

ACCESS ACTIVITY



Meet the new Executive Director

When I first joined ACCESS in January, the number one question from friends, family and colleagues was, “So what does ACCESS do?”. That’s a great question! The short answer is embedded in our mission statement which reads, “Supporting and strengthening Essex County through locally-driven services, advocacy and strategic community partnerships”. In other words, whether it’s our KEYS (Early Years) program, Community Nutrition Program, Housing and Basic Need Services, After School Programming in both Leamington and Harrow or our work with Youth in Transition, ACCESS is committed to providing strong community

supports throughout the County of Essex. As we state in our vision, we’re all about “Supporting Communities, Building Futures”. Our team at ACCESS realizes that the more we tell our story, the more we hear, “I never knew you had so many programs”. That’s part of the reason why we’ve initiated this newsletter. We want people to know not only what we do, but who we are and what we are planning for the future. We want you to have access to ACCESS! You’ll note throughout the newsletter that there are many ways you can get involved or stay involved with our team. We’re always recruiting volunteers for our programs and for both work at the committee and Board level. If



John Sutton Executive Director

you’re interested in making a difference in your community, we have a spot for you here.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank all of our supporters who have enabled ACCESS to make a positive difference in the lives of youth and families in our region since 1994. Whether it was a donation of your time or money (or perhaps both), you can rest assured that you have impacted many lives and assisted youth and families in achieving goals that would not have been possible otherwise.

I can’t begin to describe how much I’ve enjoyed my first 3 months here with the ACCESS team and I look forward to meeting as many of our supporters as possible in the months ahead. I’m also wondering just what I’ll look like in a TuTu on June 17th! I hope to see you there with a Tutu of your own!

Highlight Corner: Nutrition Program

Through generous funder support of the United Way Centraide Windsor/Essex; Ontario Trillium Foundation and Pathway To Potential, and through the support of our community partners, the ACCESS Nutrition Program

brought food awareness to over 3000 people last year through Community Kitchens, Community Gardens and Garden-To-You Gardens. Volunteers learned food skills education; had access to fresh produce, a sense of com-

munity; connection to the environment; and participated in physical activity through gardening.

Volunteers Are Needed At The Community Garden – The 2017 Season Is Now Underway!

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OUR VISION

Supporting Communities, Building Futures.

Inside this issue:

<i>Meet the new Executive Director</i>	1
<i>Highlight Corner- Nutrition Program</i>	1 & 2
<i>Youth Drop In</i>	2
<i>Kingsville Early Years (KEYS)</i>	2
<i>After School Programs</i>	3
<i>Fundraising Fun</i>	3
<i>Housing & Basic Needs</i>	4

More about our Nutrition Program & Community Garden

The ACCESS Community Garden Network relies on volunteers in order to be successful. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities throughout Windsor and Essex County. Students can get their 40 hours while working outdoors. We can accommodate large groups and provide fun team-building opportunities. The ACCESS Community Garden is located next to our office at 23 Mill Street W. Kingsville. All Welcome!

To Learn More:

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AccessGarden/](https://www.facebook.com/AccessGarden/)

Tweet us
[Access/garden](https://twitter.com/Access/garden)

Blog
<http://accessgarden.jimdo.com/>



Youth Drop In

PASTA TUESDAY!



ACCESS Youth- Drop in Centre
Serving: ages 13-24 years old
Cost: FREE!
When: Every Tuesday
Location: 94 Talbot St. E Leamington, ON
Time: Cooking starts @5 pm! Come and eat at any time before 8pm.

Pasta Tuesday

Every Tuesday night from 5-8pm Access Leamington Support Centre will be having a pasta night for the youth. We will have a pasta dinner and make fun creative desserts to eat after dinner. The youth will be able to bring home a takeout container at the end of the night.

Workshop Wednesdays

Access Leamington Support Centre will be putting on workshop for the Youth every Wednesday night from 5-8pm. These workshops are provided to help youth gain a sense of independence and teach applicable life skills. To find out what events we are having check out our website or our Facebook page. Hope to see you there.

Kingsville Early Years (KEYS)

Kingsville Early Years

If you have children ages 0-6years, feel free to drop-in and connect with other parents while your child learns, plays and interacts with others during these hours:

Mon, Thurs & Friday 9:00.-11:30am
Tuesday 9:00-11:30am, 1:00-3:00pm
Wednesday 9:00-11:30, 1:00-5:00pm

“KEYS is a safe place where my children learn and grow and I can breath and share”- a mom

KEYS is always looking for part packages of diapers so that we can continue to offer diapers in the bathroom in case of emergency. So, if your child has outgrown a size, please consider sharing the leftovers with us. Please also keep in mind that the Food bank will refer families in need to come to KEYS for diapers and food. So your diapers may be used accordingly.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

As we move into the warmer months the **Harrow Youth Centre and After School Program** is prepping for activities, reorganizing and redecorating for spring. Our next dance for grades 5-8 held at the Harrow Arena from 7:00pm-10:00p is scheduled for May 26, 2017. Registration forms can be picked up at the Harrow Youth Centre Located at 18 Queen St. Harrow. Volunteers for these events, as well as the regular day to day activities at our Centre are always needed and welcomed. There are still spots available for our FREE after school program which runs from Monday – Friday. For more information please call 519-738-4050 or email hberlasty@accesscountv.ca

Girls World

A mentorship style group for young girls. A variety of themes from fitness nights to crafts, beauty nights, to discussions where topics that are relevant to girls this age (how to handle bullying, body image, media, etc). *Tuesdays for Grades 6-8 and on Wednesdays for Grades 9-12 from 6:30pm-8:00pm*

Drop in and Cook -Teaching high school students how to prep and cook inexpensive, healthy recipes that are quick and relatively easy to prepare.

*Grades 9-12
Monday nights from
6:30pm-8:00pm*



Evening Programs

Fundraising Fun

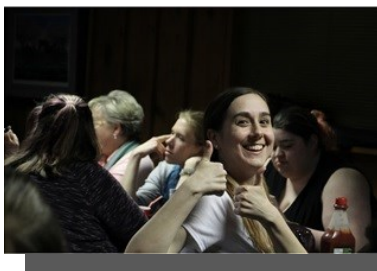
Such amazing things are going on in the Development area of ACCESS! At the end of March we held our first ever Harry Potter & the Insane Night of Trivia at Colasanti's! It was a huge success, we sold out in a week and squeezed in two more teams, there is still a waiting list for our next one! Save the Date! Saturday, October 28th, 2017 will be **Halloween at Hogwarts**, We don't want you to miss the magic! Call 519-733-8983 ext 23 for more information & tickets! !

Next up? Our 2K2K Tutu Run & Ride, Saturday, June 17, 2017. Registration is online now <http://accesscountv.ca/special-events/2017-tutu-run/> \$35 for individuals or just \$30 each for team of four or more! We have spectacular prizes this year too! The first 50 pledge forms with \$50 or more returned to us will receive a tiara to wear on the run! Every increment of \$100 that you raise will earn you a draw ticket! Place the tickets into the draw for your favourite prizes! Caesars Windsor provided two fantastic prize packages! We have a Michael Kors purse, Swarovski crys-

tal earrings and Colasanti's prize packages too! You don't want to miss this exciting event, it's a great way to kick off the summer and you'll have so much fun! See you there!!

Event Day Volunteers

If you'd love to help us the day of the 2K2K Tutu Run & Ride we'd love to have you! Volunteer hours can go towards your 40 hours for high school students. We are looking for people to help direct runners, face painters, greeters and a variety of other roles. Call 573-733-8983 ext 23 or stop by our office at 23 Mill St. W., Kingsville ON to sign up to volunteer!



Harry Potter Trivia Night Contestants!



Housing & Basic Needs

The Leamington Support Centre- Housing and Supports

The Leamington Support Centre hosts a variety of different programs and workers. This includes two Housing Response Workers, a Service Coordinator, and a Youth-In Transition Worker.

Our Service Coordinator is the first person point of contact when individuals are experiencing housing instability. She aids individuals in searching for sustainable, affordable, and safe housing options. In addition, she provides adequate referrals and systems navigation to ensure all their immediate needs are being met. She is currently working with approximately 90 individuals on a monthly basis.

Our Housing Responses Workers pro-

vide long-term intensive supports to persons who have higher needs. These workers are a linkage the Windsor-Essex Housing Connections, which is a multi-agency partnership that is compiled of the following agencies; ACCESS, The Downtown Mission, Housing Information Services, Family Services Windsor-Essex, and the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre. The individuals they support are experiencing homelessness, addictions and in combination with mental health illnesses. A snapshot of housing support successes are; One youth who had successfully applied and was accepted to a local college. Another individual who had been experiencing homelessness for six months, had been able to secure housing late last month. A client was given assistance with navi-

gating the housing stability track which resulted in them obtaining a permanent, affordable, and welcomed housing solution

The Youth-In-Transition Role works alongside youth that are aging out of the Children's Aid Society's care. This staff person helps individuals find their way to full-independence. Each client is completely unique and holds tremendous opportunity for growth. This client directed program helps support youth in tapping into their potential and reach their self- identified goals. Some of the recent successes of these youth are;

Participating in a CTV interview that is helping bring awareness to gaps in youth focused services in Leamington, and promoting the development of the Building Bridges youth hub. Aiding two at-risk youths search and connect with landlords, and secure their own housing

**We're on the
Web!
Accesscounty.ca**



OUR MISSION

Supporting and strengthening Essex County through locally-driven services, advocacy and strategic community partnerships.