

# Annual

Emerging stronger together

# Report

2021-22



**Alzheimer** *Society*  
S O U T H W E S T P A R T N E R S

Your *partner* in dementia care in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

## Succeeding in a time of change

As the Chair of the inaugural Board of Directors for the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners (AlzSWP), my reflections on the past year are fixed on the two main elements of our work — our clients and our staff.

### Our clients

AlzSWP's unification enables us to build a larger service platform for our clients and focus on creating sustainability for the future demands of our region's population. This includes the foundational work of present day and the expansion of programs and services which will better meet the needs of our growing client base.

While COVID-19 presented complications and challenges for us and our clients, it also provided an opportunity for our organization to adapt and develop new service models, culminating in the formation, this year, of our expanded Therapeutic Recreation programs — The Social and In-Home Recreation. These programs offer invaluable meaningful activity and engagement for the person living with dementia and vital respite for their care partners — things that can be in short supply on the dementia journey.

### Our staff

Transitions and significant changes, like those that accompany the unification of

three organizations, can bring uncertainty. Not unlike the resilience exhibited by our clients these last two years, our leadership team and staff have risen to that challenge. Our staff know that while working in the face of change can be difficult, the reasons for these changes are the same reasons why they work at the Alzheimer Society — to improve the quality of life for our clients.

Unification was the right thing to do. This has been proven in the remarkable accomplishments and progress we've made since July 2021.

To our clients, we continue to walk alongside you on the dementia journey. We hope that we can support and serve you better now and in the future. To our staff, thank you for your continued dedication and perseverance. I am proud to be associated with this organization and its caring group of talented individuals.



**Jessica Thomas**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Alzheimer Society  
Southwest Partners



## OUR MISSION

To alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and to promote research.

## OUR VISION

A world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

### Emerging strong through unification

As I reflect on our past year, how our historic unification (July 2021) of the Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford Societies and the chronic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our clients, our communities and our staff, I marvel at how strong, resilient and adaptable we can be when faced with a challenge.

#### Benefits of unification

Unification means municipal boundaries are no longer barriers for the over 13,000 people currently living with dementia across our region. Families, wherever they are located, can access programs at any site and receive consistent and expanded support in a flexible, and convenient way. Our larger team of dementia specialists is delivering (at no cost to clients) more programs and services to the expanding dementia population in our three counties. As a larger organization, we have ensured more operational sustainability as the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias continues to grow nationally.

Our clients can have confidence that the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners is positioned to meet the growing needs of today and tomorrow.

Without the generosity of our donors and the 400 dedicated regional volunteers, who help us answer our call to action that **'no one living with dementia goes unsupported,'** we would never be able to do all we do. Volunteers which include our unified Board of Directors whose members represent all three counties. The Board's guidance has been vital in the successful planning and execution of the unification process.

This past year has not been without challenges; it has involved some of the hardest work our leadership team and staff has ever done. It's important to remember, while we have been tested with the unification process during a pandemic, it pales against the isolation and fear our clients have lived through during these last two years. These are the people, and this is the work that drives us to continue to deliver the support, care, education and advocacy that people and families living with dementia deserve.

[Our clients] are the people, and this is the work that drives us to continue to deliver the support, care, education and advocacy that people and families living with dementia deserve.



**Carol Walters**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners



# BETTER TOGETHER

## Our unified story

When the process to become one Society across Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford began, we made a commitment to donors, volunteers, staff and most importantly to clients, that the organization would emerge stronger and better positioned to meet the increasing need for dementia support services in the community.

To deliver on that commitment, the first year as a unified organization had to focus on looking inward. Unified, the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners focused its first year on:

- Finding efficiencies in systems

- Building a regional Board of Directors
- Aligning staff teams so employees could specialize to improve service
- Developing the management team to become even stronger and more compassionate leaders
- Working every day to ensure clients continued to be well supported

Despite the challenges of aligning three teams during a time when in-person contact was not always possible, the primary purpose for unification was always the guiding light — to reach more people, with more programs, in more places.

## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



**948** PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA  
**2,792** CARE PARTNERS



**14,210**  
CLIENT VISITS



**555**  
CLIENT EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUPS

### IN-HOME RECREATION



**158** CLIENTS  
**3,351** VISITS

### THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAMS

**583** CLIENTS

### GROUP RECREATION THE SOCIAL

**80** CLIENTS / WEEK



**152**  
PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSIONS



We didn't do it alone though...

**400**  
VOLUNTEERS

**13,442**  
HOURS DONATED

**176** VIRTUAL RECREATION GROUPS



**560** WALKERS



**\$324,836** RAISED  
**192** VIRTUAL REGISTRATIONS



**\$18,175** RAISED  
**211** BASKETS SOLD

**@ALZSWP**  
**4,092** FOLLOWERS  
**1,463** FOLLOWERS  
**119** FOLLOWERS\*

\*New (!) as of January 2022



Our strength now is in our numbers. Change and growth can be scary but it's also exciting and the staff at the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners are resilient and dedicated to supporting our clients. Unification is an opportunity for us to expand programs and services in our region, tap into a larger volunteer pool and ultimately better serve our growing client base.

**Robyn**  
Volunteer Specialist, Oxford

# OUR STORY

Told by our clients



Programs, like Minds in Motion®, have helped me and Debbie quite a bit and it feels good when we have the chance to help others by sharing our story or by being a part of the Dementia Friendly Communities program.

Before the pandemic, we worked with the Alzheimer Society to help train and educate businesses in Elgin County about how they can identify the needs of a person living with dementia and gave them tips on how they can be more caring and compassionate towards them.

**Brian and Debbie**

Care Partner and Client, Elgin



I know firsthand the difference the Alzheimer Society's programs, services and staff make on a client and their care partner's lives.

While I don't have to be present during my mum's in-home recreational activity sessions, I don't want to miss a minute of the amazing transition that takes place when she is engaged in activities, viewing and identifying photos, reading, moving and singing. Watching lets me see her express joy not otherwise seen and has helped me see what is possible with mum's abilities and restrictions.

**Sally and Patricia**

Care Partner and Client, Middlesex



I have been involved with the Alzheimer Society for 10 plus years as a client, care partner and volunteer.

I always hear clients remark on how much they love the programs. A diagnosis of Alzheimer's can be devastating for a client and their loved ones, but life can continue to be fulfilling and enjoyable when opportunities for meaningful interaction are present. Care partners need respite and even a few hours a week can make a big difference.

I am grateful to now be able to support others as I was supported.

**Janet**

Volunteer, Middlesex



Charlie and I are so grateful for the support groups offered by AlzSWP. Not only do they provide us with an opportunity to share and learn from others, but they give us strategies to help us address changes in our journey and the confidence to continue living our best life together.

Recently, we put some of those strategies into action as we celebrated 50 years of marriage with a large party with our family and friends.

**Heather and Charlie**

Care Partner and Client, Oxford



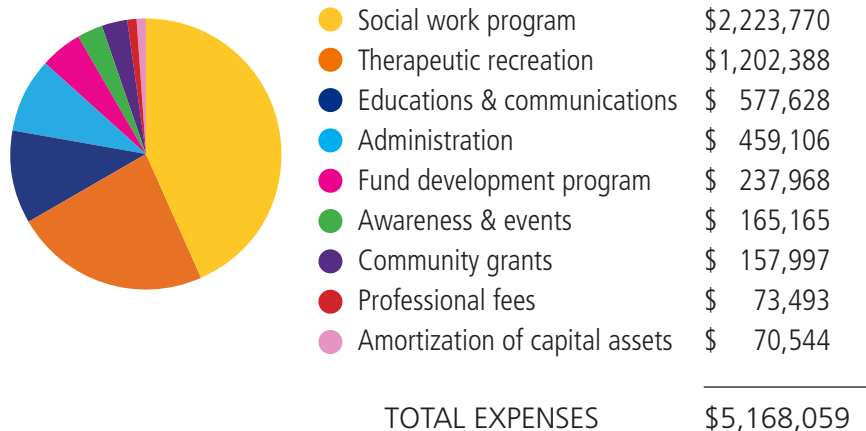
# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

This financial summary is an excerpt from the complete financial statements of the organization, which were audited by BDO Canada LLP Charters Professional Accountants, dated June 28, 2022, and as such does not contain all disclosures required under Canadian standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses from operation (\$195,706)

Other revenue (COVID-19 pandemic subsidies) \$212,358

Excess of revenue over expenses  
\$16,652

A copy of the complete financial statements is available for the Alzheimer Society Southwest partners upon request.

# DONOR THANK YOU

Thank you to our supporters

### \$25,000+

Alzheimer Society of Ontario  
Ontario Trillium Foundation

### \$10,000+

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### \$5,000+

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### \$2,500+

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Gratefully acknowledged below are the supporters and donors who made a contribution of \$1,000 and over as well as those who committed monthly between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

We wish to thank all the generous donors who supported our work this year.

Ross McDonald  
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Helen Plaunt  
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**Alzheimer Society**  
S O U T H W E S T P A R T N E R S

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