

## History of New Boundaries

New Boundaries, formerly called the Windsor Workshop, started operations in 1974 at the Windsor Community Centre. Initially, the programs offered consisted of crafts and small make work projects. The organization relocated several times throughout the 1970's and 1980's before finally establishing itself at the current site on Centennial Drive. In the early 1990's, the Board of Directors purchased the building and the land.

The programs offered started to focus more on consumer related appeal such as rug hooking, caning chairs, weaving, rag rugs, condiment packaging for a valley company, tree planting kits, some crafts and an extensive woodworking department making kindling, survey stakes for the Dept. of Hwys, divider sticks for a local greenhouse operation, building bookcases, stands, coat racks, palettes, stripping and refinishing furniture.

Community Employment was implemented in the 1980's to provide clients the opportunity to receive real employment in community businesses. Service centres, clothing shops and electronic shops started hiring our employees.

In 1992, the organization opened a café downtown called the Rotundas, named for a popular ferry used to transport people along the Avon River. The Rotundas employed about ten clients from the centre on a rotating basis. They assisted with all aspects of the operation, from customer service and food preparation, to cleaning and bussing tables. The café increased the profile of the centre and showcased the abilities of the clientele as valued workers in the community. Unfortunately, in 1998 the café closed as a result of a downturn in the local economy.

In 2000, the agency financed an expansion to the building in order to upgrade the washrooms and make the facility wheelchair accessible. In 2006, another expansion added 1500 sq. feet to the building allowing for two large program rooms and a small room for expanded services.

Also in 2006, New Boundaries opened a used clothing and household items store in downtown Windsor called Amigos. Several clients rotated daily in the work placements, with a total of about ten clients enthusiastically participating in this well received community business. The café was not only a favoured drop-in for coffee, but a busy retail outlet supporting wood products built at New Boundaries. In 2010, Amigos moved back to the centre on Centennial Drive in an attempt to reduce overhead, increase revenue, and provide effective supports.

The E-Waste program began in February. This program is run by the Provincial Recycling Organization and accepts end of life electronic components such as computers, TV's, and related materials. Amigos and E-Waste have grown a great deal in the last year, providing clients with various opportunities to interact with community members, provide customer service, and develop skills in packaging and storing products.

Wind damage in 2011, resulted in the closure of 2/3 of the facility in order to allow for repairs to the roof and ceilings. The woodworking shop continued to operate on site, one program was set up at the Community Centre, and Amigos was temporarily relocated to the local mall, space graciously donated by Jeff Redden of Home Hardware. This closure permitted a complete repainting of the centre's interior and renovations to improve the store set up. New tables and chairs were purchased and the centre had a great face lift for its grand reopening in April 2011.

A forklift was added for training in the E-Waste program and generous donations of two sea containers by SEPRACOR allowed room for E-Waste material, donated furniture for resale and safe storage of kindling bags.

Currently There are twenty two clients who live in care, six who live with family and two who live independently. To date, the male female ratio is 1:1. New Boundaries is looking at expanding services to those adults in the community who do not have any services. This is the mandate behind the proposed expansion.