

FOCUS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Annual Report 2021/22



"I had an overwhelmingly positive experience during my time at FOCUS. The staff were knowledgeable, helpful and friendly, and they worked hard to help me find employment. I think this program should be standard in our education system, and I think the tools I've learned here will help me find and keep employment for the rest of my life." - Alex Peters

FOCUS Community Development Corporation provides employment and training opportunities and supports for youth and adults, especially those facing barriers, to help them reach their full potential. It currently operates under FOCUS Employment Services and FOCUS Training Services.

Executive Director and Board Chair Report



Mike MacEachern, Executive Director



Bill Wray, Board Chair

This year, FOCUS marks 37 years of serving the South Simcoe community. Its success comes from our dedicated Staff and volunteer Board of Directors who are heavily invested in ensuring all those we serve can thrive and contribute to the community to their fullest potential. We are also dedicated to serving our employer community, as we know that through the success and growth of local businesses and organizations, the potential for our community increases.

The last few years have been challenging—we all experienced a global pandemic that tested our resilience. Fortunately, FOCUS has an incredibly skilled Board of Directors that give of their time to maintain the foundation for the organization’s success. They have expertise in accounting and finance, public health, human



Accessibility



Responsibility



Reliability



Accountability

resource management, and health and safety. Their wisdom and guidance have allowed FOCUS to navigate challenges in an expert way. This past year, Board Members also participated in the initial stages of a tutoring enterprise, an exciting new venture for FOCUS which will grow its training division.

The Staff at FOCUS continues to work to meet the needs of our community members, supporting them with empathy, commitment and a real desire to see people reach their fullest potential. Throughout the year, several Staff Members continued to build their skill sets by becoming Certified Career Development Practitioners. We are proud that FOCUS now boasts four Staff Members who have completed the training and certification process. We are reminded quite often that it is not what you do when times are good that really matters but what you do when times are difficult. Many on our team have stepped up over the last two years to ensure our clients were taken care of. They went above and beyond to support the organization, and for that, we are truly thankful and grateful.

In the spirit of always trying to do better and more for our community, we are excited to highlight the pending launch of our tutoring services. Once again, we have seen a group in our community struggling, and we are stepping up to fill the gap and focus our attention on supporting students.

FOCUS is a go-to organization for government and community partners, and we have built that position with successful, verified results which we have been able to produce with professionalism and dedication.

We look forward to a very bright future and finding new ways to serve our community. As we plot a way forward, we will always ensure the resources of the organization are used fairly, effectively and efficiently, with respect, and in a quality- and customer service-oriented manner.



Mike MacEachern, Executive Director



Bill Wray, Board Chair

Board of Directors

Bill Wray, President

Diane Munro, Vice President

David Humphries, Treasurer

Gary Munro, Secretary

Aileen Dresser, Director

Cathy Morden, Director

Linda Taylor, Director



FOCUS Community Development Corporation Programs

Employment Services / Employment Ontario, Alliston & Angus

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Employment Ontario Program has five components: Client Service Planning and Coordination, Resource and Information, Job Search, Job Matching Placement and Incentives, and Job Training and Retention.

Canada Ontario Jobs Grant / Employment Ontario, Alliston

Angus area is covered under this agreement

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Job Grant provides direct financial support to employers who wish to purchase training for their employees. Available to small, medium and large businesses, providing up to \$10,000 per person for training costs.

Employment Supports / Ontario Disability Supports Program

Funded on a pay-for-performance basis

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FOCUS delivers ODSP Employment Supports, working one-on-one with ODSP clients to develop employment plans, develop and monitor work placements, and support clients in retaining employment.

French Language Services

FOCUS delivers ODSP Employment Supports in both official languages, and it operates as a French Language Services referral source for other local service providers.

Pre-Apprenticeship Program / Assistant Cook

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This training program supports 15 individuals interested in the culinary field. Participants receive pre-employment training, academic upgrading, the Level-1 Apprenticeship curriculum (12 weeks), and work placements to encourage them to pursue further apprenticeship training.

Canada Summer Jobs

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA

Through the Canada Summer Jobs grant, FOCUS provided a short-term employment opportunity for one youth, allowing them to gain experience and participate in the local labour market.

Becoming the Boss / Youth Employment Skills Strategy

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA

The project will support 75 youth over three years, helping participants develop the skills necessary to gain employment and stay employed. The project is a collaboration between FOCUS Community Development Corporation, the local education system, Youth Haven and Nottawasaga Futures.

Tutoring Social Enterprise / FOCUS Community Development Corporation

THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION, INNOWEAVE

Consultants worked with Board Members, Student Volunteers and Staff to map out the development of a tutoring social enterprise to provide low-cost tutoring services to students in New Tecumseth and Essa Township. The business would ease access to support for students and caregivers and better organize the tutoring services available in these communities.

Tutoring Service Coming Soon

Approved for funding in March 2022 to begin in summer 2022

This project will utilize FOCUS Resource Centres in Alliston and Angus to provide tutoring supports and academic learning spaces to secondary school students from New Tecumseth and Essa Township. Students will have access to free tutoring, education bootcamps and workshops to support their success in completing academic courses.

Impact & Outcomes

Helping Our Community

*2268 Resource Centre visits
1557 jobs posted*

Youth

*142 youth served
30 participants were paid to learn
through Becoming the Boss*

Pre-Apprenticeship Training

*10 participants completed Assistant
Cook training and are working or
completing further education in the
culinary industry*

Creating Opportunities

*51 clients supported through Ontario
Disability Employment Supports
133 months of employment retention*

Canada Ontario Jobs Grant

*14 participants accessed training
\$53,945 invested in local employers*

Employer Investments

*\$167,711 invested in local employers
through job matching placements and
incentives*

Impact

*100% customer satisfaction
82% employment and training success
2875 workshops delivered
412 individuals received intensive services*

FOCUS regularly measures 100 indicators in order to ensure services are meeting the needs of our community.

Success Stories



Heather's Story

My name is Heather, and FOCUS helped me a lot when I needed a job. Now, I have a great job at Walmart where I have been successful, and I am doing so well. It's because of FOCUS that I found a job that I love and can be proud of.

With the help of my Employment Consultant, Sherri, I recently completed my Smart Serve for my other job as a server at Kingsmere. FOCUS has helped me achieve my goals and find the right job for me and my needs. It has been great and a huge success as now I can provide for my husband and my bunnies because I have found the right jobs that work for me and my family.

Thank you FOCUS for always being there for those who are in need, who need a job or the right course they need to succeed in that field of work. Keep helping them and keep doing what you are doing. Now I have the perfect job, and I'm just loving it so much! I could not have done it without FOCUS getting me there, so thank you to FOCUS and all you are doing—not just for me but for the community and others who need it.

Alex's Story

"I had an overwhelmingly positive experience during my time at FOCUS. The staff were knowledgeable, helpful and friendly, and they worked hard to help me find employment. I think this program should be standard in our education system, and I think the tools I've learned here will help me find and keep employment for the rest of my life."

When Alex came to FOCUS for help, he faced multiple barriers to employment—no computer or access to the internet, no means for transportation, unstable housing, and a large gap in his employment history. He was working towards getting a birth certificate because he had lost all his ID. He didn't have adequate heat during the winter months.

Alex worked in a variety of industries in the past but was unemployed for over two years when referred to FOCUS by his Ontario Works case manager. He hoped to find employment or start a training program, but he didn't know what the right fit would be.

In January 2022, Alex’s Employment Consultant suggested he try *Becoming the Boss*, a federally funded youth employment program offered by FOCUS. Alex was able to access transportation support through the program so he could get to and from classes. Alex became an active participant and thrived in the program. He completed a job placement with a local employer and continues to do great.

Financial Report

Revenues	
Federal Government	\$265,204
Provincial – Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development	\$1,153,404
Provincial – Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	\$131,966
Other Revenue	\$26,840
	\$1,577,414
Expenses	
Payroll and Related Costs	\$874,952
Program Costs	\$430,193
Building and Occupancy Costs	\$215,636
General and Administrative Costs	\$46,064
	\$1,566,845

Thank You to Our Funders

Government of Canada

Government of Ontario

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

McConnell Foundation



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