

President - Emily Branton is the President of Link2Feed; a technology company that helps non-profits leverage data to better understand and increase their impact. Outside of being the board chair at The Inn of the Good Shepherd, she is also on the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) for the business program at Lambton College.

Emily holds both a Masters of Business Administration Degree (MBA) from the Odette School of Business as well as a Bachelor of Arts Honours (BA[H]) in Communications Studies and a certificate in Non-Profit Administration from the University of Windsor.

Emily is also an avid runner, yogi, writer and traveler.

Past Chair - Alex Palimaka is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Bluewater Power. Over the years of representing Bluewater Power, Alex has worked closely with The Inn of the Good Shepherd on various programs designed to help low income households manage their energy needs. Through those efforts, Alex gained knowledge about the work of The Inn which inspired him to join the Board of Directors in 2010.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto, and he subsequently graduated from the Joint Master of Environment Studies/LLB program offered by York University and Osgoode Hall Law School. He currently serves on the Board for the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, as well as numerous associations locally and within the energy industry.

Treasurer - Ashvin Thakkar is a Business Development Officer with Sarnia-Lambton Business Development Corporation. SLBDC provides community economic development support and business assistance through free counselling and repayable financing throughout Lambton County.

Ashvin is an accountant with CPA, CGA designation. Ashvin currently serves as Director/Treasurer for both The Inn of The Good Shepherd and St. Joseph's Hospice of Sarnia Lambton. He previously served on the Board of Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board and Children's Aid Society. He also served as a Treasurer for both the Sarnia Lambton Federal and Provincial riding associations and as an Official Agent for candidates during elections.

Ashvin and his extended family immigrated to Canada from Uganda in the early 1970's.

Secretary - The Rev'd C. Joyce Hodgson is a newly ordained priest in the Diocese of Huron, the Anglican Church of Canada, currently serving part time with her husband in the North Lambton Pastoral charge in Forest and Kettle Point. She is also past co-chair of the Patient Experience Partners, an advisory group of patients and family members for Bluewater Health. She also is a volunteer for Pathways. Joyce has earned her B.A. from McMaster, M.Ed from OISE, M.Div from TST and her diploma in Christian Education from Ewart College. Joyce loves to read, sing and do all sorts of word, number and picture puzzles. That, along with her family of four and three grandchildren keep her grounded.

Director - James Bekkers is currently Executive Pastor of Temple Baptist Church. Prior to moving into pastoral ministry, James was a teacher and a principal. He holds degrees from St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, NS), Dalhousie (Halifax, NS) and Regent College (Vancouver, BC). James is currently working on a Doctorate Degree at Acadia (Wolfville, NS). His interests lie mainly in education, community and social programming and spirituality. For hobbies James enjoys photography and the outdoors.

Director - Carl Kongas is a father of 2, 24 year old daughter and 22 year old son, with a loving wife going on 27 years spent together. Born and raised in Sarnia, ON, Carl likes to spend his time with his family as well as enjoys hunting.

Carl is the owner and president of a house building company called Casslemen Inc. He has been working here since 2001. A graduate of Wilfred Laurier University where he holds a BA in Economics. Previously he worked as financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Investment as an advisor for 10 years.

Carl is an active member of Sarnia Lambton Home Builders and holds a spot on his church committee helping with the finances at New Horizons Community Church where he has been attending for 50 years.

Director - Chelsea Cooper is a law student working in Sarnia at Glenn T. Dawson Law Office. She received her H.B.A. in political science from Western University, and will graduate with a J.D. in the spring of 2017 from Lakehead University. At Lakehead she is an active member of the Women in Law Club, the Law Students' Society, the Social Committee, and is a mentor for incoming students. In between undergraduate studies and law school, Chelsea backpacked through Europe and Asia, leading to a passion for travelling the world and experiencing new cultures. When she is not visiting a new place, she enjoys being active, cooking, reading, and watching the Bachelor with her girlfriends.

Director - Rebecca Wilkinson Mitchell is a Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) and Leader (CHRL) with an extensive background in people management applied in multiple industries. Having focused upon global organizational design, recruitment and selection, and compensation and benefits throughout her career, Rebecca is now an Associate Professor at Lambton College, where she teaches a variety of HR and Business classes. Rebecca has her BA from University of Waterloo, HR Graduate studies from Seneca College, and has recently completed her Masters of Arts in Adult Education with a Community College Specialization at Central Michigan University.

In addition to studying the impact of Ontario College programs on Graduate's Essential Employability Skills, Rebecca is the Education Director and Past President of the HRPA Sarnia and District Chapter, as well as a passionate cook, an avid knitter, and parent.

Director - Andrew Vincelli is a Mechanical Leader at Imperial's Refinery in Sarnia. He has held several roles in project management, business analytics, and process engineering since he moved to Sarnia in 2012. Andrew holds both a Masters of Business Administration Degree (MBA) from the Schulich School of Business as well as a Chemical Engineering & Management Degree (B.Eng & Mgmt) from McMaster University. He also holds a certificate in Project Management from Western University.

Andrew volunteered in the Dominican Republic with several non-profit institutions, building homes for the less fortunate. Andrew also has a passion for investments, cooking, cycling, and the volleyball court.

Director - Jacqueline Davidson brings lived experience to the board . As well as a network of relationships within the social, non-profit sector . She has struggled against the cycle of generational poverty. She has learned to be resilient dealing with situational poverty .She knows firsthand the benefit and impact the services at the Inn have on a family . Her intimate knowledge of poverty brings compassion and empathy into her perspective.

Outside of being on the board for the Inn. Jacqueline also volunteers and sits on the board for The Cinderella Story . A local not for profit that hosts an annual free prom boutique to Sarnia Lambton. Jacqueline also volunteers and is involved with Circles Canada /Circles Lambton working on bridging the gap through relationships to those struggling in poverty . Jacqueline was honoured to receive the Jane Le Clair community service award 2017 in recognition of her contributions to social justice and the wellbeing of her community.

Jacqueline is enrolled in Lambton College for September 2018 and will be pursuing a career that aligns with her strong passions, convictions and lived experiences. She is passionate about advocacy for social injustices , poverty , and helping those who are oppressed. She loves public speaking, motivational speaking and dialogue.

Jacqueline is a woman of faith, a wife , a mother . She is humbled by her seat on this board and feels grateful to have an opportunity to constantly learn and grow from such an amazing group of individuals that make up the "The Board".