



Women's Leadership Council United Way of Chatham-Kent

The Power of Women to Change Lives

OVERVIEW OF WLC GRANTS – 2010 (updated 2010 SEP 15)

GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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OVERALL CRITERIA:

In keeping with the wishes of the membership, determined through the annual membership survey, the WLC Grants Committee has developed the following guidelines and criteria for distribution of WLC funds during 2010:

- demographics (ensuring that funding is provided throughout Chatham-Kent)
- the financial support is impactful
- WLC funds should be single-focus – not “top up”
- WLC funds should be sustainable for a number of years (choosing causes that can be sustained year over year)
- there should be a feedback loop – to ensure that the funds are allocated where they are most needed and to the programs and services identified as priorities by the membership
- “make a mark” for the WLC for providing “unique” funding – branded as “sponsored by the United Way Women’s Leadership Council” or funded by the United Way Women’s Leadership Council” or “this subsidy made possible through the generous support of the United Way Women’s Leadership Council”
- funding must ensure opportunities for success
- maximum limits must be set
- there must be an equalizer built in

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES - \$10,000

Criteria and Overview of Grants

Building on the successful allocation of similar funding in 2009, **\$10,000** is provided to support non-sport, culturally-oriented recreation opportunities for children – high quality band camps, Chatham Cultural Centre gallery and museum camps, “Take-A-Bow Production” Camps, music lessons, dance classes and art lessons. These subsidies are screened and then paid to local families through the **A.L.L. for Kids Program**

(Activities, Lessons and Leisure for Kids) administered by the Municipality's Recreation Services Department. Initiated in 2001, A.L.L. for Kids provides subsidized recreational opportunities to eligible low-income children and youth. The program is funded through a variety of sources, including the Social Assistance Restructuring Reinvestment Fund, Canadian Time Jump Start Funds and miscellaneous donations. In 2009, the WLC funding provided an opportunity for 42 children to be placed in extra-curricular activities. The WLC has specifically requested that this donation support culturally-related activities (non-sport) for children because they recognize that supporting local culture leads to a diversified economy.

Testimonials

"My children now have a sense of belonging and pride that they would not otherwise experience".

"I have a lot in common with other parents. They don't need to know that I couldn't afford these dance classes without help from the United Way Women's Leadership Council".

"There are many children in our community who need some financial help to access cultural programs that will help them to develop their full potential. The WLC Council joins caring women from a variety of backgrounds to make true, long-term change in the community. One effective way to do that is to provide children with opportunities in culture and the arts. They will grow up to be adults with creative ideas, energy and projects that will help to stimulate the local economy and improve quality of life for all of us."

"My daughter blew me away. I am in awe of what she (and the cast) were able to accomplish in just two weeks. The staff enabled her to break through all her shyness barriers. I was so proud."

EDUCATION - \$16,000

Criteria and Overview of Grants

Building on the successful allocation of similar funding in 2009, **\$5,000** is provided to support two separate **Homework Clubs** (\$2,500 each) for young parents under the age of 25/young mothers aged 18 to 21 who have not yet completed their Grade 12. Many of these single moms are only able to take classes by correspondence and it is difficult for them to stay motivated when they are working on their own and doing double duty as caregivers. Ontario Works Assistance is an income and employment support program that is legislated by the Province and delivered by the Municipalities. Funding comes primarily from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Municipality. The L.E.A.P. (Learning, Earning and Parenting) Program is one of the many employment programs that is part of Ontario Works Assistance. The Municipality started the Homework Club to provide on-site learning and on-site child care. The WLC funding allows Ontario Works Division to offer the program for longer periods than originally budgeted for, and subsequently helps the participants complete more high school credits sooner.

In addition to the financial support of the Homework Clubs, **\$3,000 in Bursaries** (three \$1,000 Bursaries) is provided to support graduates of the L.E.A.P. Homework Club as they move on to post-secondary education. In 2009, these three young women also benefited from a WLC-initiated request for four refurbished laptops through Union Gas. The WLC-funded bursaries have helped remove some of the financial pressure of post-secondary education for the recipients. In 2010, **an additional \$3,000** (three \$1,000 **Bursaries**) is being provided to support first year graduates who are moving on to second year studies.

In 2010, **\$5,000** is being allocated for **Post-Secondary Educational Assistance for Women**. Ridgetown College/University of Guelph and St. Clair College will each receive \$2,500 to provide WLC Bursaries for eligible candidates. Academic grants will be available for women who wish to continue their formal education and who have exhausted all other avenues of financial support. Applications will be evaluated for demonstrated and significant financial need, and consideration will be given for non-academic limiting factors. Additional criteria and the application form can be found on the United Way of Chatham-Kent web-site at www.uwock.ca under the Women's Leadership Council.

Testimonials

"I can't thank you enough for these donations; they mean so much to us and the L.E.A.P. participants."

"This bursary has helped remove some of the financial pressure of post-secondary education for me. Thank you so much!"

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING - \$4,500

Criteria and Overview of Grants

The A. A. Wright Public School in Wallaceburg is receiving **\$2,500** in 2010 to support its **"Danny School" Project** (focused on poverty and education). This school is the only one in the Lambton-Kent District School Board to have such a program. Two identifying factors for the school's designation were family income and level of education for mothers of students. Funds are being provided to assist with the school's "Snack Bin" Program.

An amount of **\$2,000** has also been set aside for two local youth to attend **Teen Challenge Farm**. Teen Challenge is a non-profit, inter-denominational, Christian program operating in over 80 countries, with over 1,000 locations worldwide. In Canada, Teen Challenge first opened in Toronto in 1963 and has since expanded across the nation. The organization provides a 12-month residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. It is the desire of the United Way WLC to offer this treatment option to two local youth who want to make a life change. Individuals who are interested in this special program are urged to contact the United Way Executive Director at karen@uwock.ca or 519-354-0430.

LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT - \$3,000

Criteria and Overview of Grants

An amount of \$3,000 is being provided - \$1,500 for each of the Lambton-Kent District School Board and St. Clair Catholic District School Board to support youth attendance at the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre and Muskoka Woods Camps, respectively. All applications are screened through the Directors or Superintendents of Education to ensure that funds are allocated to support children who could not otherwise afford to attend.

The Ontario Educational Leadership Centre has been offering leadership programs to students since 1948. As a partner within the educational community and as a volunteer not-for-profit organization, O.E.L.C. provides students and other participants with a unique opportunity to develop and enhance their personal and leadership skills with courses focusing on different areas of interest, eg. fine arts, music, athletics, diversity education, student government and environmental advocacy.

The Muskoka Woods experience is more than just a week at camp, a graduation trip, or a field trip. It is a place where young people are able to leave their comfort zone and enter into a world that challenges their limits.

Testimonials

"O.E.L.C. was one of the best things that could have ever happened to me. It has been one of the most incredible life changing opportunities I have been offered and I feel very blessed to have been chosen. The friends and staff I met at O.E.L.C. taught me that a true leader knows when to take a step back and be the follower ... and that it's OK to make mistakes. By the end of Grade 9, I felt myself losing touch with the real me and all of my morals and finding myself getting caught up in all the drama of high school. But going to O.E.L.C. really turned me back and put me on the right track. I realized that I wasn't the girl I wanted to be. My perspectives on life in general have changed. I really hope that you can continue to send kids like me to O.E.L.C. in the future."

"Thank you for sponsoring me to go to O.E.L.C. It was tons of fun. I met people from Mississauga to Ottawa. There was a lot of teamwork exercises. There's just no words to explain this experience."

"My daughter came back a very changed girl. She thinks before she speaks and she does her chores upon the first request. She has made beautiful friends with so many different talents. I'm very grateful, as a mother, for your scholarship and the changes this camp made in my daughter. I pray that other children and their parents will be able to experience this most wonderful opportunity. God Bless you all for sponsoring it."

WOMEN IN SITUATIONAL POVERTY - \$12,000

Criteria and Overview of Grants

These funds are designed to help women make a new start, change direction or move

forward. While no grants have yet been approved for 2010, in previous years, funds have been provided to purchase kitchen appliances or bedroom furniture for single moms moving into new apartments, prescription eyeglasses for a recipient of Ontario Disability Support Program payments, and an energy efficient refrigerator, toilet and bathroom door for a young women who qualified for her first Home Ownership Grant.

Testimonials

"I never thought that I would have my very own home. Thank you for helping make my dreams come true."

"Thank you for the furniture that Karen and I bought on our Saturday out. It is much easier to get myself and my son dressed in the morning now that I have dressers to organize our clothes. Also the bed that I received has helped me to get the sleep that I need to continue school. I very much enjoyed my time out with Karen; it was like Christmas all over again. I never thought that I would be so lucky. This grant has drastically improved my life and my home. Thank you very, very much."

EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND - \$4,500

Criteria and Overview of Grants

These funds are provided in the event of a serious – and often urgent – request for emergency assistance. Little notice is given and the WLC Grants Committee is asked to respond quickly.

Testimonials

"Thank you for helping our client remove herself from a very dangerous domestic violence situation by covering the costs of her moving expenses. She knows that her limited possessions are now safely under lock and key at a local storage facility while she works with us to get her life back on track."

**The United Way Women's Leadership Council is a philanthropic network
of corporate and community leaders using their collective power
to create meaningful change in Chatham-Kent.**



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