

epilepsy south central ontario



bringing families together

2023 / 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*dedicated to improving
the quality of life
for persons living with epilepsy*

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A Message from our CEO

Dear ESCO Family,

Like the mythical Phoenix, we continue to rise not from the ashes, but from the aftermath of Covid. Our client growth continues, our programs are close to maximum capacity in relation to the staff, our fundraising efforts have taken a new turn and the staff have used outside of the box thinking to create some new and innovative fundraising ideas moving forward.

Our past year was one of rebuilding and realigning our needs and services. Funding was at an all time low, and thereby all staff were laid off in October 2023, but continued to support, work and take care of our clients needs.



There are not enough words to convey my thanks, gratitude and how proud I am of each and every one of them. They did not have to stay, but their dedication to the clients, to the agency and to each other is what keeps the dream alive.

Complete financial recovery was the goal for this past year, and I am proud to say that we are heading in the right direction. Our general donations have increased, our client support has increased, and most importantly, some of our clients have rallied to create fundraising pages to help support the agency and all that we offer.

Moving forward, we have intensified our fundraising and sponsorship efforts and are optimistic that our future will be secure.

As always, I am grateful for all the work and support from our ESCO family – the clients, the staff, the board of directors, and the community who embrace our cause and give our work purpose. Like the Phoenix, we are rising to build a bigger, brighter, better and bolder future together.

ESCO Family Programming

Family & Youth Educational Conference

Our Family & Youth Conference has become an integral part of education, support and advocacy for our clients and their families. Adults and Young Adults participate in educational seminars, Team Building and Life Skills activities. Youth participate in educational and Life Skills activities, and the Children participate in Team Building activities. Our conference adapts to the needs of the families and community.

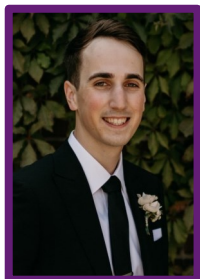
Sunny Days Camp for Kids

Our Sunny Days Camp program allows our kids and their siblings the opportunity to experience a true “summer camp ritual”. Our counsellors work hard to provide a fun and safe space for the kids. Once a week we take the kids on an adventure. Past adventures included Medieval Times, Centre Island, Ripley’s Aquarium, Adventure Village, the Royal Ontario Museum, Dragon Boating, African Lion Safar, Wet and Wild Water Park to name a few.

Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Program

Our Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) is a place for Youth and Young Adults to come together to support each other, and to have a social outing once a month. As we move forward with the program, we have split the program into two groups: Youth ages 16 to 19 and Young Adults ages 20 to 30.

A Message from our Board President



2023-2024 was another challenging year for your organization as the search for consistent funding continues.

The meaningful services we provide to both those living with epilepsy and their support systems is fueled by government grants, corporate sponsorships, and donations from the community. A recent trend post-pandemic is the increasing difficulty to receive grants and funding from the government and corporations. Now, more than ever, we require support from the government, community, and you. If you have the means and time you can:

- ◆ Donate
- ◆ Advocate to your MPP, employer, and local business for epilepsy support and education
- ◆ Participate in the activities of the organization

One significant stride made this year regarding sustainable funding is our new partnership with Rama Gaming House located in Mississauga. Rama Gaming House is a local gaming establishment that includes Vegas style games, entertainment, music and restaurant. As part of the joint arrangement, we provide a few volunteers each month and in return ESCO will share in the monthly profits. If you would like to volunteer for this crucial initiative, please reach out to David. While this joint arrangement with Rama Gaming House does not completely solve the need for consistent funding it is certainly a step in the right direction.

Your team at Epilepsy South Central Ontario have shown true commitment, passion and determination to provide record service to your community. The youth and adult programs are continuously growing and the team continues to provide unparalleled support. This amazing achievement would not be possible without all the hard work from the staff, volunteers, and the board of directors. Their efforts do not go unnoticed.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our donors and funders for their continued support.

Chris Still

Code of Ethics

Epilepsy South Central Ontario recognizes that the region is vast and rich in diversity. EpilepsySCO strives to ensure all programs and services are accessible to all.

We help to eliminate barriers within the community we serve, and uphold a high standard of positive race relations and attitude within the association at all times.

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people living with seizure disorders.

Charitable Registration Number: 80288 6218 RR0001

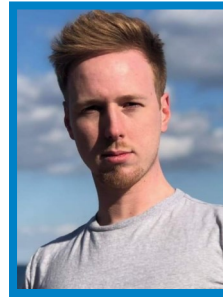
2023 / 2024 EpilepsySCO Staff



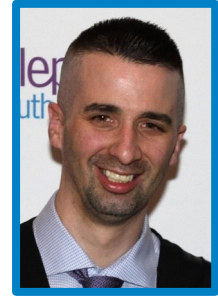
David Charchalis
Chief Executive
Officer



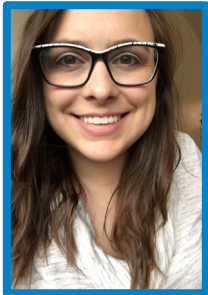
Carly Smith
Youth and Young Adult
Services



Josh Gieg
Adult and Family
Services
Life Skills Educator



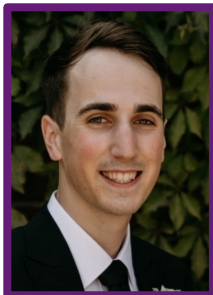
Trevor Gordon
Community Engagement
Media



Makayla Fancy
Adult Support
Group



2023 / 2024 Board of Directors



Christopher Still
President
Treasurer



Jim Cheesman
Past President



Valerie Rother
Secretary



Jodi Baxter
Director



Dr. Eduard Bercovici
Director



Cynthia Milburn
Director



Suzanne Trusdale
Director

The 2024 H.O.P.E Award

SARAH JANZEN

The H.O.P.E. Award is presented to an individual or group who has made an outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for people with Epilepsy in our community.

Sarah Janzen came to EpilepsySCO in January 2019.

The family quickly became active with the Family and Youth Conference. In the fall of 2019, Sarah stepped up to organize and formulate a 2020 Sunny Days Camp in Kitchener, only to be put on hold due to Covid.

In 2022, Sarah gratefully returned to offer her help to establish the much-needed camp for children with epilepsy in the Kitchener-Waterloo region. As the camp slowly grows, it's because of Sarah that children in that region now have a camp to call their own.

Because of Sarah supporting EpilepsySCO in a multitude of ways over the years, she has shown that she is dedicated to Helping Other People with Epilepsy.

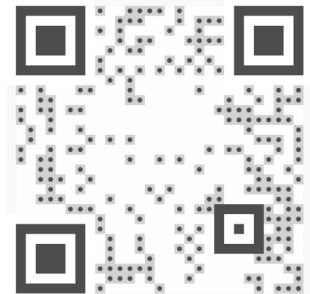


The 2025 Purple Gala

Saturday March 29th, 2025 - 6:00pm to 12:00am

The 2025 Purple Gala is switching things up.

**Wear your brightest Hawaiian Attire or your formal Casino Attire
It's a mash-up of fun.**



ALOHA

VEGAS

Luau & Casino Fundraiser



GALA TIME: 6:00pm to 12:00am

NEW GALA LOCATION:
OASIS CONVENTION CENTRE
1036 Lakeshore Road East
Mississauga, ON

CASH BAR

SINGLE TICKET

\$175.00
per person

TABLE OF 10

\$1575.00
per table

Discount Codes

ESCOSINGLE

ESCOTABLE

Valid until January 31, 2025

\$150.00
per person

\$1350.00
per table

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
DECEMBER 1st, 2024**
gala@epilepsysco.org

Join us for dinner & dancing in
The Pineapple Room

Double down on your gaming skills in
The Flamingo Lounge.
7pm–11pm

All attending will be lei'd.



2023-2024 Statement of Operations

Melissa L. Coulson CPA, CA, LPA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Year ending April 30

	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE		
Grant income <i>(note 5)</i>	153,858	317,914
Donations	105,771	56,321
Fundraising	73,081	497,179
Sundry and other miscellaneous income	30,008	4,555
	362,718	875,969
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM		
General administration	132,196	95,606
Fundraising	75,116	441,730
Sunny days camp	40,899	57,016
Public awareness and advocacy	35,945	77,410
Youth programming	27,460	52,039
Counselling & support	19,574	53,160
Clinic 2 community	10,475	44,189
Volunteer recruitment and retention	9,654	20,553
Community education & training	8,029	21,406
School programming	1,274	512
Seniors programming	-	777
	360,622	864,398
Excess of revenue over expenses	2,096	11,571
Fund balance (shortfall), beginning of year	(45,163)	(56,734)
Fund balance (shortfall), end of year	(43,067)	(45,163)

epilepsy south central ontario

epilepsysco.org



MISSISSAUGA OFFICE:

250A Lakeshore Road East
Mississauga, ON L5G 1G9
905-450-1900

KITCHENER OFFICE:

28 Weber Street West, Suite #2
Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z2
519-745-2112

TOLL FREE

1-855-734-2111

Our Mission

Epilepsy South Central Ontario is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people living with seizure disorders through counseling and support services.

Our Vision

Increasing public awareness via outreach, individual/family counseling and working with select forums, Epilepsy South Central Ontario strives to educate and encourage understanding within our community.

Our Values

- Equality and mutual respect of all individuals,
- Fostering successful, fulfilling lives for families and persons living with epilepsy,
- To encourage everyone to attain positive solutions when challenged,
- To conduct ourselves in a supportive, non-judgmental manner with all members and participants.

Special thanks to...



April 2023 - March 2024.