



WLC Members Eleanor Gleeson (left) and Trinette Lindley (right) present a cheque to Janet Raddatz of the A.L.L. for Kids Program.

Have a question or know someone who would benefit from the WLC?
 Contact Karen Kirkwood-Whyte CEO, United Way of Chatham-Kent
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Thanks to the following WLC members who served on our standing committees during 2011-2012

Executive Committee
 Gayle Stucke, *Chair*, Kate DoForno, Julie Faas, Helen Heath, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Jeanine Lassaline-Berglund, Stephanie Watkinson, Kellie Watson, Kristen Williams

Grants Committee
 Kathryn Biondi, Wendie Brodie Lumley, Eleanor Gleeson, Helen Heath, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Trinette Lindley, Cheryl Newbury, Elizabeth Passmore, Ann Riegling, Jasara Talbot, Kellie Watson, Linda Ydreos

Special Events Committee
 Kate DoForno, Kelley Ilisvec, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Jeanine Lassaline-Berglund, Shelley MacDonald, Louane McFadden, Jasara Talbot



WHO WE ARE

We are women who improve the lives of other women and their families by committing expertise and money.

WHAT WE DO

The real strength of the Women's Leadership Council is that we are flexible and practical so we are free to do what needs to be done to address the gaps in funding and service in Chatham-Kent.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes ... I would like to become a member of the United Way Women's Leadership Council

name _____
 address _____
 phone home _____ cell _____ email _____
 birthday _____ so we can celebrate with you, year not required

ELIGIBILITY BEGINS WITH AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED WAY OF \$1,000 OR MORE

Please check the boxes that apply:

- Enclosed is a cheque payable to United Way of Chatham-Kent for \$ _____
- I wish to make a gift to United Way of Chatham-Kent in the amount of \$ _____ of which \$ _____ is to be designated to the Women's Leadership Council.
- I will make my contribution through my workplace employee campaign at _____
- Please charge my credit card for \$ _____
 Visa Mastercard # _____ (expiry __/__)
- I cannot be a member at this time, but would like to support the Women's Leadership Council in the amount of \$ _____

signature _____ date _____

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The following message was received in June of 2012 ...
"Over the past several years I have been struggling with transportation in my life. The pain and suffering in my whole body because of the old wheel chair had been too much for me to bear. I felt like it took me twenty minutes just to go to lunch. Going to entertainment and doing the things I loved most was just too big of an effort for me, until I was assessed and approved for a power chair. The only issue I had now was the money; I couldn't afford it on my own, let alone half which I was required to pay. I know in my heart I had a lot of friends and families praying for me every day and every night that there was someone out there who could help me. I just thank God that there was someone out there with a big enough heart to help me get through this.



I would like to give a special thanks to the United Way Women's Leadership Council for the help of purchasing me my brand new power chair. This chair has given me the ability to do the things I never thought I would be able to do again. I have gone out for lunch with friends, I go outside without being scared of not having the strength to get back in. It is a huge relief and has given me a better outlook on the life that I was missing. Before, people would ask to help me in my wheelchair, and I would refuse.

Even though I needed the help, I didn't want others to go out of their way to help me. Now, I feel like I have become more independent and can rely on myself to get around my home and community and enjoy my life. Others have noticed I am an overall happier person now. Thank you so much. This has made a huge impact on my life!"

~ Joan Misselbrook

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ALLOCATIONS FROM THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DURING 2012

HEALTH & WELL BEING

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$8,222.19

Within this category, several counseling sessions were made available for a woman leaving the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre, necessary supplies were provided to women attending breakfast sessions at AIDS Support Chatham-Kent and dentures were purchased for one woman and hearing aids for another. In addition, \$2,000 was contributed towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van and funds were committed for a 2013 screening of the film "Miss Representation".

WOMEN IN SITUATIONAL POVERTY

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$12,193.02

A highlight for the Women's Leadership Council was the receipt of a special "thank you" note (see cover story and photo) and special CD (go to the United Way web-site to view) from Joan Misselbrook – the first of three recipients of a new wheelchair from the WLC. Additional funds were provided, within this category, to assist with expenditures associated with a return to school following a marital breakdown, to purchase several household items following a house fire, a mileage subsidy for the individual working with migrant workers and first and last month's rent for a young woman committed to separating herself from the challenges of a home environment fraught with addiction. \$2,000, 2,000 for personal care items was also approved for the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre.



Gayle Stucke, Chair of United Way's Women's Leadership Council (middle), presents a cheque for \$3,000 to (L to R) Dan Hoffman (Educational Assistant), Gerhard (Georgie) Martins, WSSS Principal, Rob Lee and Trace Tapp, for the purchase of a SMART Table for the WSSS Special Education Program.

EDUCATION

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$14,393.89

Again in 2012, \$5,000 was provided to support the L.E.A.P. (Learning, Earning and Parenting) Homework Club where young mothers studied together to acquire their Grade 12 education while their pre-school children played together in a supervised environment. Two second-year \$1,000 bursaries and six first-year \$500 bursaries were given to women moving on to post-secondary education. And, Wallaceburg District Secondary School was the grateful recipient of \$3,000 from the Women's Leadership Council for their new SMART Table. Principal, Rob Lee writes, "The availability of a SMART table will complement our effort to provide technological tools to our classrooms for everyday use to enhance learning. Students will find the visual and tactile capabilities of the SMART table engaging to their learning and that supports our focus and the Board's focus of "Student Engagement" this year." A computer, complete with "Dragon" software was also provided to a former resident of the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$10,150.00

Once again, \$10,000 was provided to the A.L.L. for Kids Program to provide subsidies for children to attend art classes, music lessons, drama workshops and summer camps. Approximately 50 children benefited from this allocation. In addition, two little girls were given an opportunity to join the 4H Association.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$11,199.00

Within this category, \$6,000 was provided to send 30 First Nations students to Muskoka Camp for the first time. Two young women attended the Ontario Education Leadership Centre in the summer of 2012 and \$2,000 was given to St. Vincent de Paul Camp to support the hiring of a young female counselor in order to allow her to be removed from a very difficult home situation and be in a safe environment for the summer. This grateful recipient writes, "Thank you so much for the chance to experience so many life lessons this summer at SVDP. This gave me the chance to better myself. Thank you for believing in me and helping me to strive for success. God bless."

OPPORTUNITY FUND

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$1,250.00

Financial support was approved for the Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre's Awareness Month in May (\$1,000) and a bicycle was purchased for an event hosted by the Chatham-Kent Block Parent Program Inc.

It is worthy of note that **all** of the funds provided by the Women's Leadership Council support United Way of Chatham-Kent's Mission "to improve lives & build community" and support the organization's three focus areas

- 1) From poverty to possibility
- 2) Healthy people, strong communities
- 3) All that kids can be

Strategic Planning

"Love & kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver."

- Barbara De Angels



On 2012 AUG 25, ten members of the Women's Leadership Council met on the Saturday morning to spend three hours planning for the future of the WLC. Planning helps ensure that an organization remains relevant and responsive to the needs of its community and contributes to organizational stability and growth. It provides a basis for monitoring progress and for assessing results and impact. It facilitates new program development and it enables an organization to look into the future in an orderly and systematic way.

During this session, and again in a follow-up gathering in November, the group (with some newer members of the WLC) reviewed the existing terms of reference and discussed a proposed direction and focus. Each of the participants was keen to identify what drives the WLC as a group, what makes us unique, how we leverage the talents of the membership, how we inspire new members to join ... and, ultimately, how we have a greater impact on our community.

The January 2013 "Members Only" Event was subsequently designed to share this information and to confirm a living strategy that will define the value proposition for community development, for the members of the WLC and for the vulnerable women and children we serve. We thank Tracy Theemes and WLC Member, Jeanine Lassaline-Berglund for playing such a great role in facilitating these strategic planning sessions.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING 2012

The 2012 year began with two exciting events in January – both featuring our Chatham-born Vancouver friend Tracy Theemes from Sophia Wealth Academy. The "Lunch 'n Learn" and Investment Seminar were a big hit with all attendees.

In April, our Women's Leadership Council worked with The Salvation Army, Sun Life Financial, Luxe Ladies Fashions, Chatham-Kent Women's Centre and the Employment and Social Services Division of the Municipality – and a number of other community partners – to host "My Sister's Closet" – a "by invitation only" event for female clients of several local social service agencies. Over 50 women were treated to a new hair style, make-up session, nail treatment ... and many walked away with a "nearly new" clothing outfit. The smiles and end-of day evaluation forms confirmed the fact that this was a "please do it again!" event!

Our own WLC member, April Rietyk, Director, Public Health with the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit and two talented young women – Ashley Srokocz, Registered Holistic Nutritionist and Lisa Fox Bail, Certified Kinesiologist and Owner, Health Appeal presented to a large crowd of members and guests at our June "Networking Breakfast" at Retro Suites Hotel. The subject matter was "Menopause"!

Tracy Theemes – home in Chatham for the month of August - graciously offered to host another professional development event for the Women's Leadership Council. This one was entitled "The Power of Connection" and was well received by WLC members and their guests alike. We look forward to working with Tracy whenever she decides to visit her home town!

And ... the final event of the year - the "Leading Ladies Garden Party" was hosted at the home of our WLC President, Gayle Stucke in Wallaceburg. The event was catered by Dimitar's Restaurant and musical stylings were provided by Ryan Willan.

