



On Track
to Success



YEAR END REPORT 2019/2020

UNITED WAY/CENTRAIDE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

YEAR IN REVIEW

The last year with On Track to Success program has been a year for the books with many highs to celebrate throughout. Despite having to adapt the program to a virtual model, our students continued to demonstrate how resilient and dedicated they are to reaching their full potential. We are extremely proud of our students' commitment to the program and their willingness to learn and adapt.

This year all our students were able to experience their grade specific level programming. Social Mentoring continued for grade nine students to develop soft skills through skill-building workshops. Our Career Navigation program for student in grades 10 and 11 provided them with opportunity to explore different career paths through a promising career sector lens by visiting various workplaces in the community and participating in informational interviews with professionals. Grade 12 students in the Career Mentoring program were accompanied by dedicated career mentors that assisted them in accomplishing different high school milestones such as applying to post-secondary and completing scholarship applications.

Much like the rest of the world, the On Track to Success program had to pivot to an online platform three short months into the new year. Our students were provided with the necessary technology to support their academic transition to an online model. Weekly tutoring continued on our online platform thanks to the support of students from the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor who stepped up to volunteer their time.

The supports offered to our students during this unprecedented time revealed positive feedback from our students. 93% found the online career mentoring, social programming and tutoring beneficial and 83% agreed the sessions made them feel supported.



Our program continues to evolve with new program elements based on student feedback. Some of the most notable experiences of the year for our students occurred during Black History Month. Students in the program toured the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, learning about local black leaders and the history of the underground railroad. They also attended a production at the Capitol Theatre entitled "Black Kids in Action: It's Us" and participated in an "open mic" night where students shared their own experiences of growing up as a black youth in our community. Ensuring our programming is reflective of our students and their experiences is something we are committed to providing as we move forward in the year ahead.

BY THE NUMBERS

2019-2020 Year End Outcomes for the On Track to Success Program

89%

Percentage of students who graduated high school on time (+7.5% than provincial average).

\$225K

The amount of bursaries awarded to On Track to Success graduates

71%

Percentage of program graduates enrolled in post-secondary studies

85%

Percentage of students still enrolled in the program.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ELLIOT WEHRLE | VOLUNTEER SINCE



Elliot has attended almost every tutoring session since he started volunteering in September of 2018. During the past 2 years, Elliot has mentioned that his volunteering never felt like an obligation and was easily the thing he looked forward to the most every day. Elliot has built incredible relationships and has become a wonderful mentor and role model for the On Track to Success students. Elliot's approachable demeanor and unbelievable skills makes him a vital asset to the program.

A message from Elliot to current and future donors: "To the people who have donated to the program: thank you! I've known some of these kids for over two years now, and I honestly believe that your donation has been worth more than its value in dollars. What impresses me the most about OTTS is its comprehensive approach. The people driving this program have an informed and thorough understanding of what goes into breaking cyclical poverty. On Track to Success is not just about academics; it's about professional and career support, it's about emotional and personal support, it's about family and at-home support. The multi-dimensional design of the program, as well as its goal to provide this assistance to youth from "cradle to career", inspires confidence. "

ON TRACK TO SUCCESS GRADS



JOSHUA

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE GRAD '23

Being in school was always a hassle for me, especially in elementary school, as learning and doing my work was an overall challenge for me. But then high school came around in 2015, and I was introduced to the On Track To Success program.

Getting the help from On Track to Success got me where I am now, and I couldn't be more grateful for it. I managed to graduate high school earlier this year, got a part-time job last year in 2019. and to top it all off, I started post-secondary this past September at St. Clair College. These accomplishments have made me more proud of myself than ever, and my parents are so happy for me.

I want to give a huge, huge thanks to my tutors, my sponsors, and just everyone who's a part of On Track To Success, and United Way in general. Without this program I don't think I would be where I am today.



VENESSA

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR GRAD '24

At first I thought the program would help me study better but I didn't expect was the program to change my life the way it did. I started attending the tutoring sessions. At first, I kept to myself but I soon made friends. The program was a major opportunity for me to branch out and make new connections as my family had only moved to Windsor in 2018. Then, my grades started to improve and I learned more efficient ways to study. I became more motivated to attend University as I would be the first person in my family to attend. I learned about financial planning, got to tour campus, and learn about new opportunities. When school moved online due to COVID-19, the program adapted and I was able to get the help I needed virtually.

Regardless of the numerous challenges and obstacles I've faced in my journey to post-secondary, I have always had the support of my Success Coaches. They were always there for me and even when I was feeling low, they never gave up on me. Through them and the program, I've learned so much about myself and I'm confident that I'll be successful in my future.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

University of Windsor

The University of Windsor has been a major supporter and champion of the On Track to Success program over the last five years. Our partnership with the University of Windsor has been quintessential in ensuring our graduates get the support they need to transition successfully into University life.

With the support of their high school liaison officer, a role specifically created to help support graduates of the On Track to Success program, we were able to host many outreach and skill building workshops on campus.

Some of the topics covered included: financial aid, bursary and scholarship applications, mental health and wellness supports, and how to navigate course selection. All of sessions helped prepare our graduates for life in post-secondary. Many students identified that the grade 12 transition program, implemented in partnership with the University, persuaded them to attend post-secondary, something they previously thought was unattainable based on their family financial situation.

In addition, students had the opportunity to experience student life. Our students were able to explore campus with specialized tours, watch a basketball game and a student production, and attend an Indigenous round dance and drum circle in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2 Spirited individuals.

In 2020, On Track to Success graduates were awarded \$177,800 in bursaries and scholarships from the University of Windsor. Including, the \$32,000 Ed Lumley Bursary which was awarded to On Track to Success student Leah. Leah is studying Criminology at the University of Windsor and as the first person in her family to attend university. This award has been life changing for both her and her family.

Thank you to the University of Windsor for their ongoing partnership.



- ▶ On Track to Success in Action (from left). Drum circle in honour of MMIWG.
- On Track to Success in Action (from middle). Leah, recipient of the Ed Lumley Bursary.
- On Track to Success in Action (from right). Students attending a Lancers basketball game.

ON TRACK TO SUCCESS

PARTNERS

Corporate & Labour Partners

ArcelorMittal Windsor
BASF Canada
Chapman, Sanger & Associates LLP
CUPE Locals 82, 543, & 3137
Cypher Systems Group Inc.
Jem D. International Partners LP
LAVAL International
RT Consulting
UE Enclosures

Foundations

Barry & Stephanie Zekelman
Bill & Rochelle Tepperman
Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
UNIFOR Local 2458/ ONA
Local 8/ OPSEU Locals 101/142
The Neighbourhood Charitable Alliance
O'Brien - Jackson Family Foundation
RBC Foundation
Retiree Volunteer Council
Women United

School Partners

Assumption College Catholic Secondary
Cardinal Carter Secondary
Leamington District Secondary
Westview Freedom Academy

Individual Philanthropists

David Cooke
Mary Jean Gallagher
Patrick and Arlene Goggins
Carl Hooper
Cheryl & Barry Horrobin
Dina & Sean O'Neil
Dr. Douglas Paterson &
Margaret Cole-Paterson
Dr. James Purvis
Jeffrey Slopen
Truax Family
Sean & Jennifer White

Key Community Partners

Greater Essex County District School Board
CUPE Locals 27/1348/1358/ETFO Local
3255/OSSTF District 9/WESSOA/OPC
The Corporation of the Municipality of
Leamington
CUPE Local 528.4/ Teamsters Local 879
Sandwich Teen Action Group (S.T.A.G.)
South Essex Community Council
CUPE Local 4523
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



**United Way
Centraide**

Windsor-Essex County

*Thank you to all donors who prefer to
remain anonymous.*