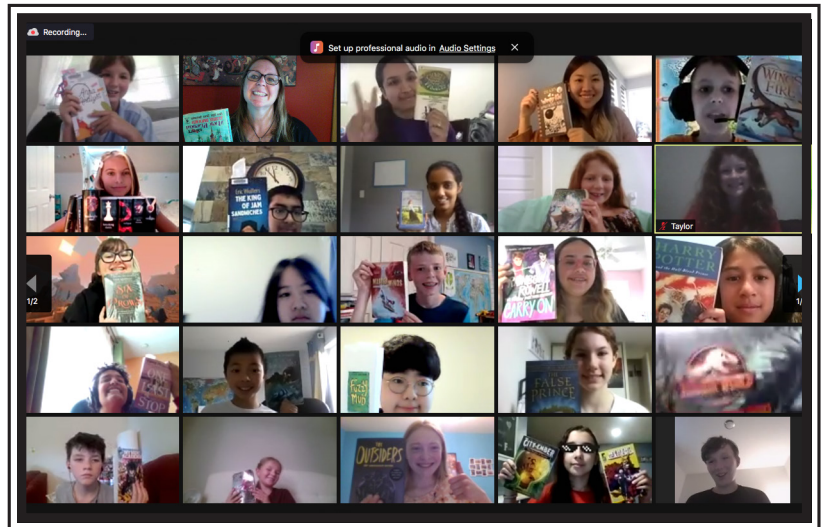
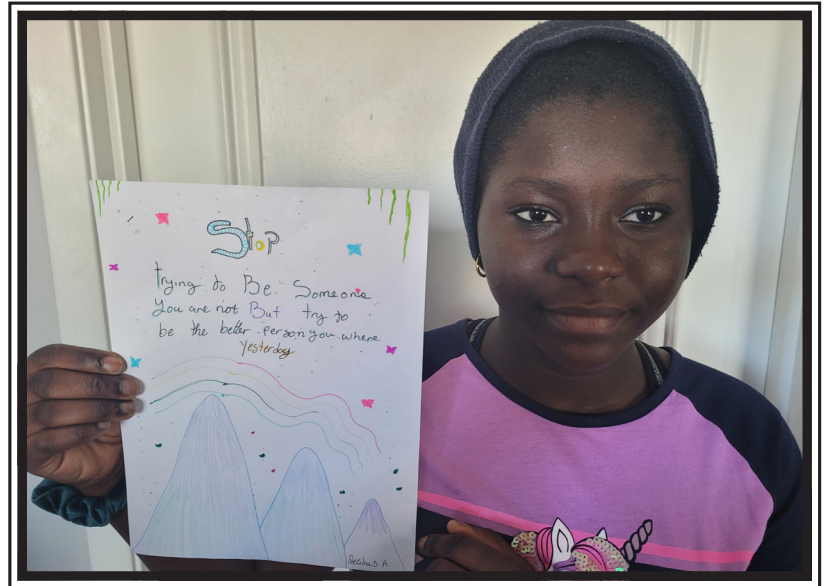


INVESTING IN CHILDREN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

A year of pivoting and adapting to a pandemic.

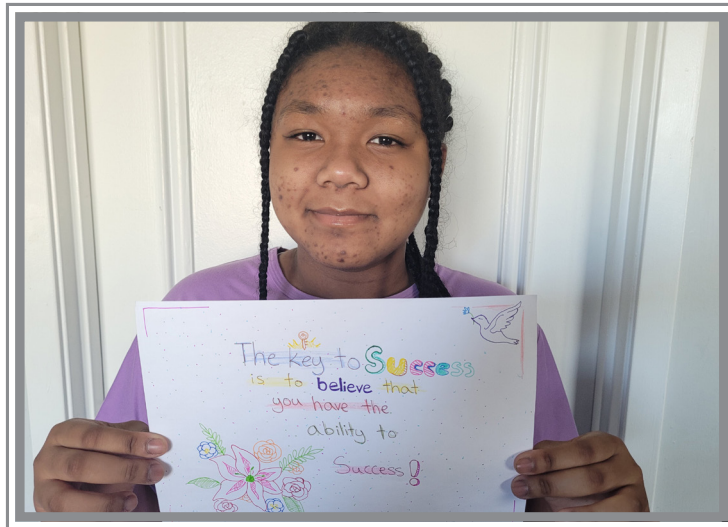


OUR MISSION: Investing in Children is committed to improving the well-being and learning of ALL children, youth and families.

OUR VISION: We collaborate with our local communities to provide inclusive opportunities for children and youth to thrive emotionally, physically, artistically and academically. Our impact will support all children to reach their full potential and accomplish their goals.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES • PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Investing in Children's work impacts thousands of families each year. We make our community stronger by providing opportunities for children to learn, grow and thrive. With programs focusing on literacy, numeracy, leadership, proper nutrition, the arts and other keys to future success, we collaborate with our partners to enrich the lives of ALL children, youth and their families.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am very proud to share with you Investing in Children's 2021 Annual Report – which brings us well into our third decade of serving the children, youth and families of London and the surrounding counties of Middlesex, Oxford, and Elgin!

The past 19 months have significantly changed the world we live and work in. Still, I am in awe in terms of witnessing the work, energy and commitment our staff, volunteers, and interns have displayed. In addition, I am humbled by the non-wavering support the Board of Directors has given us. Throughout the Pandemic, our team of Program Co-ordinators has been busy providing creative, inclusive and invaluable programs geared to offering London's youth every opportunity to learn, achieve, and aspire to be the very best they can be!

We have learned “how to do things in a different way”; adapting our programs, proving to be more imperative during the Pandemic, than ever before. Fighting poverty; nurturing the souls and mental well being of our children and youth, coaching them in regard to music education, offering leadership programs for our youth who aspire to rise to the call of leading others in schools and communities, and providing food to all who need it, have provided us with warm memories which will last a lifetime!

We distributed (in partnership with the Salvation Army) 75 boxes of food per week through the Produce Box program, from May-August during the Pandemic, which allowed hundreds of children, youth and families to avail themselves of much needed nutrition. We have assisted children and youth through our After School and “Live Different Circles” programs; and coached hundreds of youth to learn how to play the guitar!

As we look ahead to 2022, we realize all too well the impacts of the present crisis. We truly appreciate all of our funders who so graciously “search deeper” to find creative ways to continue to support our work – realizing our full and relentless commitment to serve the children and youth in London, as they fight barriers such as poverty, lack of opportunity, and exclusion. Please continue to support our work; physically, financially, or in any way you see possible! The need is great, and the purpose very honourable!

We will continue our work with supporting the City's Child Youth Network, all of London's children, youth and families, and look forward to modifying our programming to address the needs of our “new normal” directly, as this Pandemic wanes!

Please note that the needs of our community are greater than ever before in our history. None of our fantastic programs and collaborations would exist without the incredibly gracious support of you, as well as that of our tremendous Board of Directors!

On behalf of London's children, youth and families and all of us here at Investing in Children, thank you for your continued past support of our work and for your cherished consideration for future support!

Sincerely,

Ted Gorski, Executive Director

Nutrition

1,200 PRODUCE BOXES

At the start of the pandemic, when the first lock down occurred it became evident that families were in need of fresh fruits and vegetables. Investing in Children, in partnership with the Salvation Army and Produce Express, was able to provide produce boxes filled with fresh fruits and vegetables to families that could use a little extra help during these challenging times. 75 produce boxes were given to families each Friday for 16 weeks for a total of 1,200 produce boxes.

Music

77 FREE YOUTH GUITAR PROGRAM

In October 2020, Investing in Children's Free Youth Guitar program resumed and was offered in a virtual format via Zoom to 43 students. Guitars were delivered to students homes so they could borrow them for the duration of the lessons. Another session of virtual lessons began in January 2021 with 34 students participating.

Community and Leadership

1,500 KIDS POWER CONFERENCE VIRTUAL

There were more than 1,500 page visits to the Kids Power Conference Virtual Online Course. Our usual one-day conference was not able to be held so an online leadership course for students was created instead. Local leaders such as the mayor, police chief, heads of school boards and post secondary institutions and politicians were asked to provide a video about leadership. Those videos along with other inspiring videos, articles and podcasts were compiled to offer a free online course to enhance leadership skills and inspire youth to discover their leadership potential.

24 LET'S CHAT LIVE DIFFERENT CIRCLES

Investing in Children's BRAND NEW Let's Chat Live Different Circles was introduced in February 2021. It was a perfect time for a program that helps youth build relationships and live authentically. It was so important for youth to be able to make those connections during a pandemic. 23 students attended the seven week program led by 9 volunteer leaders.

8 HARK – HEALTHY, ACTIVE, RESILIENT KIDS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

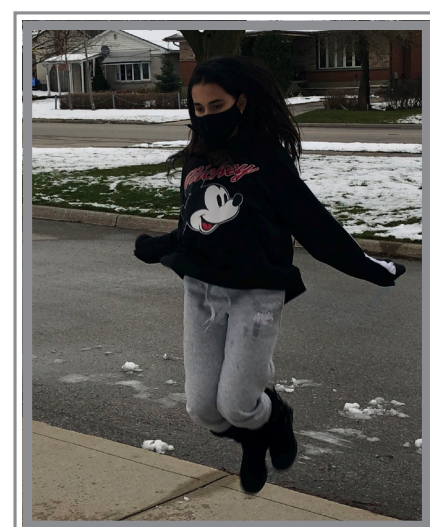
Our HARK After School Program hosted 8 children, 3 volunteers (due to Covid restrictions) at Family Centre Carling Thames. A virtual program was also offered.

200 VOLUNTEERS

Over 200 volunteers are in our database ready to help provide and prepare for Investing in Children programs.

4 INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

Investing in Children mentored seven students this year from Kings, Althouse, Western and Fanshawe.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Investing in Children does not work alone. We partner with businesses, the Boards of Education, service clubs, community organizations and individuals to create opportunities for children.

- Adient Seating Canada
- Agape
- Benevity Causes
- Budweiser Gardens
- Cargill
- CIBC - The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- CIBC - Wood Gundy
- City of London
- City of London - Child & Youth Network
- CUPE Local 7575
- Downtown London
- Family Centres London
- Fanshawe College
- Financial Horizons
- Harry E. Foster Foundation
- Ilse Bierbaum
- Jill Wilcox Fund
- King's College
- Kiwanis Club of Forest City London
- Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll
- Kiwanis Club of West Lorne
- Lerner's LLP
- LHSC - Developmental Disabilities Program
- Lions Club of Strathroy Caradoc
- Lions Club of Thamesford
- London Chamber of Commerce
- London Children's Connection
- London Community Foundation
- London District Catholic School Board
- London Fire Department
- London Inter Community Health
- London Knights Hockey Club
- London Lightning
- London Police Association
- London Public Library
- London Regional Children's Museum
- London St. Thomas Association of Realtors
- Middlesex London Health Unit
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
- OSNP Southwest
- Richard Haddad
- Salvation Army
- Selectpath Benefits & Financial
- Sisters of St. Joesph
- St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs
- Suzanne Haddad
- Thames Valley District School Board
- The Optimist Club of Middlesex
- Unifor Local 27
- Unifor Local 302
- VON Canada
- Western University
- Westminster College

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tony D'Oria, Chair, Secondary School Principal, LDCSB
- Rosine Salazer, Vice Chair, TVDSB
- Elissa Da Cunha, Treasurer, Commercial Banking Officer, RBC
- Marty Denomme, Financial Advisor Desjardins
- Jacqueline Fortner, Associate Lawyer, Lerner's LLP
- Danielle Gauvreau, Civil Litigation Lawyer, Lerner's LLP
- Christine Giannacopoulos, Secondary School Principal, TVDSB
- Eric Sorrentino, CIBC Private Wealth Management
- Todd Wilcox, Elementary School Principal LDCSB
- Audrey Stephen, Elementary School Principal, TVDSB
- Dawn Ruddick, Elementary School Principal, TVDSB
- Andrew Horton, Marketing Executive & Economist

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Investing in Children is proud to provide you with this Annual Report. Thank you to Sarah Finch for her hard work in putting this report together. I am honoured and proud to be chair of a board of directors that works collaboratively and effectively for such an important and much needed organization in our community. The members of our board of directors are dedicated individuals with representation from a variety of fields including, education, health care, law, and business. Each member brings their own professional perspective and witness to the needs of so many of our young children and youth. That is why, as a board, we are proud that Investing in Children is committed to working with families and our community partners (many of them are mentioned in this annual report) to improving the well-being and learning of all children and youth. We are an enthusiastic and innovative team who meet regularly to focus on providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth to thrive physically, emotionally, artistically, and academically. By working relentlessly to break all barriers, we encourage all children and youth to reach their full potential and accomplish their goals.

The pages in this Annual Report present many of the programs we run and operate and how, through the generous donations of our community friends, we continue to make a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Unfortunately, several of our programs, Kids 1st Day, Special Olympics, Snack Stop, Family Literacy, Math Events and Blue Boxes for Books were not permitted to run due to the Covid lockdowns. We did however introduce the new Let's Chat Live Different Circles and The Kids Power Conference Virtual Online course, while our Free Youth Guitar and the HARK After School Program were able to move to a virtual platform. This demonstrates the strength of our organization to adjust and adapt to even the most difficult of challenges. It is imperative that we continue to keep meeting the variety of needs of so many children and grow as an organization to continue to meet these needs, especially as the needs change and become greater in our shared community.

Thank you to everyone involved with Investing in Children for your sincere passion and unending drive for the mission of the organization and for making this another exciting and successful year!

Sincerely,

Tony D'Oria, Chair, Board of Directors