



# WINDSOR-ESSEX COMPASSION CARE COMMUNITY

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## *Youth Leadership*

### Building Greater Communities With The Assistance of Our Youth

American activist and writer Angela Davis once said "You can never stop and as older people, we have to learn how to take leadership from the youth and I guess I would say that this is what I am attempting to do right now." Right now, the Windsor Essex Compassion Care Community recognizes that youth can play a key role in helping to develop community services that affect us all. With a mission to create the most compassionate community in Canada, WECCC aims to work with youth from high schools, colleges, universities and other local youth based organizations. Since its inception in September of 2014, WECCC has had the opportunity to engage students in the program and to help them attain their university degrees and diplomas. Interning with the WECCC is an opportunity for reciprocated or shared learning. Here are what some of our future leaders had to say about their experiences during their internships and how they see WECCC fitting into their community.

Jack McLaren (University of Windsor Student): "I think Windsor-Essex is already a very compassionate community but I think this gives the community the frame work to which then they can put that frame work to use."

Chrystal Terron (Trios College Student): "It gives people an opportunity to get reintroduced to their community. The whole aspect of it takes a village (to raise a child) has kind of been lost and I feel this initiative is really going to bring that back to life. Having to get reunited with the community might be a little difficult for some people. It might be scary

for them but I feel this is a really great movement and once we really show the benefit of this then everyone is going to get right on board."

Laura-Lynn Atkins (University of Windsor Student): "It's definitely nice to see a change from focus on the health care services to more impacting the community and bringing people together."

## Our WECCC Partners/Team

This month we take a look at youth leaders and the role youth engagement plays in the growth and development of our community. With youth focused programs in organizations such as Pathway to Potential (P2P), United Way, and Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor (W.E.S.T) it is evident that the inclusion of youth for a greater tomorrow is a desirable reality. Adding to the collective prosperity by engaging youth comes with some challenges but with desirable outcomes such as that with P2P including overall citizens: income security and equity, employment and training, food security, literacy and lifelong learning, the champions to give voice to this may be best found amongst our youth.

One of our partners has taken this mission of engaging youth to heart and brought it back to the community as the group, Leadership Windsor-Essex (LWE). This group of young adults worked on a school strategy and youth involvement strategy for the WECCC that can then be shared with our school aged youth so they can help improve our community. This includes making it easy for schools to: make compassion part of the experience of every learner in the county; offer community-based mentorship and learning placements to youth leaders; support inter-generational exchanges that normalize aging and end-of-life; explore alignment of school-based community programs to support the compassionate community; be part of a movement to create a culture of giving across the county.

Together and across generations we can share the purpose of WECCC. That is to encourage citizens to offer kindness toward each other to help people in this county to live better, thrive, and prosper, at all stages of their life journey. The belief is that promoting neighbourly acts of kindness can help our needy neighbours, reduce their reliance on formal systems such as hospitals and social service agencies while strengthening the quality of our neighbourhoods.

With organizations like LWE and WECCC working together, the community is not only one step closer to becoming the most compassionate community in the country, but we are also helping to uphold the mission of LWE that is to engage progressive civic leaders, to broaden knowledge, and build skills for the betterment of Windsor/Essex. In the process we are also creating unity and community across the county.

## Official Logo Launch

The official logo for the WECCC is now rolled out and fully in action across all of our social media and our websites. Thank you to our tech team for creating something we feel perfectly represents Windsor-



Essex. It's the combination of the rolling hills, buildings, and windmills familiar to anyone that has taken a drive from the 401 into Downtown that makes this logo a great representation of our community.

### **Leamington Pilot Launch Announcement**

The Windsor-Essex Compassion Care Community is gearing up for a research study in Leamington in November 2016. The Team has been busy preparing for the study and is looking forward to seeing the plans come to fruition.

### **Recent & Upcoming Events**

#### ***Citizen Table and Sponsor Table Meeting– September 14, 2016***

During this event our partners and other citizens of the community will join us for an update on the WECCC and how it is progressing. Leaders and citizens will also be invited to provide feedback on the initiative, therefore, deepening our commitment to support a community that is transparent and inclusive at all levels of citizenry, business, faith, and government.

#### ***WECCC Workplace Selfie Competition***

The Work Selfie contest is awaiting launch. During this contest, people will be asked to send in selfie pictures with their compassionate coworkers. Show your coworkers some work love and highlight their fantastic work around the office by sending in a selfie with them.

#### ***Compassion Choir***

We are currently in the process of organizing a compassion choir that crosses all generations and abilities. Any person or group that would like to join others in song can contact the office at the number above.

### **Song Writing Contest**

Our song writing contest wrapped up on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Our judges had a tough task in reviewing submissions and grading songs but are happy to announce our winner. Alice Hesselrode and her song "Hold His Hand" will receive a \$200 cash prize, 4 hours of studio time with Music Artist Development (M.A.D.), and exposure on WECCC social media including Facebook and Instagram.

### **Video Contest**

Our video contest is under way and we are still looking for submissions. The video contest should feature at least one of our four arms (Neighbours Helping Neighbours, Outreach, Community, or Care). If interested, please contact the WECCC for more details or visit our website to for information about our organization and the contest <http://www.weccc.ca>.

## Student, Staff, Volunteer, & Intern Appreciation



**Marina Pokrajac**

Marina is on the Project Management Team and is responsible for organizing the neighborhood arm of the project. This means connecting with community organizations and leaders to engage them with the WECCC.



**Nancy Adams**

Nancy is a dedicated volunteer for both the Hospice of Windsor Essex County and the Windsor Essex Compassion Care Community. As communications support for the WECCC, Nancy has worked to support all print communications documents as an editor and contributor. Thank you for all that you do. We at the WECCC greatly appreciate your support.



**Christie Nelson**

Christie is our Communications Specialist. In addition to managing our communications interns, Christie has been responsible for filming, video editing, writing newsletters, social media, revising contracts and agreements.

### Contact Us

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