epilepsy south central ontario

2025 / 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Not All Disabilities Are Visible...



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

A Message from our Board President



Dear Members and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025-2026, Epilepsy South Central Ontario continues to respond to both the challenges and opportunities facing people living with epilepsy and their families. Reliable funding remains essential to sustaining our services, strengthening existing programs, and creating new ways for people to feel supported, included, and connected.

A major milestone this year was the launch of EPI Buddy program. This community-focused program connects people living with epilepsy with mentors. Through carefully matched, one-on-one relationships built around shared interests and individual goals, EPI Buddy is designed to reduce social isolation, build confidence, encourage community participation, and support greater independence.

The introduction of EPI Buddy reflects our commitment to supporting people beyond their diagnosis. It also demonstrates what can be achieved when funders, staff, volunteers, partners, and community members come together around a shared purpose. Alongside this new initiative, our youth and adult programs continue to grow every year and provide meaningful support, education, and connection across the communities we serve.



On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to our staff and volunteers for their dedication, and to our donors, partners, and supporters for making this work possible. Your commitment gives our organization the strength to grow, adapt, and reach more people who need support.

Thank you for standing with Epilepsy South Central Ontario and for helping us build a more informed, inclusive, and connected community for everyone affected by epilepsy.

With appreciation,
Chris Still

2025 / 2026 Board of Directors



Christopher Still

PRESIDENT
TREASURER



Jim Cheesman

PAST PRESIDENT



Valerie Rother

SECRETARY



Cynthia Milburn
DIRECTOR



Dr. Eduard Bercovici
DIRECTOR



Jodi Baxter
DIRECTOR



Suzanne Trusdale
DIRECTOR

A Message from our CEO



Dear ESCO Family,

We continue in the outreach process for our programs and services. We have expanded our outreach for Sunny Days Camp to Hamilton Health Sciences and Sick Kids Hospital this year. There has been a slow response, but we are committed to pushing the information much earlier in 2027.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create a new program for our clients and volunteers...EPI-BUDDY.

We continue to build a relationship with the Toronto Argonauts organization as we build bridges towards a mutual fundraising partnership. Our fundraising initiative with Rama Gaming Centre continues to bring financial support. We continue to grow a third-party softball tournament that is dedicated to raising money for epilepsy and support funding for a couple of families in the Brantford area. We are hoping to return next spring with the Ride for Epilepsy – a 300 km ride throughout South Central Ontario.



Aloha-Vegas2026 was another successful fundraiser, and we were grateful to have Locking Arms Foundation as our event sponsor. The success of the night was overwhelming, and we are proud to return with Aloha-Vegas2027.

Most importantly are our extraordinary volunteers who donate their time helping with fundraising. They are the backbone of Epilepsy South Central Ontario…the unsung hero's of epilepsy.

David Charchalis

2025 / 2026 EpilepsySCO Staff



David Charchalis

C.E.O
Fundraising
Events



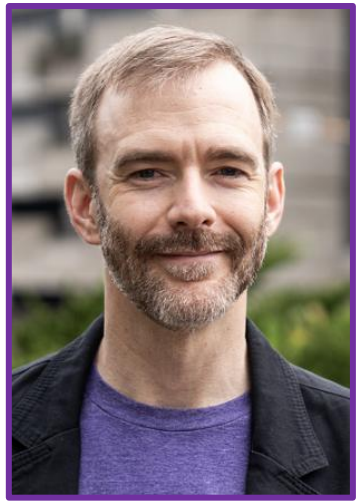
Carly Smith

Case Manager
Youth and Young Adult
Epilepsy Educator



Trevor Gordon

Community Engagement
Media
Sponsorship
Donations



Steve Keiffer

Adult Support Group

ESCO Service and Program Highlites

Sunny Days Camp

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 include The Lion King, Build-a-Bear, Medieval Times, Centre Island, the Royal Ontario Museum, Dragon Boating to name just a few.

Epi-Buddy – *new program*

Our Epi-Buddy program is designed to promote inclusion, community engagement, confidence, and independence for individuals living with epilepsy throughout Peel Region. The program connects participants with compassionate volunteer mentors known as "Epi-Buddies" to build supportive one-on-one relationships rooted in trust, encouragement, shared interests, and friendship.

Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Program

Our Youth and Young Adult Empowerment program is a place to come together and support each other, and to have a social outing once a month with funding applies. As we move forward with the program, we have split the program into two groups: Youth – ages 16 to 19; Young Adults – ages 20 to 30.

Adult Support Group Program

Our Adult Support Group is a safe place for Adults to come together to support each other, talk about their epilepsy experiences and to help support each other through lived seizure experiences. The adult support group is a peer-to-peer lead group that meets virtually once a month. It is for ages 30 and up.

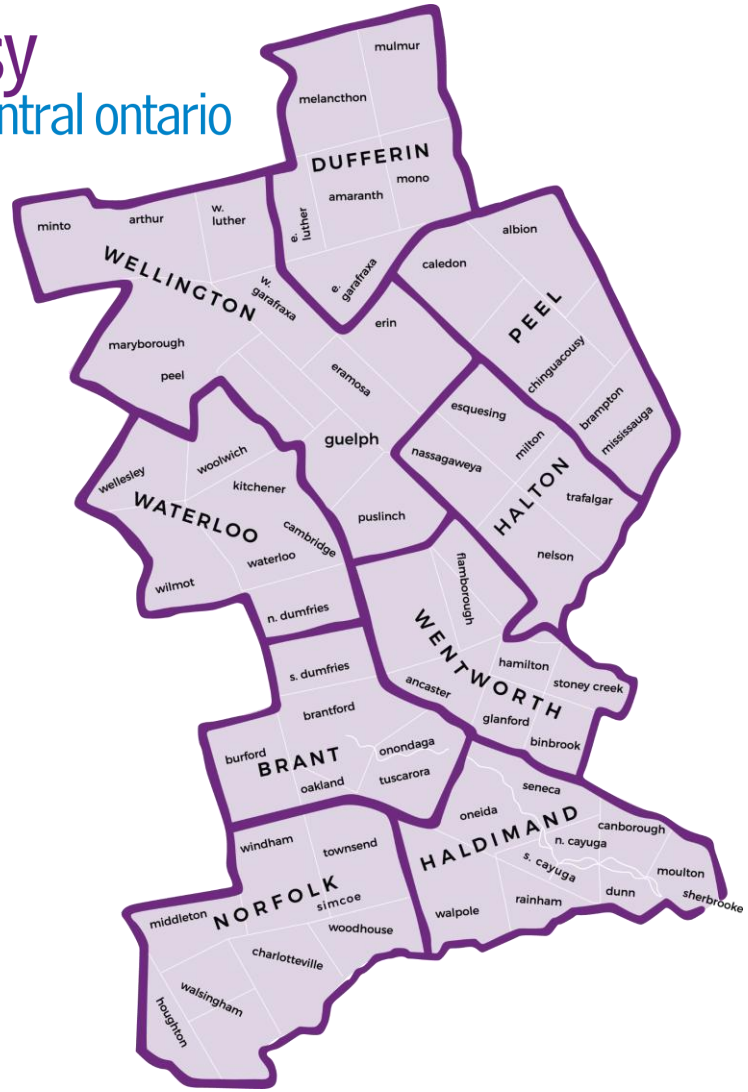
Thinking About Epilepsy

Our Thinking About Epilepsy is a free 50-minute interactive-educational program that offers epilepsy awareness and seizure first aid to students and staff. This program ties into the Grade 5 "Human Body Science" unit.

2025-2026 Statement of Operations

Melissa L. Coulson CPA, CA, LPA

epilepsy south central ontario



Epilepsy South Central Ontario

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Year ending April 30

	2026 $	2025 $
REVENUE		
Donations	**148,634**	163,757
Fundraising	**83,123**	92,027
Grant income *(note 5)*	**57,687**	94,347
Sundry and other miscellaneous income	**9,328**	16,042
	298,772	366,173
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM		
General administration	**131,078**	130,000
Youth programming	**82,538**	68,200
Fundraising	**37,271**	37,410
Sunny days camp	**24,121**	22,533
EPI Buddy Programming	**12,914**	-
Counselling & support	**3,727**	3,566
Seniors programming	**3,300**	-
Public awareness and advocacy	**3,254**	5,788
Volunteer recruitment and retention	**1,937**	2,230
Community education & training	**1,374**	2,049
School programming	**725**	-
	302,239	271,776
Excess (shortfall) of revenue over expenses	**(3,467)**	94,397
Fund surplus (shortfall), beginning of year	**51,330**	(43,067)
Fund balance, end of year	**47,863**	51,330

DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

The 2026 H.O.P.E. Award

PAUL RAYMOND



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.

The 2026 H.O.P.E. award is presented to Paul Raymond who has been instrumental in bringing together the 14 epilepsy agencies across Ontario by encouraging and guiding them to work together in unison by sharing each others' resources, staffing and programming.

Paul has worked the last 10+ years to break down the territorial boundaries that used to exist amongst the Ontario agencies.

By unifying the agencies, it is a win-win for the agencies, our clients and their families as we can now provide a greater unified support for everyone.

It is because of his passion, dedication, drive and perseverance championing individuals and families living with and affected by epilepsy that he is receiving this award.

Sunny Days Camp

2025

Sunny Days Camp is a warm, inclusive day camp for children aged 5 to 14 who are living with epilepsy — and their siblings. Hosted in Mississauga, this weekly summer camp offers a safe space where kids can just be kids











SINGLE TICKET
$185.00 per person

TABLE OF 10
$1,665.00 per table

Discount Codes

Valid until January 31, 2027

ESCOSINGLE
$160.00 per person

ESCOTABLE
$1,140.00 per table

TICKETS AVAILABLE
NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026

https://trellis.org/aloha-vegas-2027

For more information, contact:
alohavegas@epilepsysco.org

Saturday April 3rd, 2027

5:00pm to 12:00am

OASIS CONVENTION CENTRE

1036 Lakeshore Road East Mississauga, ON













epilepsy south central ontario

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

Kitchener:
519-745-2112

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for people living with seizure disorders through personalized counseling, advocacy, and community support.

Our Vision

We envision a community where epilepsy is understood and accepted — built through public awareness, education, and meaningful partnerships that support individuals and families every step of the way.

Our Core Values

- Equality & Respect: Honoring the dignity of every individual
- Empowerment: Helping people and families live fulfilling, meaningful lives
- Positivity: Encouraging hopeful, constructive solutions to challenges
- Compassion: Offering support with kindness and without judgment

2025 / 2026 Funders, Sponsors, Supporters



Locking Arms Foundation



Southern Ontario Epilepsy Clinic
Improving Care Through Education

Lundbeck

PENDOPHARM

Knight

epilepsy ontario



Rama Gaming House
RGH
Mississauga - Scarborough

Charitable Gaming.
Community Good.

TELUS

GAP

SWB
Shoppers World Brampton

Mississauga

Kitchener

MAGNA