



Women's Leadership Council

United Way of Chatham-Kent

The Power of Women to Change Lives

WORLD OF CHOICES

Junior Achievement



Barb Smith (R) President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southwestern Ontario above with World of Choices participant.



World of Choices Planning Committee Audrey Ansell, WLC member Kate do Forno, and Kristy Jacobs.

The Women's Leadership Council was proud to sponsor Junior Achievement's World of Choices event for a second year.

The event was attended by 133 Grade 10 and 11 students from across Chatham-Kent who were able to connect with women of stature in 25 traditional and non-traditional careers, including the Canadian Armed Forces, funeral services, law, paramedics and firefighting. Of these women, 24 work in Chatham-Kent.

The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity for young women to speak with successful women from various careers regarding how they got there, what they do – day to day, challenges they have had to overcome and so much more! In addition, the event gives the mentors the opportunity to share their experiences and inspire the youth of today.

A highschool participant said "I learned a lot of stuff at the World of Choices event. I liked meeting with mentors in a one-on-one situation. A few words of advice that I got from some of the mentors were to 'keep ties and connections with people' and 'always keep your options open'. This was just some of the advice that I learned here which I will try to keep in mind for the future."

Junior Achievement representative Barb Smith shared " World of Choices gives young women the opportunity to hear from many successful women from both the traditional and non-traditional sector, first hand, about the everyday challenges and successes of their careers. It allows students to make sound decisions on their future careers, hopefully bringing them back to Chatham-Kent. It's a great experience for Grade 10 and 11 youth and we are happy to be able to put together such a terrific event with amazing people!"

Annual Report 2014-2015

Who we are

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

What we do

We provide opportunities to improve the lives of women and their families in vulnerable situations, through financial resources and gifts of personal time and talent. The real strength of the Women's Leadership Council is that we are flexible and practical so we are able to do what needs to be done to address gaps in funding as well as programs and services in Chatham-Kent.

Vision

A better life for women and their families in Chatham-Kent.

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Council Events

On 2014 SEP 25, we hosted our fall Leading Ladies Event 'The Mad Hatter's Harvest Tea Party' at the Links of Kent. This event offered members and their guests the opportunity to network, hear personal testimonials from grant recipients and learn about plans for 2015 all while enjoying traditional tea party treats - finger sandwiches and tasty dessert squares.



Snoezelen Room

Ursuline College Chatham "The Pines"

A Snoezelen Room is designed to offer individuals with special needs and challenging conditions the opportunity to exercise choice through action. Participants interact freely with the different components to create positive environments, control the level of sensory stimuli, adapt responses to sensory stimulation, experience easier transition to task, and behave in a more functional manner. In the photos above students can use the Musical Squares (on the left) to stimulate their auditory system for relaxation. Fiber optics (on the right) stimulate the visual and tactile system. The room also includes soft furnishings and wall padding for positioning, safety, and comfort. A Snoezelen Room affords an opportunity for the participant and caregiver to improve communication, enhance their understanding of each other, and build trust in their relationship.

Ursuline College Chatham "The Pines" had raised approximately 75% of the funds needed for construction of the Snoezelen Room when they approached the WLC to support the project. The Grants Committee approved the allocation of \$10,000 for the project under the Health and Well-Being category. One unique component of this Snoezelen Room is a space specifically dedicated for all students to de-stress and reduce anxiety. With the WLC grant the school has been able to complete construction of the room and it is now open to students.

In addition to financial support of the Snoezelen Room (\$10,000), Junior Achievement "World of Choices" Event (\$5,000) and A.L.L. for Kids Program (\$10,000) featured on pages 1-3 of this Annual Report, the Women's Leadership Council also provided financial support for the L.E.A.P. (Learning, Earning and Parenting) Program (\$5,000), Bursaries for L.E.A.P. Graduates (\$5,000), Aids Support Chatham-Kent Breakfast Club (\$5,000), SWEET Recovery Program (\$3,360), Operation BackPacks (\$15,000) and Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre's Physical Culture Program (\$13,427), the WLC has provided additional grants to support educational opportunities for youth and numerous assistive devices (hearing aids, wheelchairs, braces) and household appliances for women in vulnerable situations. Please see the pie chart on page 3 for a complete breakdown of the allocations granted during the calendar year 2014.



IMPACT *Stories*

A.L.L. for Kids Programs

The A.L.L. for Kids Program helps with the cost of registering children for recreational activities. A.L.L. stands for Activities, Lessons and Leisure. The Women's Leadership Council provided \$10,000 to the A.L.L. for Kids Program during 2014.

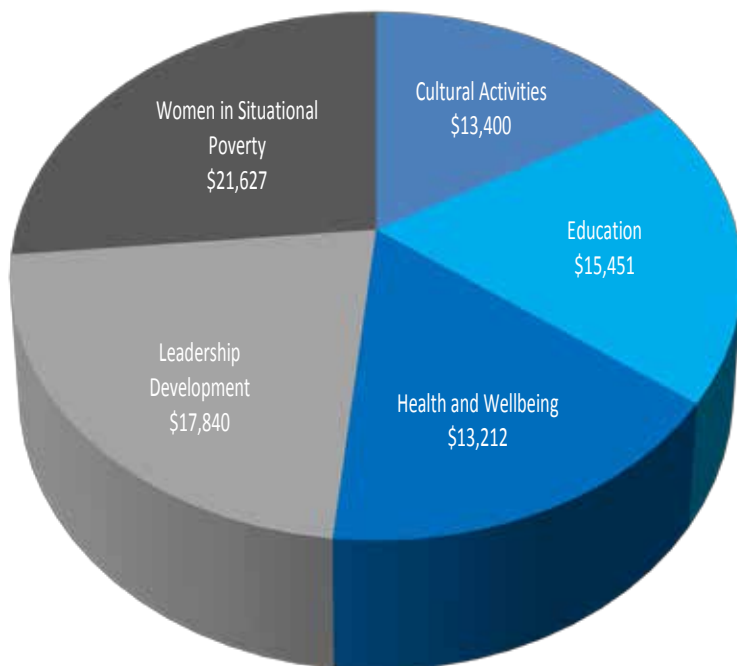


"I am a recipient of A.L.L. For Kids. I have two daughters who have enjoyed the activities they have been enrolled in. I am especially thankful for my youngest daughter to receive piano lessons. In late 2013 it was discovered that she had a learning disability. She went through extensive testing and was diagnosed with Auditory Processing Disorder. Unfortunately, there is no funding or treatment for this disorder. It was advised to me that she would benefit immensely from piano lessons, as it would strengthen the side of the brain that she has trouble with. She has been enrolled in piano lessons for the last year and a half and I have seen great strides of improvement from her. As an educated, working, single mother of

two daughters I am thankful for the assistance that A.L.L. For Kids and the Women's Leadership Council provides to my family."

- Mary, Chatham Mom

2014 *Allocations*



A total of \$81,530 was invested in our community, through the Women's Leadership Council, in 2014.

Council Events

The annual winter Lunch and Learn featured a presentation on leadership from WLC member Libby Passmore. Here are some key messages Libby shared with the group.

"Leadership is a relationship. I've attended leadership training at several notable business schools and have supplemented classroom teaching by trying to read at least one book a year on the subject. Consistently the messages I have heard are ... 'People will be loyal to authentic, dedicated leaders. People trust leaders who have built a strong relationship with them.'"

Libby also highlighted a quote from Patrick Lencioni – who has sold millions of copies of his Leadership Trilogy. On the concept of Personal Leadership, Lencioni says, *'As a leader, you're probably not doing a good job unless your employees can do a good impression of you when you are not around.'*



Current Executive and Standing Committee Members:

Executive Committee

Gayle Stucke (Chair),
Kate do Forno, Elizabeth Cummings,
Emily Durbin, Julie Faas, Helen Heath,
Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Trinette Lindley,
Louane McFadden, Joanne Trinca,
Stephanie Watkinson

Grants Committee

Trinette Lindley (Chair),
Kathy Biondi, Ruth Dekker, Eleanor Gleeson,
Helen Heath, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, Louane
McFadden, Libby Passmore, Monica Van Dellen

Special Events Committee

Joanne Trinca (Chair),
Julie Faas, Helen Heath, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte,
Mary Lynn Lister Santavy

Communications Committee

Louane McFadden (Chair),
Emily Durbin, Karen Kirkwood-Whyte

Have a question or know someone who would benefit from the WLC?
Contact Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, CEO, United Way of Chatham-Kent
p: 519-354-0430 e: karen@uwock.ca



United Way
Chatham-Kent

I would like to become a member

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Birthday: _____

(So we can celebrate with you! Year not required)

Payment Method

Eligibility begins with an annual contribution to United Way of \$1,000 or more

Payroll Deduction: Please deduct ____ x ____ pay periods for a total of \$ _____

Cash Cheque: Payable to United Way of Chatham-Kent \$ _____

Credit Card Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Expiry _____

Please charge my credit card for a one-time gift of \$ _____

Please charge my credit card \$ _____ on the ____ day of each month starting
in January for a period of one year.

Automatic Bank Deduction: Please deduct \$ _____ on the ____ day of each
month starting in January for a period of one year. A void cheque is attached. I understand
that I may revoke authorization at any time, subject to notice.

I wish to designate \$ _____ of my gift to the Women's Leadership Council.

Signature _____

Date _____