



GOOD TO GIVE GUIDE 2025/2026



INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY, TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY,
TODAY AND FOREVER!



ABOUT OUR GUIDE

Each Fall, the WindsorEssex Community Foundation provides grants to local charitable organizations through its annual Community Impact Grant Program. In 2025, WECF received applications from 35 organizations seeking more than \$400,000 in funding.

We are humbled by the overwhelming response from our charitable partners, who shared the meaningful and impactful work they are doing in our community. This year, we are proud to support seven organizations.

While we are unable to fund every application, we recognize the importance of all the initiatives submitted. We are pleased to highlight these projects and draw attention to the ongoing funding needs within the Windsor-Essex community.

This guide has been created as a resource to help you learn more about the organizations and initiatives that applied for the 2025-2026 Community Impact Grant and are still seeking support. We hope it inspires you to explore the incredible work happening across Windsor-Essex. When considering charitable donations, we encourage you to engage directly with organizations and build relationships as part of your due diligence.

The WindsorEssex Community Foundation is dedicated to strengthening communities across Windsor-Essex County through collaboration, strategic leadership, and innovative approaches to charitable giving. For over 40 years, WECF has worked to enhance quality of life and create opportunities for prosperity for residents throughout Windsor and Essex County.

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VITAL SIGNS

We use 11 Vital Signs issue areas to guide our grant-making by using local data and community input to identify the greatest needs and priorities, ensuring funding is directed where it will have the most impact.



ARTS & CULTURE



FOOD SECURITY



LEARNING



SAFETY



BELONGING & LEADERSHIP



GETTING AROUND



HOUSING



WORK



ENVIRONMENT



GETTING STARTED



**HEALTH, WELLNESS &
ACTIVITY**



ART WINDSOR-ESSEX

Art Windsor-Essex (AWE) is seeking support for a year-long 2025–26 initiative offering monthly free admission days, designed to welcome thousands of visitors and expand access to the arts for people of all ages. As a public gallery committed to connecting communities with contemporary and historical art through exhibitions, education, and engagement, AWE will use this support to ensure the success of these high-attendance days by funding staffing and training, marketing and outreach across digital, print, and community channels, and materials for workshops and guided tours.

Project/Initiative: 2025/26 Monthly Free Admission Days at AWE
Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.artwindsor-essex.ca



ARTS COUNCIL - WINDSOR & REGION

In partnership with Artcite Inc., this project will relocate the New Voices billboard to Ford City for one year, where it will host community-led programming that amplifies underrepresented and marginalized artists while uncovering local histories, highlighting the surrounding community, and fostering a strong sense of presence and belonging. Funding is being sought to support the billboard's reinstallation and the delivery of eight exhibitions with accompanying community engagement activities, with additional support from the Arts Council Windsor & Region to strengthen local arts programming and community connections.

Project/Initiative: Bringing the New Voices program to Ford City for One Year, in Partnership with Artcite Inc
Funding Requested: \$12,204.50

www.acwr.net



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex are seeking support to expand the proven Go Girls Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Game On Eat Smart Play Smart programs beyond schools into local neighbourhood community centres, helping reach youth who may not otherwise have access in an after school setting. Funding will support program food and activities, transportation for student placements, and a portion of staff time to ensure proper training and delivery.

Project/Initiative: Go Girls Game On -Community

Funding Requested: \$12,500

www.windsor.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



CMHA - WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY



The Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex Comfort Closet and MOST Van provide personal hygiene supplies, seasonal items, and non perishable snacks to individuals experiencing food and housing insecurity across Windsor and Essex County. We are requesting funding to support a monthly budget of \$1,250, which will fund the purchase of essential items for distribution through both programs.



Project/Initiative: Comfort Closet & MOST Van Supplies

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.windsor-essex.cmha.ca



CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Mobile Hub is bringing life-changing programs and services directly to people who are blind, Deafblind, or living with low vision throughout Windsor-Essex. By removing transportation and geographic barriers, this innovative program-on-wheels delivers accessible technology training, wellness and social programs, employment support for young adults, and empowering opportunities for children and youth. The Mobile Hub helps participants build independence, confidence, and meaningful community connections while improving access to education, employment, and recreation. Your support will help create a more inclusive Windsor-Essex where individuals with sight loss can thrive, achieve their goals, and fully participate in every aspect of community life.

Project/Initiative: CNIB Mobile Hub Windsor Essex

Funding Requested: \$12,226

www.cnib.ca/en



COMMUNITY LIVING WINDSOR

Your support will help Community Living Windsor's Creative Community Experience Theatre Troupe create and perform an original theatre production in collaboration with a professional director. This project will showcase the talents of paid actor-creators with disabilities, increasing authentic representation and inclusion in Windsor's arts community. Participants will build valuable skills such as communication, collaboration, leadership, and problem-solving while gaining confidence and pride in their creative work. Public performances will bring the community together, challenge stereotypes, and celebrate the artistic contributions of people with disabilities, creating lasting opportunities for inclusion both on and off the stage.

Project/Initiative: The Main Event

Funding Requested: \$12,360

www.clwindsor.org



CONNECTIONS EARLY YEARS FAMILY CENTRE



Be Back Soon provides qualifying parents with flexible, no cost, short-term, unlicensed childcare for short periods of time so they can attend appointments and access other services to improve their family's well-being.



Connections has provided this unique service for 21 years, serving a vulnerable population:

- Unemployed and newcomers
- Parents experiencing intimate partner violence and court witnesses
- Parents facing difficult changes in their circumstances or in transition
- Parents accessing other services to create stability for their families.

Project/Initiative: Be Back Soon Program

Funding Requested: Flexible, starting at \$177/3-hour session.

www.connectwithus.ca



DOWNTOWN WINDSOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



The Good Greens Food Reclamation Program turns surplus food into community impact. By purchasing unsold goods from vendors at the Downtown Windsor Farmers' Market and redistributing them to local shelters and food-serving agencies, the program provides fresh, nutritious food to residents experiencing food insecurity while reducing food waste. Donor support helps compensate local producers, strengthen frontline service organizations, and create meaningful volunteer opportunities for youth. Beyond meeting immediate needs, Good Greens contributes to a more sustainable and resilient local food system by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting local agriculture, and fostering community collaboration. Every gift helps nourish people, strengthen partnerships, and build a healthier Windsor.

Project/Initiative: Good Greens Food Reclamation Program

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.downtownwindsor.ca



ESSEX CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA



The Essex Downtown Parkette Revitalization project will transform a vacant and underutilized lot in Essex Centre into a vibrant, accessible green space that brings new life to the downtown core. What is currently considered an eyesore between two local businesses will become a welcoming gathering place featuring seating, landscaping, and an interactive public art selfie station. The revitalized parkette will enhance the visual appeal of downtown, encourage foot traffic, and support surrounding small businesses by inviting residents and visitors to linger and connect. This will strengthen social connections, and inspire continued beautification and economic growth. Your support will help create a safe, inclusive destination that reflects the heart and future of Essex Centre.

Project/Initiative: Essex Centre Downtown Parkette Revitalization

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.essexbia.com



ESSEX COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM INC.



Youth Diversion's move to a new office, presents a powerful opportunity to create a safe, welcoming, and fully equipped hub for youth across Windsor-Essex. With your support, we will enhance security, complete targeted renovations, and invest in updated technology and program resources to expand high-impact prevention and intervention programs like RESET, DRIVE, Rebound, and #KYPP. These upgrades will immediately increase safety for staff and participants, improve accessibility, and allow us to serve more young people with engaging, skill-building programming. Reducing risky behaviours, strengthen community confidence in Youth Diversion, and empower vulnerable youth with the resilience, connections, and life skills they need to thrive in the community.

Project/Initiative: Youth Diversion Capacity & Safety Upgrade for Expanded Programming

Funding Requested: \$14,750

www.ecyouthdiversion.ca



FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH



Spark is a weekly after-school program serving children in Grades 1–6 in the Margaret D. Bennie Public School community. Each week, 24 children gather in a forest setting to play, enjoy a healthy snack, and explore creative activities that build skills in art, reading, math, and everyday life. Spark provides enriching experiences for children while offering families reliable after-school support. Participants strengthen their social, learning, and life skills in a nurturing environment. Over time, meaningful relationships are formed among children, families, and volunteers. Junior Youth and high school volunteers develop leadership skills, earn service hours toward graduation, and gain valuable references for future employment. Families connect through four special events each year and receive referrals to additional services when needed.

Project/Initiative: SPARK after school program

Funding Requested: \$14,668

www.fmcleamington.org



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WINDSOR-ESSEX



We prepare youth for safe, skilled work through hands-on trade training, now expanded to include First Aid, CPR, and emergency readiness that strengthen employability, education pathways, and community impact. Youth gain PPE and practical experience across placements such as appliance repair, retail, metal salvage, truck assistance, electrical testing, recycling and repair, construction and renovation, and marketing, building strong resumes while supporting Habitat's mission. The Emergency Response Program adds meaningful community service opportunities and real-world skill application. Youth earn certifications, strengthen confidence, and improve pathways to work and post-secondary education. Partnerships with St. Clair College continue to grow, expanding training opportunities and deepening community impact across Windsor-Essex.

Project/Initiative: Youth Safety and Skills Project

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.habitatwindsor.org



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO



This project connects youth across Windsor-Essex with JA's virtual Career Hunt events, providing direct access to industry leaders and real-world career exploration. Students gain valuable insight into local opportunities, helping them make informed decisions about their futures while building confidence and career awareness. After reaching 540 students last year, we are seeking support to expand our impact and strengthen local partnerships. Research shows JA participants are more likely to stay in school, pursue post-secondary education, and succeed in the workforce. Together, we can empower local youth today while building a stronger, more resilient Windsor-Essex economy for tomorrow.

Project/Initiative: Path to Possibility: A Career Discovery Experience for Windsor-Essex Youth

Funding Requested: \$10,000

www.jaswo.org





KARIS DISABILITY SERVICES



Your support of our Community Participation Support (CPS) program empowers adults with developmental disabilities to build independence, employment skills, and meaningful connections in the Windsor-Essex community. Through expanded programming and community partnerships, we will increase enrollment capacity, enhance life skills and job training opportunities, and provide consistent, reliable support that eases stress for families and caregivers. In the long term, your investment will foster greater self-advocacy, stronger community inclusion, and a more compassionate, welcoming community where people of all abilities are valued and given opportunities to thrive.

Project/Initiative: Karis Windsor Community Participation Supports Program

Funding Requested: \$7,500

www.karis.org



KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

Since 1947, the Kiwanis Music Festival Windsor-Essex County has provided young amateur musicians with the opportunity to perform in public and receive thoughtful, unbiased feedback from experienced adjudicators dedicated to encouraging their artistic growth. Established to nurture both personal and musical development, the Festival offers immediate benefit, building confidence through live performance and fostering a supportive community of teachers, parents, and peers. Over the long term, music study enhances memory, concentration, creativity, empathy, discipline, and communication skills — qualities that enrich every area of life. Your support ensures this transformative experience continues to inspire and empower young people for generations to come.

Project/Initiative: Kiwanis Music Festival Windsor-Essex County

Funding Requested: \$3,000

www.wkmf.ca



LEAMINGTON COMMUNITY HOPE CENTRE

Kitchen renovations are currently underway to better serve the growing number of drop-in guests who rely on us each day. As we welcome more than 100 guests daily, our outdated and limited kitchen equipment can no longer keep pace with the increasing demand. In order to continue providing nourishing meals efficiently and safely, we must invest in new kitchen supplies and equipment that will expand our capacity for food preparation, storage, and service. With these upgrades, we will improve meal quality and variety, streamline operations to reduce wait times, and create a safer, more supportive environment for our dedicated volunteers. Most importantly, this project will strengthen our ability to meet the basic needs of Leamington's most vulnerable residents and help build a more connected, resilient community.

Project/Initiative: Drop-In Program/New Kitchen Supplies

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.learmingtonhopecentre.ca



LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY



Your support of the Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex helps empower youth with ADHD and other disabilities to reach their potential. Through tailored ADHD and disability coaching, participants build executive functioning skills such as planning, prioritizing, and completing tasks while gaining confidence, resilience, and leadership. In the short term, this support increases understanding of ADHD and other disabilities, strengthens readiness for school and employment, and reduces stress through practical strategies. In the long term, it supports sustained employment and educational success, greater independence, improved relationships, and reduced reliance on social services. As participants grow in confidence and independence, they contribute their talents and productivity to the community.

Project/Initiative: Thrive Coachin

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.ldawe.ca



MADD CANADA (MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING)



MADD Canada's School Program educates youth on the risks and consequences of alcohol, drugs, and impaired driving, with a focus on building safer decision-making skills. In 2025 to 2026, it will reach more than 145,000 students in up to 1,000 schools across Canada, including 250 presentations in Ontario reaching up to 37,500 youth and five in Windsor-Essex reaching up to 725 local students. Each 60-minute presentation combines a powerful video with fictional and real-life victim and survivor stories, along with practical guidance on avoiding impaired driving. The program is highly effective, with 92% of students reporting it encourages responsible choices and 82% saying they are likely to plan safe transportation when going out with friends. Three months after participation, 91% of students recognize cannabis impairs driving.

Project/Initiative: MADD Canada's 2025-2026 School Program

Funding Requested: \$3,000

www.madd.ca



MATTHEW HOUSE REFUGEE WELCOME CENTRE - WINDSOR



Empowering Refugees for Success is a collaborative initiative that helps refugee claimants overcome poverty, trauma, and food insecurity through coordinated supports in housing, counselling, employment training, and basic needs. The program provides immediate, wraparound assistance to stabilize individuals and families, including trauma-informed mental health care, relocation and housing support, access to food through community partners, and employment training, with a focus on supporting women. In the short term, it addresses urgent needs so participants can regain stability and security. In the long term, it promotes self-sufficiency through stable housing, economic independence, improved well-being, and successful integration into the Windsor-Essex community. By supporting refugees, the program strengthens individuals and the wider community.

Project/Initiative: Empowering Refugees For Success

Funding Requested: \$14,800

www.matthewhousewindsor.org



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CANADA



Muscular Dystrophy Canada's Equipment Program is a critical source of support for individuals living with neuromuscular disorders, providing essential funding for specialized equipment that improves mobility, independence, and quality of life. As needs progress over time, access to adaptive equipment helps individuals remain engaged in school, work, and their communities while reducing isolation and barriers to participation. Because many costs are not fully covered by insurance or government programs, the organization acts as a funder of last resort, ensuring that those with the greatest need can access vital supports. Beyond physical benefits, this equipment reduces psychosocial challenges such as depression and stigma, while easing strain on families, caregivers, and the healthcare system.

Project/Initiative: Equipment Program

Funding Requested: \$10,000

www.muscle.ca



SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTRE OF ESSEX COUNTY (SACC)



Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the online environment for youth and introducing new risks: deepfakes, voice cloning scams, financial sextortion, AI driven misinformation, and manipulative kid targeted content. In Windsor Essex, young people are increasingly exposed to content that can be difficult to verify, creating emotional, financial, and reputational risks. This project will equip youth and caregivers with practical, easy to use digital safety resources to help them recognize and respond to these threats. It will deliver short videos, educational carousels, printable guides, lesson activities, and caregiver toolkits that can be used in homes and schools without live facilitation. The goal is to strengthen digital literacy and build a safer, more resilient community.

Project/Initiative: We Raise Our Children- AI Awareness: Protecting Youth and Supporting Caregivers

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.saccwindsor.net



SOUTH ESSEX COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This pilot project will hire a dedicated staff member to improve snack preparation, coordination, and food security planning across SECC's after-school youth programs. In the short term, it will ensure children and youth consistently receive nutritious, safely prepared snacks while easing pressure on frontline staff through a more efficient, centralized system. In the long term, the role will strengthen SECC's capacity to address food insecurity by building partnerships with local organizations and producers, improving internal processes, and collecting data to inform future planning. The staff member will also develop recommendations for a sustainable food security strategy, positioning SECC to leverage future funding opportunities and better support vulnerable children and youth in Windsor-Essex.

Project/Initiative: SECC Food Security Enhancement Initiative

Funding Requested: \$14,687

www.secc.on.ca



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

For the past 15 years, our weekly meal program has provided a free, home-cooked meal every Wednesday to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, along with access to a small clothing and food pantry. Each week we prepare approximately 250 meals, currently offered through in-person dining, takeout, and delivery available, adapting our services due to reduced volunteer capacity. Our recipients are diverse and include seniors, individuals with mobility challenges, single-parent families, and members of the homeless community, including meals supplied to the local Homelessness Hub. This program ensures that those facing hardship receive at least one nutritious meal per week, helping to ease immediate food insecurity while supporting longer-term stability by allowing households to stretch limited resources further.

Project/Initiative: Community Outreach - Meal Program

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.stjohnleamington.org



STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION CANADA



The Starlight Handheld is a portable gaming device that supports the mental health of hospitalized children by using therapeutic play to reduce stress, encourage comfort, and improve the overall hospital experience. Children in hospital settings often face traumatic stress from separation, unfamiliar environments, and painful procedures, which can increase the risk of long-term health challenges. Evidence shows that play, distraction, and emotional support are important parts of care and can help children cope and communicate during treatment. By bringing entertainment and therapeutic gaming into care, this program helps turn moments of fear into comfort and joy while supporting better short and long term wellbeing for pediatric patients at Windsor Regional Hospital.

Project/Initiative: Starlight Handhelds

Funding Requested: \$2,500

www.starlightcanada.org



TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



The Tetra Windsor chapter, led by David Harshaw, connects locally skilled volunteers with Windsor residents of any age living with a disability to design and build custom assistive devices that are not commercially available. These one of a kind solutions support greater independence in daily living, school, work, recreation, sports, music, and hobbies. Clients may experience improved health and reduced reliance on support services through devices such as wheelchair mounted systems that make daily tasks easier, including staying hydrated. Increased independence can also enable participation in education, employment, or volunteering, while reducing public system costs and benefiting the wider community.

Project/Initiative: Tetra Windsor - Custom Assistive Devices Breaking Barriers

Funding Requested: \$5,000

www.tetrasociety.org



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA, WINDSOR & DISTRICT CHAPTER

The Short Term Financial Assistance program provides one time support to kidney patients facing urgent, health related expenses they cannot afford due to the financial impact of their illness. By easing immediate financial pressures, the program helps patients maintain access to essential care, medications, nutrition, and transportation so they can better manage their health and stay active and engaged in their communities. This support not only improves individual well being but also strengthens the broader community by reducing strain on healthcare services and fostering a more compassionate and supportive environment for people living with chronic illness.

Project/Initiative: Short Term Financial Assistance

Funding Requested: \$5,000

www.eriestclairhealthline.ca



THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH

Tecumseh Votes is a targeted initiative to increase voter turnout in the 2026 Municipal Election after participation fell to 28.72 percent in 2022. By hiring a Voter Engagement Specialist, the Town will lead a coordinated outreach campaign to educate residents about how to vote, who the candidates are, and why municipal government matters, with a goal of increasing turnout by 15 percent. The initiative will host candidate debates, create accessible educational materials, engage youth and new voters including those who speak languages other than English, strengthen communication through social and local media, and expand voting access through additional locations and advance polling options. Together, these efforts will reduce barriers, improve civic knowledge, and build a lasting culture of community participation.

Project/Initiative: Tecumseh Votes -2026 Municipal Election Voter Turnout

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.tecumseh.ca



THE UNITED CHURCH DOWNTOWN MISSION OF WINDSOR LTD.



Our Food Program provides a vital food bank for community residents without a secure source of food and serves a hot community lunch seven days a week for people experiencing hunger and homelessness in Windsor and Essex County. Individuals and families living on low incomes gain access to healthy, nutritious food and essential hygiene products, allowing them to direct their limited resources toward rent, utilities, and other financial commitments while reducing reliance on family or government support. For those living rough, we offer a welcoming place to enjoy a nutritious meal every day of the week and connect with supportive Mission programs. Through this program, we help build a healthier community where people can live with confidence, stability, and greater self sufficiency.

Project/Initiative: Food Program

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.downtownmission.com



TRANS WELLNESS ONTARIO



Trans Wellness Ontario's case management program provides free, gender affirming service navigation to support 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and families facing barriers within healthcare and social service systems. Although we do not directly provide medical, legal, housing, or employment services, many community members rely on us for help accessing affirming providers, completing applications, attending appointments, and advocating for respectful care. By offering personalized guidance and referrals in a supportive, judgement free environment, the program reduces gaps in services and builds long term independence, empowerment, and confidence in navigating essential systems.

Project/Initiative: Case Management Program

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.transwellness.ca



WINDSOR FAMILY HOMES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Your support of Kids First Food Bank helps us respond to the growing need in our community by ensuring families have reliable access to nutritious food. In the short term, this project provides three days' worth of healthy groceries to families facing food insecurity, offering immediate relief and stability. Looking ahead, we are working to build strong partnerships and especially during the winter months when demand is highest and to keep our shelves consistently stocked and expand our reach. Together, we can meet urgent needs today while creating sustainable solutions for tomorrow.

Project/Initiative: Kids First Food Bank

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.wfhcp.com



WINDSOR INTERNAL FILM FESTIVAL



WIFF Under the Stars (WUTS) is a free, inclusive outdoor film festival that brings arts and culture to downtown Windsor each summer, fostering community connection, supporting local businesses, and providing accessible entertainment for diverse audiences. As the only source of film programming in the downtown core, the festival fills a critical cultural gap while contributing to downtown revitalization efforts. In 2025, WUTS screened 23 feature films and welcomed 2,049 attendees, a 36 percent increase over the previous year, generating increased foot traffic and economic activity for surrounding businesses. Through this annual initiative, WIFF strengthens its leadership in Windsor-Essex, builds community through inclusive cultural experiences, and contributes to the long-term economic and social vitality of the downtown.

Project/Initiative: WIFF Under the Stars

Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.windsorfilmfestival.com



WINDSOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE



Collective Memory is a community art exhibition marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day by honouring all communities affected by the Nazi regime, including Jewish people, Black people, the Roma and Sinti, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, political prisoners, and people with disabilities. Through accessible creative contributions from Windsor-Essex and beyond, the project expands public understanding of the Holocaust, fosters inclusion, and encourages reflection and dialogue. It builds awareness, strengthens community engagement, supports creative expression and healing, and increases visibility for local artists and the broader arts community. Preserving stories through lasting archives, strengthens cross-community relationships, deepens historical understanding, and helps lay the foundation for ongoing remembrance and educational initiatives.

Project/Initiative: Collective Memory: A Holocaust Mapping Project
Funding Requested: \$4,300

www.jewishwindsor.org



WINDSOR LIFE CENTRE



This project will strengthen Windsor Life Centre by providing staff, volunteers, and interns with up-to-date mental health and addiction training. By building internal capacity and supporting wellbeing, it will improve access to care and enhance the organization's ability to support more women in need. Windsor Life Centre offers both inpatient and aftercare services that are essential for long-term recovery from addiction. In the short term, training will refresh skills, reduce burnout, and promote mental wellbeing among care providers. In the long term, this will empower staff and volunteers to better support residents and graduates, supporting continued organizational growth and expanded impact across Canada.

Project/Initiative: Mental Health and Wellness Training
Funding Requested: \$7,500

www.windsorlifecentre.com



WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra (WSYO), part of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra's outreach programming, provides young musicians with high calibre orchestral experiences that support artistic growth, confidence, and long-term development. WSYO expands access to live orchestral music across all ages and socio-economic backgrounds while reflecting research links music participation with improved well-being, reducing anxiety, depression and enhanced quality of life. Through performance opportunities, mentorship - tuition scholarships that remove financial barriers, students build discipline, leadership, and a strong sense of belonging. The program strengthens the Windsor Essex community - fostering the next generation of engaged leaders and contributing to the vitality of downtown Windsor through its rehearsals and performances.

Project/Initiative: Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra 2025-2026 Season
Funding Requested: \$8,115

www.windsorsymphony.com



WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE SKILLS TRAINING OF WINDSOR INC.



This project provides essential supports that remove barriers to participation in WEST's training programs, including transportation or bus tickets, nutrition, childcare assistance on a case-by-case basis, graduation recognition, and other basic needs not covered by government funding. These supports increase attendance, retention, and engagement while helping women build confidence, develop employment-ready skills, and strengthen peer connections. Participants are supported to complete programming and staff can respond more holistically to their needs. Improved completion rates lead to greater employment and education outcomes, increased financial stability for women and their families, and a stronger, more inclusive workforce in Windsor-Essex.

Project/Initiative: Bridging the Gap: Wrap Around Supports for Women in Training and Skills Development
Funding Requested: \$15,000

www.westofwindsor.com



YMCA OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

At YMCA Camp Henry, our overnight camp in Point Pelee National Park, Indigenous youth from Caldwell First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation, as well as vulnerable youth across Windsor-Essex, receive financial assistance to access a meaningful camp experience in nature. Youth build confidence, independence, and friendships while taking part in activities like archery, canoeing, and campfires, as well as leadership programming that supports cross-cultural understanding, inclusion, and reconciliation. Camp participation is linked to strong developmental and social benefits, with youth and families reporting improved mental wellness, resilience, confidence, and overall well-being.

Project/Initiative: YMCA Camp Henry - Indigenous and Vulnerable Youth Programs and Access

Funding Requested: \$10,000

www.ymcaswo.ca



INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY, TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY, TODAY AND FOREVER!

The Foundation was originally established with the goal of protecting, enhancing, and preserving one of Windsor and Essex County's most cherished assets: our beautiful waterfront. In honour of this milestone year, we commissioned local artist Sydney Taylor to create a unique design that would reflect some of the WECF's historical community investments, as well as those we're creating throughout 2024 with our community partners. This design, pictured on the front cover of this report, reflects many of our historical community investments tied to the waterfront. These projects include recognizable landmarks, places to gather, rest & engage in recreation, and natural enhancements to an already beautiful landscape that is the heart of our community.

**Thank you for helping us to inspire philanthropy, for over the past 42 years
and for generations to come!**

WindsorEssex Community Foundation

WINDSORESSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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