



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Windsor-Essex County

# TOGETHER WE ARE POSSIBILITY

2016-17 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

By focusing on meeting the needs of the MOST vulnerable in our community – seniors and children living in low income, people struggling with mental health issues, and residents in economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods - United Way is taking a stand and investing in effective strategies to help reduce and even eliminate poverty one person at a time.

## FAMILY SUPPORTS

### GOAL:

Provide support to families with a family member or child with a disability or mental health concern.

### HOW:

By helping people access services that will effectively address their family members' needs, and through peer to peer mentoring, and support and advocacy groups for parents.

### SUCCESSSES:

575

Number of families that have been supported by the program.

98%

Percentage of families who feel the programs have been **important in helping them work through challenges.**

55

Number of **1-on-1 supportive matches** made linking new families with a Family Mentor who has been in a similar situation.

Some parent participants are also able to earn part-time employment through the program to support their family.



## COUNSELLING

### GOAL:

Ensure that everyone in Windsor-Essex County knows where to go for counselling, and can get the help they need without having to wait or pay more than they can afford.

### HOW:

By providing one-on-one counselling and group support for people across Windsor and Essex County, and offering crisis-response walk-in clinics in Windsor, Leamington, Kingsville and Harrow.

### SUCCESSSES:

1,699

Number of people counselling programs helped last year.

85%

Percentage of people who experienced a **reduction in transportation barriers** accessing counselling services, due to the introduction of walk-in clinics across Essex County.

98%

Percentage of participants who feel the **program enabled them to work through their challenges.**

Zero wait times remain the standard for United Way-supported counselling services. Kevin (below) was thankful for the help.





▲ Resident programs have seen great success for using on alley clean-ups, reclaiming vacant spaces, fighting illegal dumping and increasing by-law compliance.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

### GOAL:

Everyone in Windsor-Essex gets involved in their neighbourhood to make the community safer and stronger.

### HOW:

People join resident committees and participate in activities to transform their neighbourhoods and build a sense of community through social, economic and physical revitalization.

### SUCCESSES:

**867** Number of volunteers who donated over 4,620 hours to activities designed to engage residents and revitalize their neighbourhood

**73%** Percentage of residents who feel United Way funded resident programs help them feel **more engaged in their community** (an increase of 28% over last year).

**9,700** Number of people our four priority neighbourhoods hosted at 71 community events last year.

## SENIORS INDEPENDENCE

### GOAL:

Keep seniors active and reduce isolation by bringing activities and education to seniors' buildings in priority neighbourhoods and to create social support networks.

### HOW:

Outreach plays an important role in addressing the risk factors for isolated seniors living in low-income such as poor health and depression. Providing activities where seniors live develops, maintains and strengthens the capacity of older adults to be active and contributing community members.

### SUCCESSES:

**18** Number of apartment buildings with scheduled senior engagement activities, including 4 new apartment buildings.

**80%** Percentage of seniors who feel safer in their neighbourhood during the day because of a United Way-funded program (up 8% over last year).

**905** Number of seniors who took part in activities focused on health and wellness, safety and awareness, social clubs and supportive care.



▲ Senior and program staff member enjoy a free hearty lunch at Rivard area Outreach program.



*“The youth center has played an important role in my life.”*

*- Kaydence, The After School Collaborative*

## AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT

**HARROW**—“Hi my name is Kaydence. I am 12 years old and I have been going to the youth center for six years now. I have met people from different schools and I have even met some of my really good friends there.

At the youth centre they always help everyone with homework and projects which definitely helps with the evenings when mom and dad work later and can't pick us up until 6:00. They have also helped my brothers and I learn new games, and helped us find our love for the game of chess which has brought us to a few chess competitions over the last couple years.

They have also taught us to use proper manners and how to tell the rights from the wrongs they also encourage you to be active and to eat healthy.

*The youth center has played an important role in my life. With all the important life skills I have learned at the youth centre, it has taught me to respect my parents and other elders; kindness is very important, helping others will make you feel good about yourself and most importantly be yourself and speak your mind when asked.”*—Kaydence, After School program participant

**United Way-funded After School programs** include homework assistance, a healthy snack and opportunities for physical activity and recreation to elementary school children – all under the supervision of caring adults. Last year 478 children participated in the programs, offered five days a week during the school year. Parents say this program has helped their children do better in school, helped their children get along with others, and has contributed to positive behavioural choices.

**TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO DONATED TO OUR LOCAL UNITED WAY:  
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH. BECAUSE OF YOU, OVER 52,300  
PEOPLE WERE HELPED ACROSS WINDSOR & ESSEX COUNTY LAST YEAR.**

**Our impact is your impact.** The work of United Way is simply not possible without the incredible support of our donors, volunteers, residents and funded partners. Together, we're not only meeting the immediate needs of people in our local community, we're taking collective action to create opportunities for people – right here at home. Visit [weareunited.com/ThankYou](http://weareunited.com/ThankYou) to learn more about our incredible donors, volunteers and partners. To see where your donations are being invested, visit [www.weareunited.com/Results](http://www.weareunited.com/Results).

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**Cover:** West Windsor children in United Way's Summer Lunch Program enjoy a meal prepared by volunteers.

