

Poverty Is



Everyone's



**PATHWAY TO
POTENTIAL**

Windsor Essex County's
Poverty Reduction Strategy

Business



2010 Community Report

2010 Report to the Community Outline

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Dear Windsor-Essex Community,

It is a great honour to present you with Pathway to Potential's (P2P) second annual Report to the Community. In 2010, P2P continued to build the community support necessary for the important work of reducing and preventing poverty in Windsor-Essex County.

As the first section of the Report highlights, early in 2010 the City and County committed nearly \$2.1 million toward a regional poverty reduction strategy. This significant investment by our local elected officials, combined with the work of the Roundtable, Working Groups and numerous community partners, is an important part of P2P's vision: that all residents of Windsor and Essex County will be valued and included in their community and experience social and economic wellbeing.

The second section outlines the four key focus areas that were established early in 2010 to complement P2P's original five pillars of poverty reduction, and reports on the progress that was made in each of the areas. The third section briefly explains how P2P, drawing on the work of Sherri Torjman, developed a resilience framework to guide its work in 2010.

The fourth section illustrates the numerous achievements of P2P's Working Groups over the course of the year, while section five details the action that P2P's Steering Committee, Roundtable and Working Groups have taken to raise awareness, engage the community, advocate for resources and policy change, and learn about effective poverty reduction strategies. Section six provides a brief overview of poverty reduction efforts at the provincial level as the Ontario government enters the third year of its poverty reduction strategy, and the final section looks ahead to 2011 as P2P plans to build on the momentum generated in its first two years.

As always, we value and encourage input from the Windsor and Essex community. Please contact us directly if you would like to get involved or have ideas about how we can improve our work. In working together to reduce poverty, we all can play an important role in making poverty everyone's business.

Yours Sincerely,

Fabio Costante

Roundtable Co-Chair

Heather Liffiton

Roundtable Co-Chair

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PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL'S VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement:

All residents of Windsor and Essex County will be valued and included in their community and experience social and economic wellbeing.

Mission Statement:

Together we will reduce poverty and ensure the social and economic wellbeing of residents who live in Windsor and Essex County.

We will accomplish this by ensuring:

Citizen empowerment

An inclusive community that embraces diversity

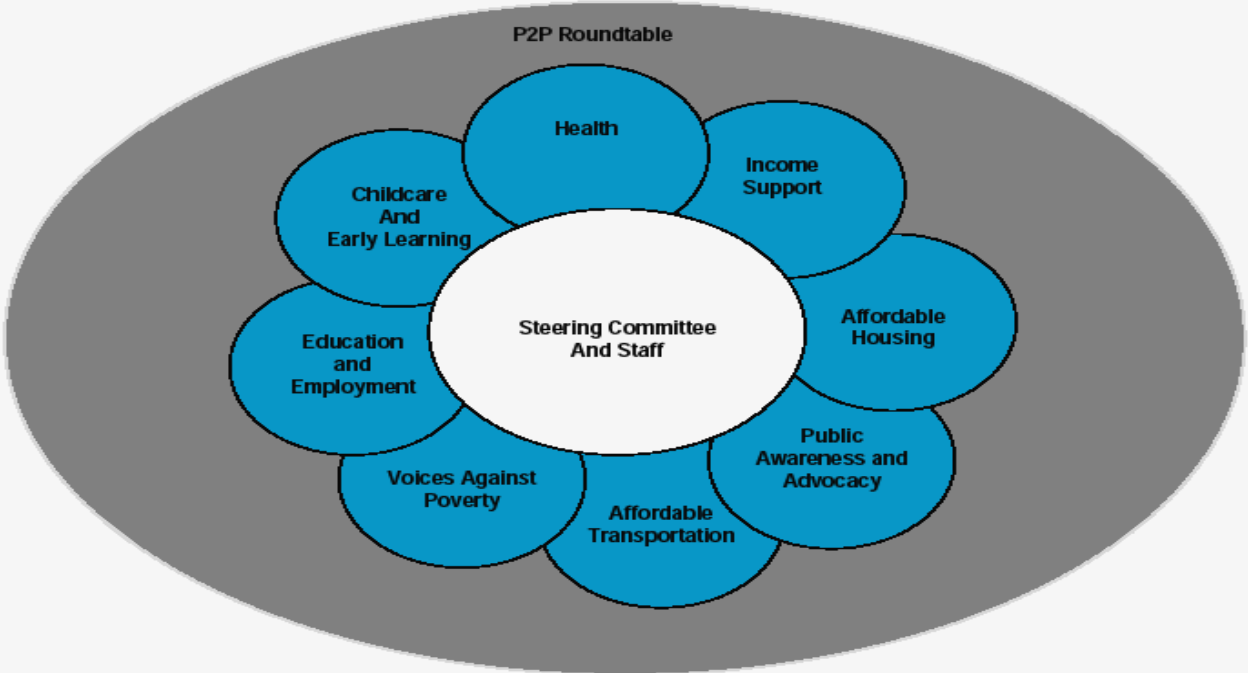
All voices are heard and honoured

All citizens are valued and live with dignity

Reduction of poverty is a shared responsibility requiring a commitment to concrete action, which must involve citizens, businesses, all three levels of government, and voluntary and public sector organizations.

Pathway to Potential Organizational Structure

Windsor-Essex County



2010 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Section I: A Regional Commitment to Poverty Reduction

In January 2010, the City of Windsor and the County of Essex jointly committed nearly **\$2.1 million** toward a coordinated, comprehensive regional poverty reduction strategy. This includes twenty-four programs aimed at the prevention and reduction of poverty in our community, as well as two staff positions.



Council backs
anti-poverty
strategy

The P2P programs provide immediate assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our community and help lay the foundation for a vibrant Windsor-Essex that leaves no one behind. This investment in people, our social infrastructure, underscores the fact that poverty is everyone's business. It will take a community effort to fulfill P2P's vision, that "all residents of Windsor and Essex County will be valued and included in their community and experience social and economic wellbeing."

The investment in coordination, through the creation of staff positions, ensures P2P is well-positioned to leverage, in collaboration with other community partners, new resources from provincial and federal governments, other funding bodies and the private sector. It also lays the groundwork for the types of initiatives and advocacy efforts that will be most effective in reducing poverty for our community.

Section II: Our Key Areas of Focus for 2010

P2P's original framework document, released in December 2008, outlines the need for a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction in Windsor-Essex County. As P2P's logo reflects, a comprehensive approach to poverty must address affordable housing, early learning and child care, education and skills training, health, and income support.

As these areas guided our work throughout 2009, P2P also recognized the importance of adapting and responding to the needs and changing context of our community. Through engaging the community, P2P learned not only about the great work that was being done in many of these areas by other community partners, but also about additional areas of focus that community members identified as needing more attention.



"There are many ways to take the measure of a community, but there is no more powerful or significant measure of the health and strength of a region than the well being of its citizens"

- P2P Framework Document (2008)

This community engagement process led to the development of four key areas of focus for 2010: food security, job skills and training, affordable transportation and educating the public.

2010 Progress Report

Educating the Public

5 Year Goal: Residents are educated and mobilized in reducing poverty.

Progress:

- Engaged over 3000 people through presentations, information booths, and community and public awareness events
- More than 10 local newspaper articles on poverty reduction and P2P events have been published, including two guest columns by members of P2P
- The Windsor Star has donated the time of their Public Relations and Community Investment Manager to support P2P's ongoing public awareness efforts
- Voices Against Poverty met with a member of the Social Assistance Review Advisory Council to provide feedback and input on the provincial Social Assistance Review
- Met with representatives from University to discuss the integration of poverty into existing curriculum
- Met with local MPPs to educate them on local poverty issues affecting Windsor-Essex County
- Recruited 4 local media members to participate in the "Do The Math Challenge"



Affordable Transportation

5 Year Goal: Advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive, accessible, affordable and efficient regional transportation plan



Progress:

- Incorporated discussions related to regional transportation into P2P events including All Candidates Night and Municipal Bus Tour
- Used local social audits to obtain feedback from community members on affordable transportation and barriers to transportation in Essex County
- Currently undertaking initial research into community models and best practices for jobs bus initiative

2010 Progress Report

Food Security

5 Year Goal: Increase access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods

Progress:

- Coordinated a local “Do The Math Challenge” to raise awareness about issues related to food security, including the need for culturally appropriate and nutritious food
- Continue to advocate for a \$100 healthy food supplement for individuals in receipt of Social Assistance
- Supported the United Way and the Food Bank Association’s efforts at improving the coordination of the emergency food distribution system
- Partnered with Jumpstart coordinator, United Way and other community partners on the development and implementation of a local food forum
- Invited local growers to Food Matters Forum to get input on new and ongoing food security initiatives in Windsor and Essex County
- Met with members of the City of Windsor Planning Department to identify potential locations for community gardens



Jobs and Skills Training

5 Year Goal: Advocate to business, government and labour for local job opportunities that match the skills of the work force



Progress:

- Advocated to the provincial government for an increase in pre-apprenticeship programs in Windsor and Essex County
- Supporting Workforce WindsorEssex in their efforts to ensure that residents’ skills and training are matched with up and coming labour market needs
- Advocated to the provincial government for increased access to skills and training opportunities including pre-apprenticeship programs and Second Career
- Currently researching municipal living wage strategies across Canada
- Advocated to the provincial government for increased training opportunities for local residents to ensure skills meet the requirements for employment opportunities for up and coming infrastructure initiatives
- Invited Workforce WindsorEssex to present to P2P Roundtable on research conducted to identify skills required to meet the needs of the local labour market

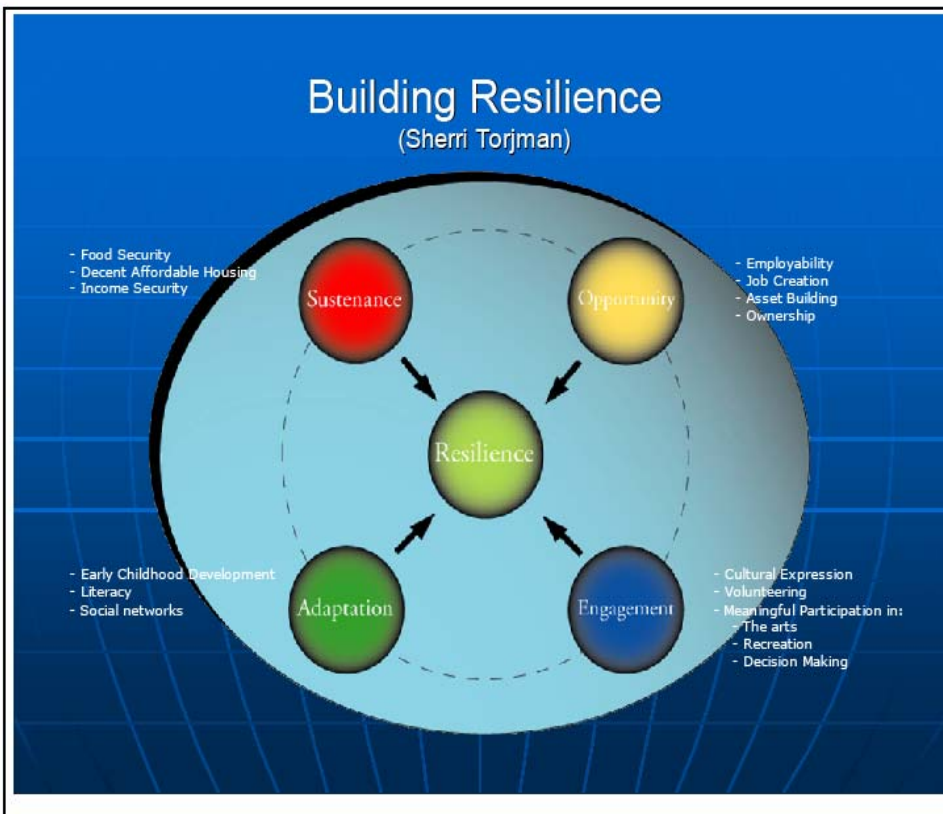
Section III: Building a Resilient Windsor-Essex

On January 21, 2010, Pathway to Potential hosted its inaugural Report to the Community event entitled “Building Resilience in Windsor-Essex County”. More than 120 community members from all sectors attended the event to learn about P2P’s work and progress in 2009, and to provide input into the direction of the strategy for 2010.

The keynote speaker for the event was Sherri Torjman, author, social policy expert, and Vice President of the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. Drawing from her book “Shared Space: The Communities Agenda”, Sherri illustrated the many innovative strategies that can be used to respond to complex social and economic issues facing Windsor-Essex County. Sherri spoke passionately about our region’s strengths, highlighting numerous examples of successful collaborative efforts.

“There is no question that Windsor-Essex has faced more than its share of economic and social challenges in recent years, but it is also clear that this community is incredibly wealthy in terms of its diverse assets and commitment to tackle tough problems by building on its strengths”
 - Sherri Torjman, January 21, 2010

As participants learned, building a resilient community requires a comprehensive and balanced approach to complex issues such as poverty. In other words, communities should aim to provide residents with what Sherri refers to as “safety nets” and “springboards”. As the chart below depicts, safety nets (the red and green clusters) help ensure that people’s basic needs are being met, while springboards (the yellow and blue clusters) help create pathways for success. Drawing on this approach, P2P funds programs related both to meeting people’s basic needs – e.g., relating to food security and affordable transportation – and to creating pathways for success – e.g., affordable recreational opportunities and after-school programs.



Sherri Torjman receives a gift from Windsor artist Jerry Crosby

Section IV: Working Group Highlights

Health

- In partnership with the United Way and the Food Bank Association, submitted a grant application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to fund a staff position to coordinate local food security efforts
- Worked with the United Way to organize a local food forum to advance food security in Windsor and Essex County.
- Advocating for the implementation of a Fresh Food Project which will provide increased access to fresh, local fruits and vegetables for individuals and families living on a low income in Windsor and Essex County.



Education and Jobs/Skills Training



- In partnership with Workforce WindsorEssex, advocated to provincial government regarding changes to Second Career eligibility criteria
- Partnered with Workforce Windsor Essex to advocate for the expansion of pre-apprenticeship programs in Windsor and Essex County
- Advocating for local social enterprise and social innovation initiatives

Income Support

- Hosted an all-candidates night for the 2010 municipal election which was attended by nearly 100 people including more than 35 candidates from The City of Windsor and the County of Essex
- Participated in a community consultation with the City of Windsor on property tax relief for low-income residents
- Successfully submitted an Op-Ed piece to the Windsor Star on the cancellation of the Special Diet Program



Early Years:



- Arranged 6 P2P presentations to early years and childcare networks to raise awareness about poverty and the work of the local poverty reduction strategy
- Completed mapping of Transit Windsor Bus Routes and childcare and early years centers to identify gaps in access

Affordable Housing

- Active member of Housing Network of Ontario's (HNO) steering committee
- Worked with HNO to advocate for safe, stable, accessible and affordable housing options for Ontario residents



Section IV: Working Group Highlights

Voices Against Poverty

- Met with local MPPs to discuss partnerships between local and provincial poverty reduction work and to advocate for a \$100 Healthy Food Supplement for Ontarians in receipt of OW and ODSP
- As part of ISARC's Provincial Social Audit, hosted five community hearings for people with lived experience of poverty and for those agencies supporting residents living on a low-income in Windsor and Essex County
- Met with a member of the Social Assistance Review Advisory Council to provide input and feedback on the scope of provincial social assistance reform



Public Awareness and Advocacy

- Developed Pathway to Potential slogan "Poverty is Everyone's Business"
- Partnered with Voices Against Poverty on the delivery of media training for members of Pathway to Potential
- Developed Pathway to Potential promotional materials with key messages

Transportation

- Established a transportation working group made up of a cross section of community stakeholders
- Attended the launch of the P2P funded Affordable Pass Program
- Exploring the feasibility of a local jobs/destination bus that meets the needs of WEC residents



Section V: Taking R.E.A.L. Action

Pathway to Potential's Steering Committee, Roundtable and Working Groups are focused on making poverty everyone's business in Windsor-Essex. In 2010, P2P continued to expand its network, which now includes more than 150 dedicated individuals, businesses and organizations. As a multi-sector collaborative strategy, P2P's action takes many forms, including activities aimed at changing attitudes, institutions and policies, and at bringing much needed resources to the Windsor-Essex community. In this section we use the acronym R.E.A.L. to frame the action we are taking:

Raising Public Awareness

Engaging the Community

Advocating for Resources and Policy Change

Learning About Effective Ways to Reduce Poverty

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

In 2010, P2P organized and participated in numerous events aimed at increasing public awareness about poverty in the Windsor-Essex community. This section highlights some of these activities.

Social Justice Forum

On February 18th, 2010, more than 120 area Grade 8 students attended the sixth annual Youth Social Justice Forum held at the University of Windsor.

Pathway to Potential, in partnership with Home Away From Home and the Homeless Coalition of Windsor and Essex County, facilitated five workshops on poverty and homelessness. Workshop activities sparked excellent group discussions about challenging stereotypes, raising awareness, and developing action plans for making change at the individual and community level.

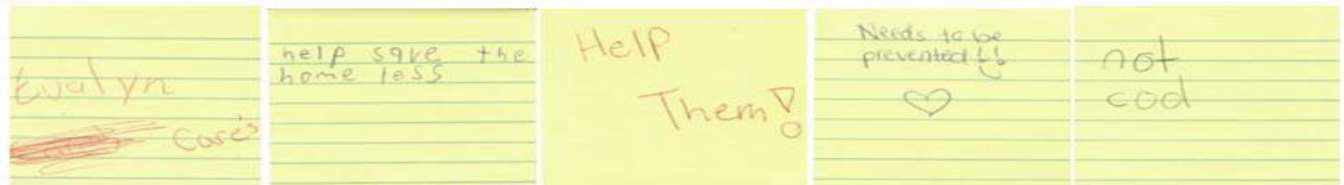


Canadian Social Forum

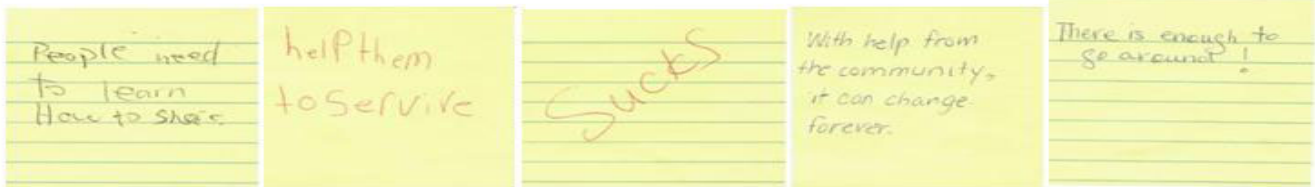
The Canadian Social Forum took place in Windsor from June 18 – 20th. It brought together more than 20 local and national organizations delivering workshops, panel discussions, seminars, and cultural events.

On Friday, June 18th, Pathway to Potential hosted a screening of the feature documentary *Poor No More* (2010), followed by a panel discussion "Solutions Start with Us: Combating Poverty in Canada." Following the film, panelists Lillian Gallant (Voices Against Poverty), Taras Natyshak (Federal NDP Candidate), and Rev. Kevin George (St. Mark's by-the-Lake Anglican Church) engaged in lively and thought provoking discussion with the more than 50 community members in attendance.

Homeless Coalition's Soup Day



Pathway to Potential attended Soup Day, an annual event hosted by the Homeless Coalition of Windsor Essex County, on Wednesday, October 15th, 2010. The event was held at the Windsor Armouries and students from Elementary and High Schools across the city attended. While running a booth at this function, members of the Pathway to Potential team thought it would be interesting to ask what students thought about poverty and/or those living in poverty. Students ranging in age from nine to eighteen answered the question and posted their response on a board. The following are just a few of the responses received:



DO THE MATH

During the first week of November, Pathway to Potential organized a “Do the Math Challenge”. More than 30 local community leaders took part in the challenge, which involved eating only the food that a person visiting a food bank would typically receive in a food package. Challenge team members were asked to make the food – about 3 days’ worth – last for up to 5 days. The Challenge helped raise awareness of the inadequacy of social assistance rates and the need for a \$100 monthly healthy food supplement. Many of the participants blogged about “The Challenge” and here is what some of them had to say:

“And even acknowledging that I get to step OUT of this food challenge brings me guilt. The guilt is from the clear fact that people that are using food banks don’t get to step out of this cycle. They don’t get to ‘go back’ to a normal, convenient, disposable food-life after the end of the week.”

- Tom Lucier, Owner of Phog Lounge

“It really would be easier to just make a donation; but, learning and understanding is in the doing.”

- Cheryl Taggart, President, Ontario Association of Social Workers – South Western Branch



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

After kicking off 2010 with the “Building Resilience in Windsor and Essex County” event, which engaged more than 120 community members, P2P has found many ways to engage the community in meaningful dialogue about poverty.

Social Audit Hearings

In Spring, 2010, P2P and Voices Against Poverty held five social audit hearings throughout Windsor-Essex County. The hearings reached more than 70 community members with the lived experience of poverty and 70 service providers across Windsor-Essex. Hearings were conducted in over 20 communities across Ontario as part of the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition’s (ISARC) Social Audit. The hearings provided space for those affected by poverty to voice their concerns and discuss ways to improve Ontario’s poverty reduction strategy. In December, the findings were released as part of the book “Persistent Poverty: Voices From the Margins”.

“Current government policy on social assistance makes it nearly impossible to move ahead.”

- Participant

“Many of us have no way of providing...we either buy shoes for our kids or go hungry for the rest of the month.”

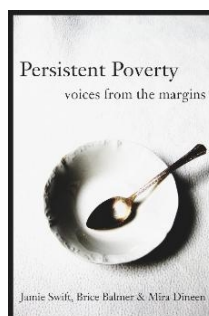
- Participant

Social Work Week

Each year the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW) celebrates the social work profession with Social Work Week. The theme in 2010 was *Poverty: There Are Solutions – Social Workers Making a Difference*.

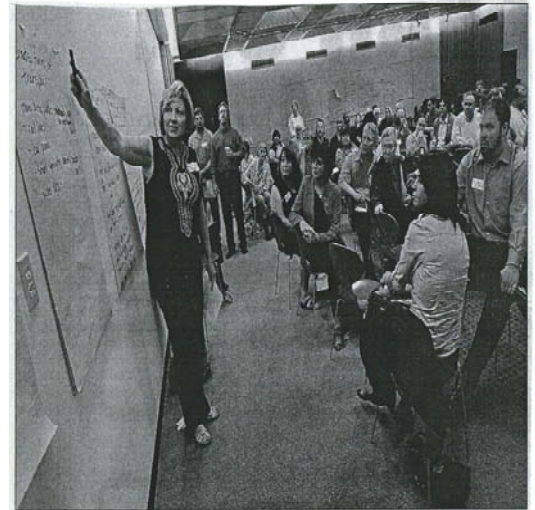
During the week of March 1 – 7, Pathway to Potential partnered with the OASW Southwestern Branch to host several events, which included:

- Panel Discussion and Information Fair with Voices Against Poverty;
- Discussion about social change with social work students at the University of Windsor;
- Screening of “Poor No More” and panel discussion with film’s executive producer, David Langille, MP Joe Comartin, Councilor Caroline Postma, and Voices Against Poverty members Valerie Hurst and Danielle Yaholnitsky



All Candidates' Night

On September 22nd, P2P hosted its All Candidates' Night at the Windsor Public Library's Central Branch. More than 35 of the nearly 100 participants were candidates. The night began with all participants taking the "Do the Math" survey to estimate how much money a person requires to live frugally but also with dignity and in reasonable health. When survey results were compiled, the average estimated monthly amount was more than \$1,600, well above the \$585 and \$1042 per month for recipients of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program respectively. This activity was followed by a viewing of the documentary "Poor No More", which provides ideas for more effectively addressing poverty in Canada. The final part of the evening involved participants joining breakout sessions to share their ideas relating to food security, affordable transportation, jobs and income security, and multi-sector partnerships.



HEATHER LIFFON, co-chair of Pathway to Potential, speaks during an all-candidates meeting on poverty at the downtown library in Windsor on Wednesday.

Voters, candidates swap
anti-poverty ideas

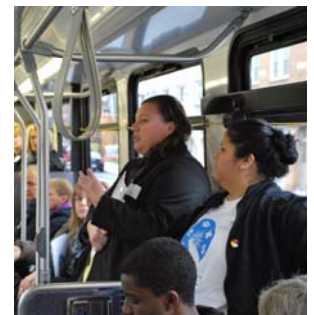
Food Matters Forum

On October 6th, P2P and the United Way co-sponsored the Food Matters Forum which highlighted existing food initiatives and focused on developing a plan of action for food security within the community. More than 55 community stakeholders participated in the forum, which included small group discussions to develop priorities in 4 key areas: Emergency Food Distribution, Alternative Food Distribution, Urban/Rural Agriculture Initiatives, and Policy Initiatives.



Municipal Bus Tour

On November 25th, P2P hosted a bus tour that highlighted a number of P2P's funded agencies and raised awareness about the ongoing work of the local poverty reduction strategy. The tour included stops at Housing Information Services, Computers for Kids, The Essex Recreation Complex and the Youth and Family Resource Network. A number of P2P funded agencies were also invited to deliver presentations on the bus including Be Back Soon, Drouillard Place, Morning Glory Moments and Kids Alliance. More than 40 people took part in the tour, including City of Windsor Councilors Alan Halberstadt and Ed Sleiman, and Deputy Mayor of Leamington, Charlie Wright.



ADVOCATING FOR RESOURCES AND POLICY CHANGE

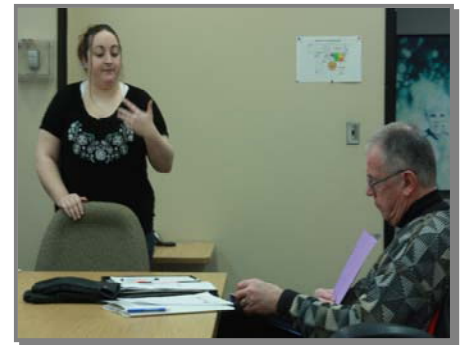
Pathway to Potential recognizes that advocacy is a crucial part of poverty reduction efforts. Advocacy work involves maintaining a productive dialogue with all levels of government to help secure the resources and policy changes that will reduce and prevent poverty.

City and County Support for Pathway to Potential

As noted at the outset of the Report, the City of Windsor and County of Essex were a driving force behind the development of P2P. In January, 2010, the City and County jointly invested nearly **\$2.1 million** toward coordinated, comprehensive regional poverty reduction strategy. This includes twenty-four programs aimed at the prevention and reduction of poverty in our community, as well as two staff positions.

Meetings with Members of Provincial Parliament

In early 2010, Pathway to Potential and Voices Against Poverty met with our three Windsor-Essex MPPs to discuss issues central to the poverty reduction agenda. The meetings with Dwight Duncan (MPP Windsor-Tecumseh), Bruce Crozier (MPP Essex) and Sandra Pupatello (MPP Windsor West) opened important dialogue on how local poverty reduction strategies can work collaboratively with governments to make poverty reduction a reality.



Danielle Yaholnitsky, Voices Against Poverty member, presents MPP Bruce Crozier with the *We're Hungry* catalogue, which was created by parents at the Benson Ontario Early Years Centre

Meeting with Social Assistance Review Advisory Council

On March 12th, Voices Against Poverty had a productive meeting with Pedro Barata, member of the Social Assistance Review Advisory Council (SARAC), which was appointed by the provincial government to advise on the scope and terms of reference for a review of Ontario's social assistance system. Voices members identified many areas where the current system inhibits people's movement toward self-sufficiency and social and economic wellbeing.

Linking with Provincial Networks to Build Capacity

Recognizing that advocacy efforts can be made more effective when groups are able to speak with one voice, in 2010 Pathway to Potential continued its active role on the steering committees of the following provincial advocacy groups: 25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction and the Housing Network of Ontario.

Support from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation

In October, Voices Against Poverty received a grant from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation. The grant helped support a "Vote Out Poverty" campaign that was aimed at increasing awareness about poverty issues at the municipal level. Part of the funding was also used to organize P2P's municipal bus tour.

LEARNING ABOUT EFFECTIVE WAYS TO REDUCE

There is growing momentum for poverty reduction efforts across Canada. Six provinces, three territories and numerous cities and regions have initiated poverty reduction strategies. As part of this movement, P2P relies on evidence-based research and best and promising practices in poverty reduction to help set its direction and move its work forward. Members of the P2P Steering Committee, Roundtable, Working Groups and Staff also participate in ongoing learning opportunities.

Harwood Institute for Public Innovation

In January, 2010, members of P2P participated in the Harwood Institute's Public Innovators Lab in Lansing, Michigan. The Lab focused on enabling participants to create new pathways for change and authentic hope in public life and politics. The Lab provided P2P with many useful concepts and frameworks to incorporate into its work.

Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition – Religious Leaders' Forum

Following the social audit hearings, Voices Against Poverty members Ray Poisson and Donna Labonte attended a Religious Leaders' Forum in Toronto on Wednesday June 2, 2010, to learn about and discuss the initial findings from each of the participating communities.

25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction – Leadership Assembly

In May, the 25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction hosted a Leadership Assembly in Toronto, and P2P was invited to make a presentation as part of panel discussion entitled "What Have we Learned: Community Level Poverty Reduction Strategies." Voices Against Poverty member Lillian Gallant represented P2P, sharing key accomplishments and lessons learned with the more than 100 participants who attended from across Ontario.



Tamarack's Communities Collaborating Institute

From September 27th to October 2nd, members of P2P attended the Tamarack Institute's Communities Collaborating Institute. This provided an opportunity to develop in-depth knowledge of many aspects of community-based poverty reduction efforts, including engaging business, pursuing policy change, collaborative leadership, and evaluation.

It was learned that collaborative initiatives, such as P2P, play many valuable roles in the community, including:

- Providing resources and building capacity for people to take action;
- Convening various perspectives;
- Connecting people for dialogue; and
- Forming partnerships and alliances.

Section VI: The Provincial Context

Ontario's poverty reduction strategy, *Breaking the Cycle*, which was released in December, 2008, aims to reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25% by the year 2013. On December 1st, 2010, the provincial government released its second annual report detailing progress over the past two years.



END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

The following chart, created by Campaign 2000 as part of its 2010 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Ontario, summarizes the progress.

Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Key Commitments 2008	Progress as of November 2010
By 2013 raise Ontario Child Benefit to maximum of \$1,310 / child / year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased in July 2009 to maximum of \$1,100 / child / year.
Review social assistance, to reduce barriers and increase opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Assistance Review Advisory Council released in June 2010 their recommendations for terms of reference for Ontario Income Security Review. No response yet from Ontario government.
Develop long-term Affordable Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$622 million investment in affordable housing with matched federal funding (2009-2011). Public consultations completed 2009. No Housing Strategy yet announced.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation to cover temp help agencies \$10 million / year to hire employment standards officers for enforcement Continue to raise minimum wage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New protections for temp agency workers added to Employment Standards Act. \$4.5 million to hire officers; \$6 million to deal with backlog of claims. No announcement beyond \$10.25 / hour (March 2010).
Phase in full day kindergarten for 4 & 5 year olds between 2010-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full day kindergarten for 4 & 5 yr olds began Sept. 2010 in 15% of schools. \$63.5 million /year committed to save child care subsidies.
Invest \$45 million / year for 3 years for dental care for low income Ontarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Low Income Dental Program which prioritizes children and youth, and expansion of CINOT. No program for low income adults.

Source: Campaign 2000, 2010 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Ontario

Subsequent to the release of Campaign 2000's Report Card, the provincial government made the following announcements related to its poverty reduction strategy:

Social Assistance Review

The government announced that its review of social assistance will take place over a period of 18 months (January 2011 to June 2012), and will be led by Frances Lankin (former United Way Toronto CEO) and Dr. Munir Sheikh (former Statistics Canada Director). The mandate of the review is to (1) recommend ways to improve people's ability to find and keep jobs, and guarantee security for people who cannot work; (2) examine and determine the effectiveness of social assistance and its role in relation to other parts of Canada's income security system; and (3) define Ontario's position regarding the federal government's responsibility for Ontarians' income security.

Special Diet Allowance

The provincial government has announced that it will continue the delivery of the Special Diet Allowance (SDA) within social assistance. The SDA will be examined within the context of the broader social assistance review. While the SDA will not be eliminated, a revised Special Diets schedule will take effect April 1, 2011 - and other changes are being made to comply with an Order of the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario as well as to address the concerns earlier expressed by the Auditor General of Ontario. Two key elements of the changes announced are that (1) the new application form will have fewer eligible medical conditions on it, and (2) clients will be required to consent to the release of relevant medical information to support their application.

Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

On November 29th, the Ontario Government released its long-term affordable housing strategy, *Building Foundations: Building Futures*. The strategy contained some important steps to addressing the housing needs of Ontarians including reforms to rules that penalize social housing tenants and measures to simplify the calculation of rent-geared-to-income from monthly to annual reporting. Overall, however, the strategy did not meet all of the five keys tests identified by the Housing Network of Ontario for a comprehensive approach to affordable housing, which included a call for bold targets, sustained funding, and a universal housing benefit.

Section VII: Looking Ahead

Over the past two years, P2P's collaborative, multi-sector approach to reducing poverty in Windsor-Essex County has provided a solid foundation for the important work that lies ahead in 2011.

In 2011 we will continue our efforts to make poverty everyone's business, as we believe that all members of the community have an important role to play in preventing and reducing poverty. We will focus specific attention on highlighting new and innovative ways for the business community to help reduce poverty locally.

Through the leadership of the Roundtable, P2P will continue to raise awareness, engage the community, advocate for resources and policy change, and learn from other communities about effective ways to reduce poverty locally. We will work toward the development of a more comprehensive understanding of poverty in our community, which will allow us to drive toward the types of changes that will have the greatest benefit to the community. With a provincial election scheduled for October 2011, the P2P network will also continue to work diligently to ensure that poverty reduction remains firmly on the political agenda.

P2P's Roundtable and Working Groups will continue to develop initiatives that are aimed at the reduction and prevention of poverty. With the provincial government's recent announcements on social assistance and affordable housing, there is much advocacy work to be done in the lead up to the provincial election. P2P will play a catalytic role in the area of food security, where there is a great deal of momentum locally for initiatives that will improve access to healthy, affordable food, and we are eager to participate in emerging discussions about how social innovation and social enterprise initiatives could contribute to poverty reduction and prevention efforts in Windsor-Essex County.

P2P is committed to building on the momentum generated in our first two years, and we look forward to your continued support as we strive to make poverty everyone's business and ensure the social and economic wellbeing of the residents of Windsor-Essex County.

Appendices

Roundtable Members:

Rose Anguiano Hurst	Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor	Sharon O'Hagan Wong	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
Liz Atkinson-Plato	The Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex	Connie Pare	Roman Catholic Diocese of London
Beverly Becker	Windsor Star	Becky Parent	Leadership Windsor-Essex
Bill Bevan	Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society	Linda Parent	Roman Catholic Diocese of London
Judith Binder	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Caroline Postma	Councillor, City of Windsor
Debbie Cercone*	Social and Health Services, The City of Windsor	Teresa Piruzza	Ontario Works, City of Windsor
Fabio Costante**	Tepperman's Furniture, Appliance and Electronics Store	Paul Schaffner	F. W. Begley Public School, G.E.C.D.S.B.
Linda Edwards*	St. Mary's Family Learning Centre	Cathy Shanahan	Family Respite Services
TJ Fleming	Voices Against Poverty/ Home Away From Home	Lorena Shepley*	Voices Against Poverty
Tina Gatt*	Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society	Glenn Stresman	The Windsor Essex Community Foundation
Shelley Gilbert	Legal Assistance of Windsor	Gemma Smyth	Faculty of Law, University of Windsor
Lorraine Goddard*	United Way / Centraide Windsor-Essex County	Noah Tepperman	Tepperman's Furniture, Appliance and Electronics Store
Tim Godfree	Voices Against Poverty	Terence Toohy	Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
Brian Gregg	County of Essex	Ronna Warsh	Community Development and Health Commissioner, City of Windsor
Joann Green	St. Clair College	Penny Williams	Transit Windsor
Elizabeth Haugh	Windsor-Essex County Health Unit	Danielle Yaholnitsky	Voices Against Poverty
Dr. Allen Heimann	Windsor-Essex County Health Unit	Joyce Zuk	Citizen Advocacy/Family Services Windsor Essex
Mark Horrocks	Municipal/First Nations Program Supervisor		
Tony Houad	Transit Windsor		
Dr. Warren Kennedy	Greater Essex County District School Board		
Dr. Norm King	University of Windsor		
Donna Labonte	Voices Against Poverty		
Jacqueline Leardi	Conseil Scholaire de District des Écoles Catholique du Sud-Ouest		
Jennifer Leblanc	Citizen Leader		
Heather Liffiton **	Former Director of Education, W.E.C.D.S.B.		
Mary Medcalf	School of Social Work, University of Windsor		
Donna Marentette	Workforce WindsorEssex		
Rolly Marentette	Windsor and District Labour Council		
Richard Meloche	Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex		
Colleen Mitchell	Windsor-Essex County Community Drug Strategy		
Cathy Mombourquette	United Communities Credit Union		
Ms. Ellen Mossny	Citizen Leader		
Rakesh Naidu	Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation		

* Steering Committee Member

** Roundtable Co-Chair

Working Group Members:

Affordable Housing

Anna Angelidis	Housing Information Services of Windsor and Essex County	Rob Olenyik	Housing Administration and Development, City of Windsor
Janette Calandra	Deerbrook Realty	Connie Pare	Roman Catholic Diocese of London
Marina Clemens*	Drouillard Place	Lorena Shepley	Citizen Leader /
Samantha Corriveau	Youth Opportunities Strategy, New Beginnings	Chris Vickers	Voices Against Poverty
Shelley Gilbert	Legal Assistance of Windsor		Homeless Coalition of Windsor Essex County
Josephine Heuton	Central Housing Registry		
Elayne Isaacs	Can-Am Urban Native Non-Profit Homes	* Chair	
Ken Lewenza Jr.	Councillor, City of Windsor		
Heather McNamara	Multicultural Council		

Health

Jarette Bezaire	RDÉE Ontario	Donna LaBonte	Citizen Leader/
Laura Bolger	Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation	Laura Liebrock	Voices Against Poverty
Jennie Boyd	City Centre Health Care	June Muir	Canadian Mental Health Association
Andrea Dimenna	Windsor Essex County Health Unit	Linda Parent	Windsor Essex Food Bank Association
Tristan Fehrenbach	YMCA	Lynne Phillips	Roman Catholic Diocese of London
Danielle Findlay	Jumpstart Student Nutrition	Victoria Rose	University of Windsor
Kelly Fleming	Windsor Essex County Health Unit	Cathy Shanahan*	The Downtown Farmer's Market
Jenna Foley	Youth and Family Resource Network	Denise Smith	Family Respite Services
Steve Green	St. Leonard's House	Charmaine Valbuena	Victorian Order of Nurses
Dr. Allen Heimann	Windsor Essex County Health Unit	Elaine Whitmore	University of Windsor
Bonnie Kam	Sandwich Community Health Centre		John McGivney
		*Chair	Children's Centre

Income Support

Lillian Gallant	Citizen Leader / Voices Against Poverty	Siobhan O'Mahony Paquin	Community Nurse
Tim Godfree	Citizen Leader / Voices Against Poverty	Teresa Piruzza	Ontario Works, City of Windsor
Donna LaBonte	Citizen Leader / Voices Against Poverty	Ray Poisson	Citizen Leader / Voices Against Poverty
Rolly Marentette*	Injured Workers' Coalition / Windsor and District Labour Council	Julie Policella	Student, University of Windsor
Kathy Mclean	Ministry of Community and Social Services	Caroline Postma	Councillor, City of Windsor
Marion Overholt	Legal Assistance of Windsor	Kristi Vollans	Ministry of Community and Social Services
		Darlene Williams	Citizen Leader / Voices Against Poverty
		Joyce Zuk	Citizen Advocacy/Family Services
		* Chair	

Affordable Transportation

Tricia Brisebois	City of Windsor	Richard Meloche	Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
Debbie Cercone*	Housing and Children's Services, City of Windsor	Ray Poisson	Citizen Leader/Voices Against Poverty
Jenna Foley	Youth and Family Resource Network	Darlene Williams	Citizen Leader/Voices Against Poverty
Donna Labonte	Citizen Leader/Voices Against Poverty	*Chair	

Education / Jobs and Skills Training

Melissa Basarac	New Canadians' Centre for Excellence	Dr. Norm King	Former Professor of Humanities, University of Windsor
Rachelle Booth	YMCA	Donna Marentette*	Workforce Windsor Essex
Josh Canty	Herman Secondary School, GECDSB	Sharon O'Hagan Wong	Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board
Dr. Finney Cherian	Faculty of Education, University of Windsor	Teresa Piruzza	Employment and Social Services, City of Windsor
Dr. Yvette Daniel	Faculty of Education, University of Windsor	Diane Quinn	Ontario Works, City of Windsor
Jean Foster	Windsor Public Library	Paul Schaffner	F. W. Begley Elementary School, GECDSB
Georgia Graham	Women's Enterprise and Skills Training	Diane Soucie	Workforce Windsor Essex
Joann Green	St. Clair College	Michelle Suchiu	YMCA
Mobina Hasan	MSW Student, University of Windsor	Kerri Zold	Centre for Career Education, University of Windsor
Dr. Warren Kennedy	Director of Education, GECDSB		

* Chair

Child Care and Early Learning

Christine Beresford	City of Windsor, Ontario Early Years	Beth Ann Meloche	Discovery School Based Child Care Program of Kingsville
Mary Louise Drake	University of Windsor	Sharon O-Hagan-Wong	Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board
Linda Edwards*	St. Mary's Family Learning Centre	Terri Whitfield	Talk 2 Me
Shannon Hyatt	City of Windsor, Children's Services		
Georgia Lamarche	Child Care Consumer	* Chair	

Public Awareness and Advocacy

Beverly Becker	The Windsor Star	Noah Tepperman	Tepperman's Furniture, Appliance and Electronics Store
Nicole Clark	University of Windsor	Terence Toohey	Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
Samantha Corriveau	New Beginnings	Ronna Warsh	Community Development and Health Commissioner, City of Windsor
Lillian Gallant	Voices Against Poverty		
Tina Gatt*	Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society of		
Gemma Smyth	Faculty of Law, University of Windsor		
Jillian Stevens	Women's Enterprise and Skills Training of Windsor	* Chair	

Voices Against Poverty

James Boyce	Donna LaBonte
Lin Burns	Linda Lyons
Dina Ciliberto	Ray Poisson
Gail Clark	Caroline Postma
Shannon Clarke	Lorena Shepley
Lucette Chiasson-Plourde	Darlene Williams
Thomas (TJ) Fleming	Marilyn Woodison
Lillian Gallant	Danielle Yaholnitsky
Tim Godfree	
Denise Hunt	

Programs and Initiatives Funded through Pathway to Potential

Children's Recreation Program	Amherstburg Community Services
Computers for Kids	CAW Local 200
Income Tax Preparation for Low Income Families and Individuals Applying for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program	Citizen Advocacy
Children's Recreation Program	City of Windsor, Parks & Recreation
Food Cooperative	Drouillard Place
Grandview Youth Centre	Drouillard Place
Teen Centre	Drouillard Place
Keep the Heat	Housing Information Services
H.E.A.R.T	Housing Information Services
Community Nourishment	Jumpstart
Children's Recreation Program	Lakeshore Community Services
Pathway to Potential Leamington - Assisted Recreation Program	Municipality of Leamington
Packs for Success	Roseland Rotary Club
"Be Back Soon"	St. Mary's Family Learning Centre
Kids Alliance	Windsor Essex Community Health Centre o/a Teen Health Centre
Morning Glory Moments Windsor Essex	Community Health Centre o/a Teen Health Centre
Children's Recreation Program	Town of Essex
Youth & Seniors Recreation Affordability Initiative	Town of Kingsville
Adult & Youth Pathways to a Healthy Lifestyle	Town of Lasalle
Children & Adult Recreation Programs	Town of Tecumseh
Affordable Pass Program	Transit Windsor
Coordination of P2P Strategy	United Way / Centraide Windsor-Essex County
Summer Recreation	Windsor Essex Housing Corp (WECHC)
Children's Shoe & Boot Program	Windsor Goodfellows
Community Nourishment	Youth & Family Resource Network (YFRN)

Partners and Supporters

P2P thanks the following groups, businesses and organizations for their invaluable support in 2010.

Windsor-Essex Community Partners

Primary Funders

City of Windsor
County of Essex

Convening Organizations

City of Windsor Social and Health Services
Department
Legal Assistance of Windsor
School of Social Work, University of Windsor
United Way / Centraide Windsor Essex County

Roundtable and Working Group Involvement

211 Windsor-Essex
Benson Ontario Early Years Centre
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Can-Am Urban Native Non-Profit Homes
Central Housing Registry
Centre for Career Education, University of Windsor
Children and Youth Providers Association Group
City Centre Health Care
City of Windsor, Ontario Early Years
College of Dental Hygienists Ontario
Community-University Partnership for Community
Development, Research & Training
Conseil Scolaire de District des Écoles Catholique
du Sud-Ouest
Discovery School Based Child Care Program
Downtown Mission
Drouillard Place
Faculty of Education, University of Windsor
Faculty of Law, University of Windsor
Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor
Family Respite Services
Glengarry Neighbourhood Strengthening Committee
Greater Essex County District School Board
Green Shield Canada
Home Away From Home (Youth and Family
Resource Network)
Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County
Housing Information Services of Windsor and Essex
County
John McGivney Children's Centre
LaZingara Restaurant
Multicultural Council
New Beginnings
Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services
Roman Catholic Diocese of London
Sandwich Community Health Centre
Ska:na Family Learning Centre

St. Clair College
St. Mary's Family Learning Centre
Teen Health Centre
Tepperman's Home Furnishings
Voices Against Poverty
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
Windsor and District Labour Council
Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
Windsor-Essex Community Foundation
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Windsor Star
Workforce WindsorEssex
YMCA

Donation of Support and Resources

211 Windsor-Essex
10 Friends Diner
All Saints Church
Aramark Refreshment Services
Art Gallery of Windsor
Atkinson Charitable Foundation
Benson Ontario Early Years Centre
CAW Local 200 / 444
Carrick's Garden Centre
Centre for Business Advancement and Research, Odette
School of Business, University of Windsor
Children and Youth Providers Association Group
City of Windsor
Community-University Partnership for Community
County of Essex
Development Research & Training
Downtown Mission
Fringe Festival
Hiram Walker and Sons, Limited
Home Away From Home (Youth and Family Resource
Network)
Glengarry Non-Profit
Immaculate Heart Parish
Namaste Corner Cafe
New Song Church
Ontario Association of Social Workers – Southwestern
Branch
Pro Bono Law Students Association, Faculty of Law,
University of Windsor
Tepperman's Furniture, Electronics and Appliance Store
Transit Windsor
United Way / Centraide Windsor-Essex County
Well-Come Centre for Human Potential
Windfest Productions
Windsor Public Library
Windsor Star