

WindsorEssex Community Foundation





The WindsorEssex Community Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to improving communities across Windsor-Essex County through collaboration, strategic leadership, and innovative solutions to charitable giving. For 40 years, we have worked to improve the quality of life for residents of Windsor-Essex County and to create and support opportunities for prosperity.

The WindsorEssex Community Foundation (WECF), originally founded in 1983 as Heritage Windsor, is a perpetual community trust for philanthropic purposes. We assist donors in creating a lasting legacy to benefit and support their community, now and in the future. Through community investment activities, the WECF has invested over \$12 million in the community and has accumulated over \$23 million in assets.

In addition to this, the WECF also leads a variety of programs in Windsor-Essex County including Inspiration 100™, Vital Signs®, and Random Act of Kindness Day™.

We build a better Windsor-Essex community by attracting and managing legacy funds, making grants to support local programs, and bringing community partners together! The WECF has been proudly serving Windsor-Essex for the past 40 years.

Inspiring
PHILANTHROPY



OUR MISSION

To build a better Windsor/Essex Community by attracting and managing legacy funds, making grants to support community programs, and bringing partners together.

OUR VISION

Inspiring philanthropy to benefit our community today and forever

OUR LEGACY

Our community is our legacy; the communities we call home help make us who we are. As we celebrate 40 years of Inspiring Philanthropy, we invite you, our community partner, to join us in supporting and celebrating this legacy.



1983



Founded as Heritage Windsor by Albert Weeks, Clifford Hatch Sr. and Charles Clark Sr., with the forward-thinking vision to develop a foundation with a basis of legacy giving in order to fund future gift-giving.

1992

Grants to City of Windsor for Ganatcho Trail and the Peace Fountain

1994

The Foundation becomes a member of Community Foundations of Canada

2008

The Foundation changes its name to the WindsorEssex Community Foundation

2010

The Foundation takes part in Random Act of Kindness Day for the first time

2013

The Vital Signs® Program launches in Windsor-Essex.

2016

The Foundation hosts the inaugural meeting of Inspiration 100™

2017

The Great Canadian Flag rises over Windsor-Essex, the result of a two-year community campaign to raise money for the Great Canadian Flag Project Fund held at the WECF

2020-
2021

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, WECF Distributes pandemic relief funding across Windsor Essex County through grants & government and corporate initiatives

2022

Lisa Kolody, WECF Executive Director, becomes Chair of the Board of Directors of Community Foundations of Canada

2023



The Foundation celebrates 40 years of Inspiring Philanthropy and Community Supporting Community. With over 80 funds and \$24 million in assets, WECF continues to create lasting legacy throughout our great community of Windsor & Essex County

WECF is celebrating 40 years of helping to build a better Windsor-Essex community. At the core of the Foundation's outreach has been a rich history of charitable legacy giving through community initiatives and programs. In 2022/2023 the Foundation has allocated special purpose funding in honour of our 40th Anniversary with the goal of developing collaboration opportunities with our local municipal partners towards identifying and delivering community betterment legacy projects across our region.



Over the Foundation's four decades of community giving, we have developed tremendous community outreach and partnerships with a wide range of fundholders, donors and sponsors from both the private and public sectors. Our hope is to leverage and bring together these partnerships in recognition of this milestone with a goal of delivering the greatest impact possible towards continuing to make the Windsor-Essex community a great place to live and prosper.

The WECF is well known for our key programs such as Vital Signs, Random Acts of Kindness Day and Inspiration 100. These programs provide great insight and guidance towards where charitable funding could be best applied, however, it is recognized that each community has unique challenges and opportunities as well as other plans and strategic initiatives that merit support.

As WECF celebrates our 40th anniversary year, it is our goal to establish a legacy project in every municipality. We are hoping to identify potential projects and funding options to advance beneficial community legacy opportunities in your municipality, and work towards developing a roadmap that meets your planning timeline.

COMMUNITY

Supporting

COMMUNITY

LASTING COMMUNITY LEGACY

As we commemorate 40 Years of Inspiring Philanthropy throughout Windsor-Essex County, the WECF is celebrating with our community and creating lasting legacies. We are working with our local partners to create projects that will invest in lasting change, reflect who we are as the people of Windsor and Essex County, value our sense of place and culture, and honour both our local history and our future as it unfolds.

Opportunities to support these projects exist at every level. By supporting these projects, you can show your support as a community partner, and touch many lives within our diverse community.

MUNICIPAL WATERFRONT LEGACY PROJECTS

Continuing the Foundation's history of supporting the beautification, enhancement and preservation of one of Windsor and Essex' County's most cherished assets, The WECF is making an investment in each municipality for Waterfront Legacy projects in celebration of our 40th Anniversary.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the legacy of giving that WECF has in your community, while making a meaningful impact that will endure for years to come. Projects could include waterfront gathering spaces, park structures, fountains, monuments, and more!

We are happy to discuss these projects and the ways you may wish to support and celebrate together!

**To discuss how you can join our celebration, please contact
Lisa Kolody, Executive Director, at 519-255-6572 or lkolody@wecf.ca**

Celebrating
TOGETHER

WINDSORSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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