



United Way
Chatham-Kent

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2013-2014

AGENCY IMPACT STORY

New Beginnings, ABI & Stroke Recovery Association

My name is Derek Beselaere. I am currently 24 years old. I suffered a stroke in my mother's womb, before I was born. As a result of the stroke, I have Cerebral Palsy which affects the entire right side of my body.

I have been involved with United Way funded agencies throughout my life, starting with the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent. As well, I have been involved with the Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent. Currently I am involved with New Beginnings ABI & Stroke Recovery Association, both the Chatham-Kent Club House and the Sarnia-Lambton Club House.

I believe that because of the supports I have received through the years from these United Way Funded Agencies, I have been able to maintain an active life style. I've grown up playing numerous sports, such as sledge hockey and soccer. Sledge hockey was my forte sport which I played for nine years within the community of Chatham-Kent and Windsor-Essex. I also played soccer with the Mens Canadian Paralympics Soccer Team for two years.

I graduated from Ursuline College "The Pines" in 2007; St. Clair College, Thames Campus, Law & Security Administration Diploma (honours) in 2009; and from St. Clair College Thames Campus, Police Foundations (honours) 2010 and I received The Leadership Award.

The various United Way Funded Agencies listed above have helped me, and continue to help improve my quality of life. Their support has helped me gain the skills I need to succeed in life. I have received help with studying and understanding my school work, physiotherapy and exercises to maintain and improve muscle tone and muscle tightness, and the skills and opportunities to re-integrate into society through social interactions. I couldn't have done it without the help I received through these agencies!



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MESSAGE FROM CEO AND BOARD PRESIDENT



As the 2012-2013 term of office draws to a close and we reflect on the last 12 months of service to our community, there are many things that our local United Way can celebrate. Here are some of the highlights.

While our 2013 campaign suffered a significant shortfall, the foresight of our Board of Directors in establishing a contingency fund helped to supplement campaign revenue, ensuring that none of our Funded Agencies would need to close their doors or cut programs. And, in addition, another \$60,000 was earmarked for Community Impact Grants to support new and emerging community needs.

Our hosting of the Ontario Nonprofit Network resulted in the establishment of a local Chatham-Kent Nonprofit Network which will come to life during 2014, giving voice to the hundreds of local nonprofits and thousands of local volunteers who give of their time and talent.

In keeping with our three Focus Areas - "From Poverty to Possibility", "Strong Communities" and "All That Kids Can Be", current initiatives in poverty reduction, youth engagement and support of vulnerable women - through our United Way Women's Leadership Council - have resulted in new partnerships and changed lives.

Our administration of the Union Gas Winter Warmth Program continues to provide an extremely valuable form of assistance to many low-income households which face the prospect of living without heat. This program helps individuals and families maintain their housing and enhance their support network when many families are confronted with challenges such as job loss, family breakdown, illness, injuries or even death. Given an ongoing difficult economic situation, this program continues to help to stabilize the life situations of low-income families who are confronted with short-term financial difficulties.

As we focus on our organization's mission our small staff and volunteer team stand at the ready to continue our important work in service to others.

Karen Kirkwood-Whyte
Chief Executive Officer

Tony Walsh
Board President

MISSION

To improve lives and build community in Chatham-Kent

VISION

Well-Being for everyone in Chatham-Kent

GOALS

- Engages and mobilizes community
- Addresses underlying causes
- Strengthens the network of services and capacity of non-profits and community
- Influences public attitudes, systems and policy
- Creates an environment where staff and volunteers are engaged and feel valued

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

United Way focuses in three key community investment areas essential for our community to thrive. These three focus areas- **From Poverty to Possibility**, **Strong Communities** and **All That Kids Can Be** - are proven to be the building blocks of healthy lives and communities. By investing in 25 social programs as well as additional community initiatives in these areas in 2013-2014, we are working toward achieving lasting change.

Total Dollars Invested
\$1,658,708.00

From Poverty to Possibility- 14.6%
\$241,378

Strong Communities- 46.3%
\$768,164

All That Kids Can Be- 39.1%
\$649,166



2013-2014 FUNDED AGENCIES and PROGRAMS

AIDS Support Chatham-Kent
BackPacks for Kids
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Chatham-Kent
Canadian Hearing Society
Canadian Mental Health Association
CNIB
Chatham-Kent Block Parent Program Inc.
Chatham-Kent Children's Services
Chatham-Kent YMCA
Chatham-Kent Student Nutrition Program
Epilepsy Support Centre
Family Service Kent
Learning Disabilities Association of C-K

New Beginnings, ABI & Stroke Recovery Association
Prosperity Roundtable
Operation Cover-Up
Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent
Sidestreets Optimist Youth Centre
The Solid Rock Café Youth Centre
Tilbury Information and H.E.L.P. Centre
VON
Volunteer and Information Chatham-Kent
Wallaceburg Information and H.E.L.P. Centre
Women's Leadership Council
The 425 Centre for Community Innovation

FROM POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

This area focuses on:

- housing stability
- food security
- employment and financial stability

Feature Program



Hi! My name is Candy Toll. I am a resident of Chatham-Kent and also a volunteer with multiple initiatives of the Prosperity Roundtable, including Operation Cover-Up, BackPacks for Kids, Food Security working group, Food Policy Council - Access and Availability Committee, and also Walking the Walk planning committee. I have experienced living in poverty first hand. Years ago I was a single mother of two children. I worked a full time minimum wage job to support my family but it was an everyday struggle. Some months I was not sure what utility bills were getting paid or, if I paid the utility bills, was there enough money for groceries? We didn't have cable, internet or cell phones. I found myself having to access programs in our community to ensure my children did not go without. Operation Cover-Up provided winter coats and BackPacks for Kids provided school supplies for my children. This was very hard to have to ask for help but living in poverty was extremely hard and I didn't want my children to go without. Over the years my situation has changed and I am now trying to make a change, so no one has to live in poverty.

This program generously supported by



Prosperity Roundtable Members at the official signing of the **Cities Reducing Poverty Charter** in November. In December a motion was carried by Municipal Council that the Mayor be authorized to sign and endorse the Charter.



STRONG COMMUNITIES



This area focuses on:

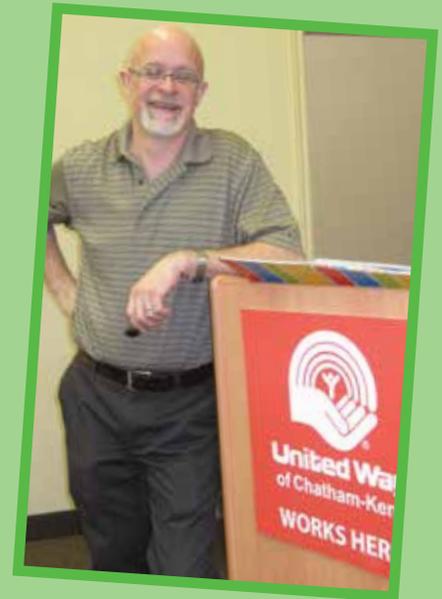
- connection to supports
- neighbourhood and community engagement
- personal wellbeing and safety

The Mental Health First Aid training has provided me with the opportunity to learn new skills and strategies to support my clients, who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. In my role as a youth counsellor and trauma team coordinator, I support at-risk clients on a daily basis and provide immediate response to crisis situations. This training provided me with the ability to support my clients more effectively and efficiently. It has reinforced the importance of utilizing the client's health care professionals to track their current and future mental health. The manual is a step by step guide, illustrating the steps to intervene during a specific mental health crisis situation, which is a great new tool.

Ken O'Neil, CYW, CYC Cert.
Counsellor/Consultant, The "Way Out" Counselling

This training has helped to support my learning in regards to specific characteristics and behaviour associated with various mental health concerns and conditions. In my role as a Vice-Principal, I often work with students and their families to help provide immediate support within the school, while also connecting students and families with other community supports. This course helped me better understand some of the experiences of people with mental health concerns so that I can do a better job in supporting them.

Lisa MacDonald, Vice-Principal
Wallaceburg District Secondary School



Tim Charrette delivers Mental Health First Aid training at the United Way Centre for Community Innovation. The two day session teaches signs of addiction and mental illness, the impact of mental and substance use disorders, and local resources where you can turn to for help.

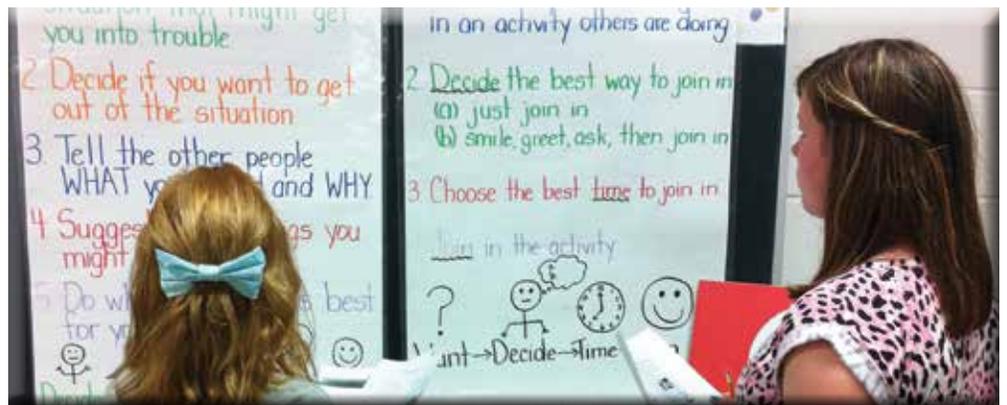
ALL THAT KIDS CAN BE

This area focuses on:

- engagement in learning
- connectedness and community involvement
- emotional and physical wellbeing



Justine struggled with self-confidence and making lasting friendships. She had recently moved into a new home and was preparing to enter secondary school. The thought of the transition from elementary to secondary school made Justine extremely nervous of the unknown. To assist Justine in boosting her self-confidence, her foster mom registered her for the Social Skills B.E.S.T. (Better Emotional and Social Times) Program. When Justine first started the program, she was reluctant to engage in a conversation with any of her peers and often needed encouragement to share her thoughts or experiences. Throughout the two-week session, Justine slowly began to engage in conversation, willingly answered questions and shared her experiences and thoughts. By the end of Justine's time at LDAC-K, her foster mom expressed that Justine exuded self-confidence, was willing to share her feelings openly and was excited for her new chapter of beginning secondary school. Justine is proud of her willingness to make new friends and self-confidence. She currently shares her strengths and talents with an after school club at her secondary school.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The **Building Community Capacity through Youth Engagement Project**, funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration connects young adults with the voluntary sector and community agencies to help improve lives and build community.

In 2013, the project hosted the inaugural **Chatham-Kent Timeraiser**. Timeraiser is a volunteer matching fair, a silent art auction, and a night out on the town. The big Timeraiser twist is rather than bid money on artwork, participants bid volunteer hours. Throughout the evening participants meet with various non-profit organizations in the room to find available volunteer opportunities that meet their needs. Winning bidders have 12 months to complete their pledge in order to bring the artwork home as a reminder of their goodwill.



In one evening, the Chatham-Kent Timeraiser successfully matched agencies and volunteers 'raising' over 460 volunteer hours for eight local non-profit organizations: Thanks to the support of the Ursuline Sisters and the Women's Leadership Council, the event invested \$2,400 in the eight local emerging artists, boosting their careers.

This program generously supported by



Youth Ambassadors

What's the best way to describe the United Way Youth Committee? How about directly from a Youth Ambassador! **Erin McEachran** is from Blenheim District High School and here is what she has to say about being a Youth Ambassador:

"Being a United Way Ambassador gives me an outlet to express the needs and wants of youth in our community. I am proud to be involved in the planning and executing process of events that engage teens and inspire them to take pride in their roots as a Chatham-Kent youth. I have a wonderful time at the Red Feather events, watching kids do what kids were meant to do, have fun. In the busy lives we lead today, many forget the true joy of making someone genuinely smile. It is evident when I look around, at the Red Feather events, that happiness is present in the entire community. This gives me proof that when we come together and live united, we witness some of life's simplest pleasures."



Co-Op Student

Emily Millson - Ursuline College Chatham

Being a cooperative education student at United Way during their campaign was an amazing experience. I am so grateful to have been able to work with so many generous and hard-working people who dedicate not only their careers, but also their spare time, to help make Chatham-Kent a better place. This experience has helped me to realize that I would love to work in the non-profit sector. I have learned so much throughout my time with United Way - and I would love to be involved in their next campaign!

2013 CAMPAIGN

The inspiring work carried out by each Funded Agency motivated us to raise a total of \$1,850,459. While we did not reach our community goal of \$2,200,000 and the impact will be felt by our local Funded Agencies, the dollars raised *will* positively impact thousands. To every single donor and to every volunteer who assisted the campaign – thank you for your amazing generosity. Your support of the United Way campaign makes a difference every day.

The campaign achievement was made possible as a result of the support of our families, friends, and co-workers. The financial outcomes reflect the commitment and dedication of our community volunteers, our Cabinet, Account Executives and workplace canvassers, the Speaker's Bureau, and event organizers, who donated their valuable time, passion, and hard earned dollars.



Photo courtesy of Don Robinet

We are so grateful for the support and encouragement from the Staff and Board and we are honoured to have developed lasting friendships with each of you. We have been extremely proud to represent United Way every single day and proud to lead such an inspiring team. We have been honoured to give back to this community, and to share the stories of the imperative work done by United Way. You placed your trust in us and from the bottom of our hearts – thank you for the opportunity.

ONE IN THREE people in Chatham-Kent benefit by the work of these Funded Agencies. Those people could be your neighbours, your grandmother, your son – even yourself. We believe it is critical for these agencies to receive funding for years to come, to keep the community moving in a positive direction. We truly wish that those who support United Way will continue to do so. Our hope is to inspire those who haven't supported previously, to consider United Way as a charity of choice. Giving back to, and investing in your community, in PEOPLE, in the future of Chatham-Kent feels good. Trust us!

Cecily Coppola and William Grin
2013 Campaign Co-Chairs



Left to Right: Cecily Coppola (C-K Co-Chair); Lisa & Bruce McAllister (Chatham Co-Chairs); Emily Robert (Blenheim Chair); Ashley Church (Campaign Representative sponsored by Union Gas); Bill Steep (2007 C-K Co-Chair); Bill Zilio (1993 & 1994 C-K Chair); Jim Blake (2004 C-K Co-Chair); Art Stirling (2005 C-K Co-Chair); William Grin (C-K Co-Chair & Chair of the Leaders of the Way Committee). Missing from the photo are: Stacey & Scott Ewing (Past Campaign Co-Chairs); Cassandra Duquette (Tilbury Chair); Carmen McGregor (Dresden & Wallaceburg Chair); Heather, Erin and Kristen Beacroft (Ridgetown Co-Chairs); Florin (Mark) Marksteiner (Thamesville Chair); Jodi Kish and Mavis Johnson (Bothwell Co-Chairs); Kelly O'Connor (Chair of the Bushels of Hope Committee); Joe McCabe (Labour Community Chair); and Brad Davis (Not-For-Profit Division Chair).

SPECIAL EVENTS



Chatham-Kent Amazing Race



Freezin' for a Reason
Ridgetown



Above: Bothwell Golf Tournament
Right: Bothwell Biker's & Babe's Kickoff



The Runway Gala...
Chatham Municipal Airport



Chatham-Kent Harvest Run



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



The Power of Women to Change Lives

- Cultural Activities
- Education
- Health and Well-being
- Leadership Development
- Women in Situational Poverty



uwock.ca



Dear Women's Leadership Council,

Thank you for making it possible for me to attend OELC this summer. It was so much fun and I learned a lot of new leadership skills that I brought back to my school and applied.

OELC taught me that it's OK to be unique and open up. In a way OELC gave me more confidence than I previously had. Throughout the week I learned that it is important to get everyone's ideas and opinions. I also learned that the person in the group that may just be sitting there and not talking may have the best idea in the group, which is why you need to ask everyone what they want to do or what their opinion is. I learned three different kinds of leadership and when it is best to use each type of leadership style.

Those are just some of the examples of what I learned and took from my OELC experience. You and OELC made me a better student at my school and a better leader.

-Jaimey Jacobs

Allocations during 2013 supported:

Cultural Activities- \$13,000.00

- A.L.L for Kids Program, TimeRaiser

Education- \$11,130.00

- L.E.A.P Program and Bursaries

Health and Well-Being- \$9,431.28

- Dentures, mobility devices

Leadership Development- \$2,008.00

- O.E.L.C, 4H registrations

Women in Situational Poverty- \$16,715.02

- BackPacks for Kids, appliances and furnishings

VOLUNTEER and COMMUNITY PARTNERS



BackPacks for Kids helps families give their children a great start to the school year by providing new supplies and a new pack. Children across Chatham-Kent benefit tremendously by having the necessary tools they need to engage in their school activities. As a result of working together with several community partners, 1,150 elementary school backpacks containing many teacher-suggested items were delivered or picked up for the 2013 program. 2013 Coordinators Kathy Martel and Corrine Morris also worked on **Operation Cover-Up**.



Jeff McFadden, Mary Lou De Meester and Brian Armitage unveil the **Aaron De Meester Labour Community Service Award**. This award honours the legacy of Aaron's contributions to the Labour community. The award will be given out annually at the Labour Awards Breakfast.



ChangeTheWorld is delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) and the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN). It is a province-wide campaign for youth aged 14 to 18 years to volunteer through a wide variety of exciting local initiatives. The goal is to inspire youth to volunteer, develop new skills and broaden their awareness of community service organizations.

In Chatham-Kent our 2013 goal was to engage 419 youth in three hours of service between April 21 to May 20, 2013. This year, locally, we engaged 427 youth, up from last year's total of 350. The youth participated in many activities around the municipality including events such as a Prom Dress drive, coaching soccer, and planting trees. Although only three hours per volunteer are required by the campaign, the hours for Chatham-Kent exceeded this, totaling nearly 2,200 hours.



Youth at UCC volunteer at a Prom Dress Sale

Provincially, nearly 38,000 youth participated in the challenge. "Volunteerism creates a better quality of life in our communities and fosters future leaders." said the Honourable Michael Coteau, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Walsh, *President*

Julie Faas, *Treasurer*

Deborah Crawford

Kate DoForno

Scott Ewing

Michael Korpan

Florin Marksteiner

Alison Patrick, *Vice-President*

Jeff McFadden

John Neville

Dipti Patel

Marlee Robinson

Kathy Smyth

LOCATIONS

CHATHAM

"The 425"

P.O. Box 606

425 McNaughton Ave. West

Chatham, ON N7M 5K8

519.354.0430

TILBURY

Tilbury Information

& H.E.L.P. Centre

P.O. Box 309

20 Queen Street North

Tilbury, ON N0P 2L0

519.682.2268

WALLACEBURG

Wallaceburg Information

& H.E.L.P. Centre

152 Duncan Street

Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4E2

519.628.5456

STAFF

Karen Kirkwood-Whyte

Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Chartrand*

Executive Assistant/Facility Manager

Stewart Sinclair

Director, Finance and Administration

David Drouillard

Director, Resource Development

Helen Heath

Director, Community Impact

Brian Armitage

Director, Labour Programs and Services and

Manager, Wallaceburg Information and H.E.L.P. Centre

Patricia Weiler

Manager, Volunteer and Information Services

Rose-Anne Mayor

Manager, Tilbury Information and H.E.L.P. Centre

Caress Lee Carpenter*

Campaign Manager

Veronica Whittal

Administrative Assistant

Julia Eagen

Co-ordinator, Marketing and Communications

Danielle Shaw

Co-ordinator, Prosperity Roundtable

Gabriela Deryck*

Co-ordinator, Youth Leadership

* United Way wishes to express its appreciation to staff members who have moved on to other professional opportunities. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our organization.

CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE

Ashley Church - Sponsored by Union Gas

My position as a sponsored representative has allowed me to see first-hand how my efforts can make such positive differences in our community. This opportunity has helped me help the community and I am very thankful to Union Gas. United Way keeps me grounded, thankful and inspired. When you choose to donate, you're not handing money over to United Way, you're changing lives. I am proud to have given all I have while in this role, and promise to always be an advocate for United Way.

