

**ON TRACK TO SUCCESS**  
**UNITED WAY/CENTRAIDE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY**



# 2017-18 YEAR END REPORT



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Windsor-Essex County

# Exciting New Partnership

We are pleased to announce that the On Track to Success program in partnership with St. Clair College and the University of Windsor were successful in a recent request for funding through the Ontario Post-Secondary Access & Inclusion program, which is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities.

The fund was established to encourage and support underrepresented populations to attend post-secondary institutions. Through this funding both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor have been able to assign staff members to assist the students in our program with the transition, providing them with a familiar face that they can go to for support. This support will also include hosting workshops and engagement opportunities. Topics that will be addressed include: financial aid, counselling services, course selection, and career navigation support.

The On Track to Success program, with the support of this funding and other contributions secured, has been able to hire four additional staff members and bring in 50 new grade 12 students into the program. Our support will focus on assisting these new students with their transition into post-secondary studies. Both the local school boards as well as the current students in the program are thrilled that we are able to provide the On Track to Success program to more students in our community.



**New On Track to Success Staff Members (From Left to Right):**  
Joann Duddy Ph.D., Krystyn Kale, Zeneeka Brown, & Joseph Friesen





1. Students attend HDGH to learn about careers in healthcare.



2. Students participated in a 12 week cooking workshop series to improve their culinary skills and provide nutritious meals for their families.

3. On Track to Success students host a meet and greet with program sponsors.



4. Students attend the Windsor Essex Pride Parade with CUPE Local 543.



5. Students visit St. Clair College to learn about their programs and services.

6. The On Track to Success program wins the Sponsors Choice Award at the Leamington Business Excellence Awards sponsored by Libro Credit Union.



7. Students participate in a leadership development day at Gesstwood Ropes Course.



8. Over \$43,000 was raised for the On Track to Success program at our 2nd Annual Battle of the Growers Event.



# By the Numbers

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125

Number of students enrolled in the program (double the amount served from last year).

80%

80% of the students achieved the academic expectations for the program.

91%

Percentage of students that are still enrolled in the program. The retention rate is much higher than similar youth programs.

94%

Percentage of students from the graduating cohort who plan on attending a post-secondary program next year. (National Avg. = 47% for similar household income)

## Looking Ahead

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For the past three years the On Track to Success program has shown great success in improving outcomes for students and for providing essential wrap around support to families that ensures that children can focus on school and not the stressful challenges that are often experienced by living in low-income. Our program's focus on encouraging young people to reach their full potential by attending a post-secondary program is going to be coming to fruition next summer with our first cohort of students graduating high school. Currently, 94% of our first cohort of students are on track to graduate and want to attend College or University in the Fall of 2019. We are so proud of their accomplishments and they continue to act as leaders and mentors for new students who join our program.

As we look ahead, our program will focus on how we can improve our level of support so that more students reach their academic potential. We believe that we can better mitigate the barriers or challenges that students are experiencing so that they don't impact their academic performance and derail their current success. One of the ways we have invested in this is by hiring more Success Coaches so that the students and their families get enhanced attention and individualized support to help them be successful. We continue to form new partnerships with mental health service providers so that concerns can be addressed more quickly and focus on preventative interventions.

Our team is really looking forward to the year ahead. With the implementation of our career mentoring program, developing new mental health initiatives, and providing better wrap around support, we can maximize opportunities for all students to reach their full potential. We want to thank you for making this all possible.





**"I wish there was something like this when I was growing up."**

- Tracey, parent of two students in the On Track to Success program.

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Hello, my name is Tracey and my twins are in the On Track to Success program. We had the honour of meeting Liam at the end of their grade 8 year as they were the first group of kids in the program. My twins at that point were doing the best they could at school but they were struggling with lots of little things. One of them was a bit shy and the other was very social. I was worried that they would follow the wrong path and just do the bare minimum.

But once I was introduced to Liam I knew this was not going to be the case. The program can step in where I was having trouble. Providing help with school work, counselling, and someone to talk to and help me solve problems.

Little did we know of all the things the program would do for us and change for us. My twins will be going to University next year because of this program and I could not be prouder of them.

The financial support has really helped me and my family as well. The encouragement we have all received as a family to do better any way we can has inspired us all. A few examples of this for myself and my family is when we got to go to different career days, music concerts, art opportunities, and even a chance to meet some famous people. Simple things like getting a drive to a doctor's appointment or to take my kids to extra curricular activities has really taken a lot of stress off of me as I would often skip appointments because I don't have a vehicle and couldn't afford to get there.

Not to mention the connection to housing and the mental health walk-in clinic when I was having a hard time. This led to other things such as my doctor switching my medications for me and encouraging me to attend a 12 week peer support group. Liam was there through it all attending with me and supporting me. I don't know if I would have survived the stress, anxiety, or pressure without Liam's support.

I am also so happy because my twins now have a few more adults that they can count on and turn to in a time of need. I know they will go on to do amazing things because of the program and I can't thank you all enough for all of the opportunities that my girls have had and will have because of the caring people who want to make a difference, such a big difference in some pretty amazing kids that without the program and support would have fallen through the cracks. I wish there was something like this when I was growing up. Thank you for changing the lives of so many families.



# On Track to Success Partners

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## Corporate Partners

ArcelorMittal Windsor, a division of  
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CUPE Local 3137  
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UNIFOR Local 1999  
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UE Enclosures

## Foundations

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Women Leading the Way in  
Windsor-Essex County

## School Partners

Assumption College Catholic Secondary  
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Western Secondary School  
Westview Freedom Academy

## Individual Philanthropists

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Walkerville Block Party Fundraising Inc.

## Key Community Partners

Greater Essex County District School Board  
CUPE Locals 27/1348/1358/ETFO Local  
3255/OSSTF District 9/WESSOA/OPC  
Sandwich Teen Action Group (S.T.A.G.)  
South Essex Community Council  
CUPE Local 4523  
St. Clair College  
The Corporation of the Municipality of  
Leamington  
CUPE Local 528.4/ Teamsters Local 879  
University of Windsor  
CUPE Local 1001, 1393, 4580  
UNIFOR Local 195,2458 & WUFA  
Windsor-Essex Catholic District  
School Board  
CUPE Local 1358/ OECTA  
Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society  
CUPE Local 2286

*\*Additionally, thank you to all donors who  
prefer to remain anonymous.*