

Executive Committee

Kate Do Forno, Julie Faas, Helen Heath
Karen Kirkwood-Whyte,
Jeanine Lassaline-Berglund,
Gayle Stucke, Stephanie Watkinson
Kellie Watson, Kristen Williams



left to right: Angela Corso, Patricia Arango, Kelley Ilisevic, Kathy Biondi. WLC members present \$2,000 to the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre during the Leading Ladies Garden Party and Membership Social.

Have a question or know someone who would benefit from the WLC?
Contact KAREN KIRKWOOD-WHYTE Executive Director, United Way of Chatham-Kent
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"Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot, nothing
is going to get better. It's not"
- Dr. Seuss

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION IS \$1,000 check the box that applies

- Enclosed is a cheque payable to United Way of Chatham-Kent for \$ _____
- I wish to make a Women's Leadership Gift in the amount of \$ _____ of which \$ _____ is to be designated to Women's Leadership Council initiatives
- I will make a pledge through my workplace campaign at _____
- Please charge my credit card _____ for \$ _____ (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 _____



WHO WE ARE

United Way of Chatham-Kent's Women's Leadership Council is a philanthropic network of amazing women who not only want to see positive change in Chatham-Kent - *they want to create it.* You will find over 130 United Way based Women's Leadership groups across the United States, but we are one of the very first in Canada! With just eight charter members in 2007, today we now are 85 strong. We are making a difference working with women for women.

"We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history."

- Sonia Johnson

WHAT WE DO

We are dedicated to giving a "hand up" to women and children who want to make a change for the better. In 2011, contributions from the Women's Leadership Council Members were invested back into the community. More details on how the WLC helped on page 2.

DID YOU KNOW...

Women have always been an integral part of the United Way.

The first United Way was founded in Denver, Colorado by a group of visionaries: five clergymen and a WOMAN, Frances Wisebart Jacobs. The six believed that there was a better way to meet the needs of local people. Their organization collected funds for local charities, coordinated relief services and made emergency assistance grants. In 1887 they called it Charity Organization Society, but today we just call it United Way.

inside this issue

- 2 making a difference
 - Cultural Activities
 - Education
 - Health & Well-Being
 - Leadership Development
 - Women in Situational Poverty
 - Opportunity Fund
- 3 networking & learning
- 4 contact information
- 4 becoming a member



WOMEN IN SITUATIONAL POVERTY

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$5,671.71

Within this particular category of support, numerous vulnerable women in our community benefited from purchases of bedroom furniture, kitchen appliances and winter footwear for children. Many of these referrals came from the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre – with a desire to provide a “hand up” to women who were leaving the shelter to make a fresh start. This allocation included a sum of \$2,000 for the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre to purchase pajamas and undergarments for women and children who enter the facility without these basic necessities.

HEALTH & WELL BEING

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$2,626.72

Within this category, an advanced admission was pledged for a young woman waiting for rehabilitation assistance at Teen Challenge Farm, a ramp was built for an elderly woman wishing to remain in her own home, the first of three counselling sessions were provided for a young mother hoping to learn new skills to help raise her child and a power lift recliner chaise lounge was purchased for a woman suffering from rheumatoid arthritis.



left to right: Kellie Watson presents \$2,500 to Jennifer Trinca and the Holy Family Catholic School String Orchestra. With the money they were able to purchase a cello & bass.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$10,000.00

Again in 2011, \$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.

OPPORTUNITY FUND

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$3,432.87

This fund was created by the WLC Grants Committee during 2011 to provide funding for special opportunities not covered through the other categories. The first allocation (\$2,292.87) was provided to the Holy Family Catholic School String Orchestra Program to purchase two musical instruments. The second offered an opportunity for two sisters to participate in 4H activities (\$140) and the final allocation of the year provided a Silver Sponsorship (\$1,000) for the “Imagine, Believe, Achieve Gala” in support of the Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre's new “Rebound Program” for at-risk youth.

EDUCATION

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$11,550.00

A further \$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 carefully supervised surroundings. Three first year graduates of the program were given \$1,000 bursaries to continue on to post-secondary education and three second year graduates were provided a further \$1,000 to continue their schooling. In addition to the foregoing, a further \$550 was provided to the Learning Disabilities Association – a United Way member agency – to provide one-on-one tutoring for a young child struggling with a learning disability.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL ALLOCATION - \$6,312.00

Three children benefited from WLC-funded assistance in the amount of \$1,812.00 to attend the Ontario Education Leadership Centre and \$4,500 was provided to the St. Clair Catholic District School Board to fulfill a three-year pledge to support Muskoka Woods Camp.

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 and build community” & focus on the organization's three new focus areas

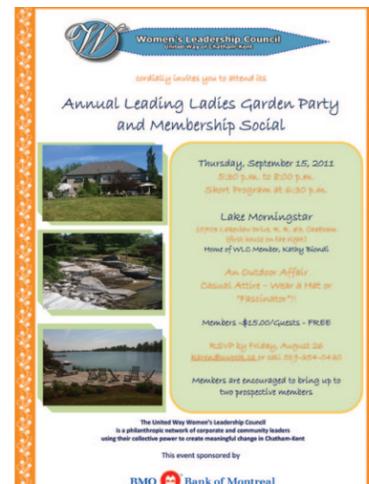
- 1) From poverty to possibility
- 2) Healthy people, strong communities
- 3) All that kids can be.



Networking, Socializing & Learning about our Community

WINTER LUNCH & LEARN

Our Lunch and Learn held in January 2011 was a fantastic example of how arts and culture can be used to improve the quality of lives in Chatham-Kent. The event was creatively draped in colour by local artist and MC Mark Reinhart, we heard from 13 year old aspiring artist Ashley Pywovar, Beverley Smith informed us on how to engage the youth through art and St. Ursula School delighted us with a musical piece.



LEADING LADIES GARDEN PARTY

This year we decked ourselves out in outrageous fascinators and enjoyed the lovely surroundings of Kathy Biondi's backyard. It was the perfect evening to welcome and get to know newcomers to WLC.

Special thanks to BMO for sponsoring the event.

