



Chebucto Connections

**Annual Report
2021-2022**



Compassion Connections Community

Vision

A community that is actively engaged in making Spryfield and surrounding area a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.

Message from the Executive Director

A picture can say a thousand words and the one below speaks to me. It says there is a dedicated team in the heart of Spryfield that knows each person adds value to their community and some just struggle more. It says we haven't given up on the fight against poverty. It says we are here for the community and hear their voices. I am in awe and humbled each day watching this team work with dignity. Working to make sure each person that walks through our door knows that they matter. This past year had many challenges from shut downs, staffing shortages to witnessing more folks struggling than ever before due to the cost of living. All that said our dedication to the community only grew stronger and as we embark on the new year I look forward to us continuing to build on strengthening the assets of the community and the individuals we serve. I want to dedicate this message to all the past and present employees that have woken up and wake up each day to make a difference. I honestly would not have been able to do it without you. The community appreciates you and so do I!! Here's to the future successes in all that you do.

Christina Carter
Executive Director



Message from the Chair of the Board

The Board of Directors is supremely proud of the Chebucto Connections team who worked tirelessly to connect people to services and opportunity and to support the people of Spryfield and surrounding areas once again through times of uncertainty and change.

Over the past three decades, the organization has evolved to meet the changing needs of this amazing community and its residents, and nevermore has our adaptability been more needed. Today, our community continues to grapple with the presence of COVID-19 and very real housing and food security issues, while at the same time, experiencing unprecedented population growth and development.

The stories of people who connect with this organization are what inspire the staff and volunteers to keep going – offering food packs to 150 households, supporting people through a broad range of community outreach programs and partnerships, celebrating a 95% graduation rate among Pathways participants and launching a pilot program that provided 25 youth with tailored employment readiness skills, training and a 16-week work experience (with federal funding).

Many thanks to my fellow board members and other volunteers and donors who are contributing to this work. We can have a great impact when everyone pulls together.

Michelle Lucas



Community Outreach

What's New

Oral Health Program

Funding received through Green Shield Canada & our new partnership with Herring Cove Community Dentistry enabled community members access to inclusive low barrier oral health in a dignified way. Many of the participants had not been to the dentist in years due to financial barriers and/or anxiety. Each person that received oral care reported back that the treatment plans were explained in a way that did not make them feel ashamed or uninformed with some saying it was life changing.

"Thank you for recognizing a need for people who need dental care and who do not have dental coverage. Dental care should be viewed as part of everyone's overall health. The infection is out of my mouth and I am trying to eat better. My mouth is not in pain. Thank you to the program, it has brought joy to my life and I feel like I matter."

-Oral Health Participant

Community HUB

Running as a **HUB** we partner & coordinate with outside agencies; Our **HUB** offers an office complete with internet, phone & printing so partners are well equipped to support residents.



NS Legal Aid

The **HUB** hosted 11 clinics this year and was instrumental in connecting residents to legal advice around landlord/tenancy issues and appeals with income assistance, employment insurance and CPP disability.



Tax Filing

Ensuring ones taxes are up to date is crucial for those living in poverty as it's linked to many benefits like GST rebates & child tax. For that reason our year round volunteer income tax program remains a vital HUB service.



Food Market

Using a dignity first approach model we provide produce packs full of nutrient dense fresh foods to 150 households reaching 400+ individuals bi-weekly. Our program has demonstrated that we can provide food to vulnerable and diverse populations while maintaining their dignity.



MSRT

A simple, yet innovative and invaluable community communication tool, this table of professionals, volunteers and community comes together to share their areas of work, expertise, and resources to build awareness, improve communication and reduce duplication.

Pathways to Education

A Look Back at the School Year

This school year was another one with ever changing rules due to the pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to seamlessly go from in-person to virtual for tutoring. This ensured that students were continuing to be supported with their academics throughout the school year. Tax Filing Clinics were held to teach students how to do their own taxes, as well as English as a Second Language were offered to students and their families. An Alumni Coordinator was hired to support our current and past graduates with employment and school opportunities. Emergency first aid was offered with 22 students getting certified. Yes, it was a year of up and downs but we pulled through and all of our Pathways students showed us what resiliency really is.

HIGHLIGHT

Partnering with **SMU-IMTE (International Master of Teaching English)** we offered EAL classes for 22 students and their families with 6 IMTE volunteers representing 7 languages. This 12 week program not only offered tutoring it provided a space where new friendships blossomed.



With Covid restrictions easing it only seemed fitting to celebrate their accomplishments with a multicultural family brunch. Grads received certificates, t-shirts and swag bags while being entertained with live music.

95% of our
grade 12
Students
Graduated

240 Students
24000+ hrs of tutoring
25+ Volunteers
1300+ Volunteer hrs

ELEVATE

Chebucto Connections recognizes that youth can face a number of barriers when looking for employment. With funds received from the federal government we launched Elevate in September 2021 that provided 25 youth between 15-30 years old tailored employment readiness skills and training along with a six week work experience.

Participants gained skills and employment experience related to their career and educational goals.

"This is the first time in my life anyone has taken an interest in the success of my future. I not only gained employment skills I now have the tools & confidence necessary to achieve whatever I set my mind to do." Elevate Participant

PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

Host Businesses

- Hill's Jamaican Jerk Sauce
- Physio & Rehab
- High Winds LTD
- Bluedrop Training & Simulation
- Miners Memorial Manor
- MacRae Home Hardware
- Northside Community Guest Home
- FH Development

We also want to recognize the host employers who understood the importance of hands on experience and worked with us to provide the participants with quality employment.

"We at Changing Season's Landscaping are very fortunate & grateful to be part of The Elevate program & honoured to support the youth in our community. Since May 1, 2022 we have employed seven participants who have worked tirelessly with our team. During this ongoing labor shortage we wouldn't have been able to fulfill all contracts without the help of Chebucto Connections and the seven participants from the Elevate program. Thank you for working so closely with us. Your support is appreciated!"

The Staff at Changing Seasons

Financial

REPORT

THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

This was another year of unknowns but through grants and the continued support we received from our donors we were able to continue providing quality services to the community. Due to restrictions fundraising looked different but donors showed up everytime helping us help those in need.

	2022	2021
Revenue	\$ 1,182,808	\$ 1,013,955
Expenses	\$ 1,172,796	\$ 1,013,955
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 10,012	\$ 8,909
Revenue		
Foundations & Charities	920250	
Government Funding	206564	
Fundraising Events	11538	
Donations	27235	
Earned Revenue/Reim Expenses	17221	
Total \$	1,182,808.00	
Expenses		
Salaries	784850	
Rent/Operational	149912	
Program Cost	234803	
Fundraising	1813	
Other	1418	
Total \$	1,172,796.00	

1.17M

Invested in the
Community

1500+

Community
Members
Supported

25%

Invested into
Food Support

To Our Volunteers

The success of Chebucto Connections could not happen without our dedicated volunteers.

Our Pathways to Education Tutors who play an essential role in our youths success.

Thank You!!

The Saint Mary's Husky Patrol who ensures that seniors and those with mobility issues receive their produce pack. **Thank you!!**

To the volunteers that show up each produce pack to unload, pack and clean.

Thank you!!

The dedication, care and expertise that each past and current board member brings to the organization. **Thank you!!**

For all of your time, effort and hard work.

Thank You

Donor & Funder Appreciation

Last but certainly not least to our donors and funders. This great work could not be done without your generosity and care for others. The funds you donate and entrust to us allows us to continue to provide healthy foods to those that struggle. It allows us to bring services into the community to break down barriers to those less fortunate. We are able to provide a space for youth to learn and reach their optimal potential. It allows us to offer a space where residents come and feel valued. All of this work could not happen without your support and trust so thank you for standing with us.

"The greatness of community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members" - **Coretta Scott King**