
Kyla Basanade
Lauren Fleming
Lauren Paredes
Lina Balanowski
Livia Scriven
Mackenzie Carrabs
Mackenzie Mackay
Maranatha Sagge
Marissa Vaessen
Melissa Borges
Mia Drew
Nicholas Giles
Nicole DeStefano
Noor Yigit
Olivia Chronopoulos
Olivia Dos Reis
Rhiannon Beckstead
Rhiannon Birnie
Rory Watson
Rosalia (Rosie) Ortesa
Santina Tonna
Sarah Evangelista
Sophie Scott
Stevie Lebrasseur
Torin Giannotti
Valeria (Val) Alzate-Martinez
Vanessa Madole
Victoria Stewart
Zahra Musa
Zayna Hussien

Program Staff

Alyssa Breen
Amy Wilson
Andre Thames
Chloe Hodge
Dana Alrifai
Diane Bishop
Elizabeth Goodwin
Emma Coffey
Erica Simmanivong
- Elizarraras
Heather Lackie
Isabella (Bella) Colitti
Jadyn Heath
Jaimee Near
Jaskaran Bhamra
Jasmine Dawson
Jessica Mastroianni

Kyra Omland
Lilian Wang
Mackenzie McRae
Malak Shaath
Nathan Lefebvre
Renee Colucci
Robin Kim
Ryleigh Siklosi
Sean Callaghan
Shahd Gouda
Shayan Heybati
Sophie Pullen
Ushna Malik
Xan Mercier

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United Way
Golden Horseshoe

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Glenda Kerrigan
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Jane Noonan
Margaret Nield
Monique Boehm

Matt Taggart
Nimesh Bhatia
Rachel Turcotte
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