

Windsor Family Homes & Community Partnerships

The latest updates and announcements

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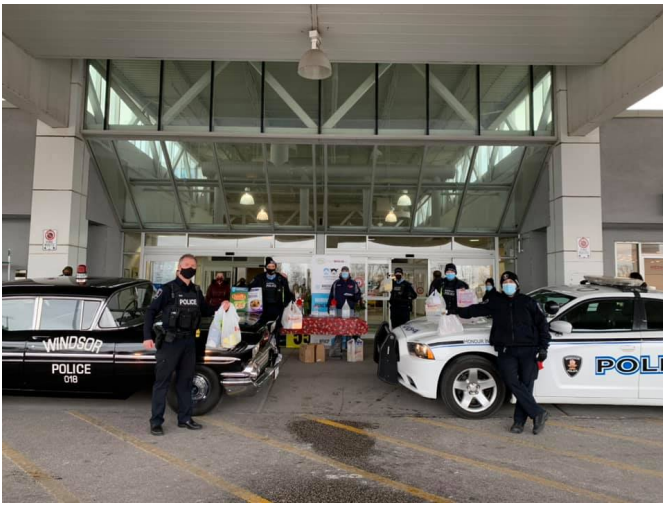
Kids First Food Bank

..and more



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ANGELA YAKONICH

Wow, what a year 2020 was, to say the least! We never imagined that we would kick off the year with a robbery followed by a global pandemic! As challenging as the year was, there were so many positives. We were able to completely change the model of our health and fitness programming; to a social enterprise venture that will enable us to have steady funding for support programs and were the recipients of a grant from Home Depot to do a remodel on the fitness centre space. With this we welcomed a health and fitness coordinator and developed a partnership with the St. Clair College Fitness & Health Promotion program. We were able to hire on a full time, permanent programs coordinator and executive assistant. In our COVID downtime, the incredible team at WFHCP was able to develop and build on current programs to create even better resources for those in need in our community. We had to do a lot of pivoting with annual programs like Coats for Kids, tenant gift baskets, Adopt-a-Family, and the Children's Christmas party. Our creativity ensured that the needs and wants of those we serve were met, above and beyond. We felt that a challenging year deserved a little extra for our tenants. As always, the Windsor/Essex Community has been incredibly supportive of the agency. We feel incredibly blessed, and are tremendously thankful for these supports through volunteerism, donations and general cheerleaders from the sidelines by way of social media. We are looking forward to a shift in 2021 and showing the community all of the incredible things we have planned!



CHRISTMAS FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

Having so many of our annual events cancelled due to the pandemic, we were so thankful to head back to Superstore (Dougall) with the Windsor Police to hold the annual Stuff-A-Cruiser event. We were thrilled to announce that we collected 1224.7 lbs of food and over \$2550 in cash and gift cards. Incredible!

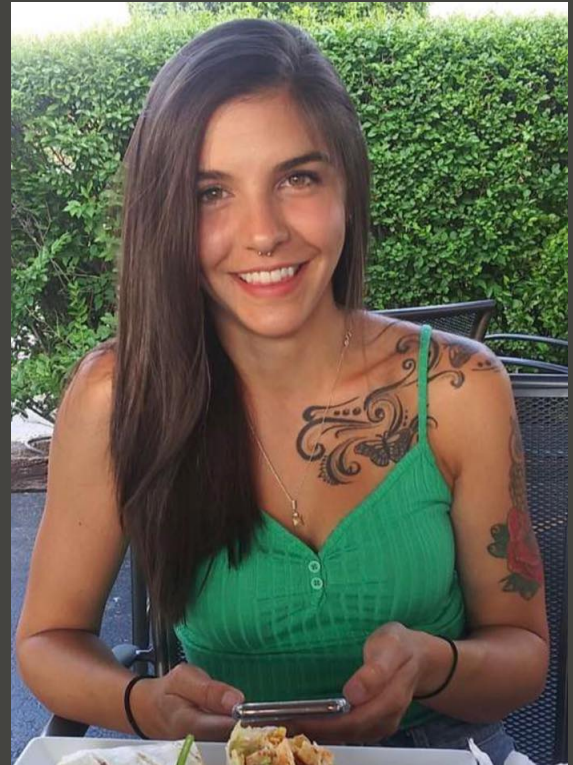


Our agency was also fortunate enough to receive the generosity of The Red Apple (Ouellette) and their annual Fill The Sleigh Day as well as a food drive. The amazing staff collected boxes and boxes of toys for us to give to the kids in our Community as well as 10% of the stores sales that day.

A special thank you to The Superstore, our friends at The Windsor Police and our new friends at The Red Apple. We appreciate your efforts and kindness.

INTRODUCING: JENN DROUILLARD

Jen is a certified Medical Office Assistant who is passionate about serving the community and giving back in any way she can. In 2019 she was given an internship here at WFHCP through a program offered at W.E.S.T designed to help build employment skills. During her internship, Jen had the opportunity to fulfill her lifelong dream to make a difference in people's lives. Not only did she really enjoy her position, but she made a lasting impression with the staff. Following her internship, Jen was successful in securing a position in her chosen field of work. When a position at WFHCP was offered to her, she could not refuse. With Jen's life experience and her passion for ending homelessness, she is excited to take on her new role as Executive Assistant at WFHCP.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS



CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS

Unfortunately this year, due to Covid-19, we chose to forego handing out actual bags of food. We instead mailed out gift cards to everyone who applied for this program. We were also still able to hand out a large amount of turkey's and side dishes to our clients/tenants at the food bank.



HOLIDAY TOY DISTRIBUTION

Because of Covid-19 we were unable to throw our tenant Christmas party. In lieu of that we still wanted to give gifts to all the tenant children. Our friends at The Red Apple donated all of the toys collected at their annual Fill The Sleigh Day.

On December 22nd we handed out gifts for everyone's kids along with hot chocolate and timbits courtesy of Tim Hortons.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

To say our 2020 Adopt-A-Family program was a hit is an understatement. This year we had an incredible turn out of families and companies looking to adopt.

Nearly all of the families and single adults who applied to be sponsored this year we sponsored.

The thoughtfulness and generosity of our sponsors was beyond humbling. During the midst of a pandemic, our sponsors showed the true meaning of Christmas through their kindness and interest in giving back.

It was quite emotional watching some of our adopted families come to pick up their gifts. Knowing that for some, this may be the only gifts their children may see. The gratitude and appreciation shown was very moving to witness and hard to explain with words.

To all of those who participated this year- We are so utterly thankful to you for being a part of this program. We are so passionate about it and couldn't have imagined a better turnout.

We hope to see you next year to do it all over again!



From our friends at CIBC's all over Windsor!

VOLUNTEER AWARDS



SUE WALKER
DEDICATED VOLUNTEER
AWARD
KRISTA

**VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR AWARD**
DONNA



IN MEMORY OF

We couldn't put out a newsletter without paying tribute to a long-time volunteer and supporter of the food bank- David.

David was a funny and kind-hearted man who, if you were in his presence, likely made you laugh once or twice.

David devoted a lot of his time to the food bank and we truly appreciated having him as a part of our team.

We were all sad to hear of his passing prior to Christmas. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Jo and all of their family and friends.



KIDS FIRST FOOD BANK UPDATES



2020 was quite the interesting year for our food bank. Starting off the year with a robbery was certainly disheartening. However having the community step up for us they did gave us a deeper motivation to continue our efforts.

With our shelves full we were excited to get back to our year when Covid-19 hit. We stayed open as long as we could and developed a breakfast bag program- free bag of breakfast foods for anyone with school-aged children. When our offices closed some of the staff took the lead on a drive thru/walk thru food hub in the West end of Windsor.

When we were finally able to open our food banks doors, we were greeted back by a handful of our amazing volunteers and thankfully to them we were able to operate food bank at lessened hours (Mon + Fri 1:30-4PM).

In December we were thankful to have had a few schools and businesses host food drives on our behalf. We received some amazing monetary donations and food donations to keep our shelves full.

We took a short break during Christmas but we are quite excited to open our doors this January and expect the number of clients utilizing our food bank will increase.

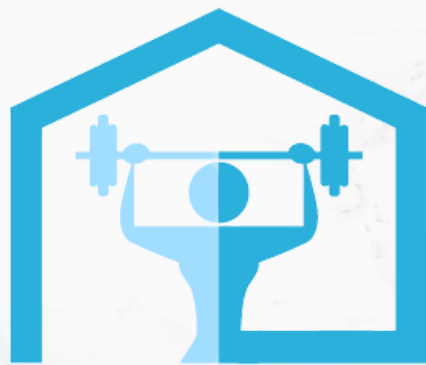
A call out for volunteers was put on social media platforms and several new volunteers will begin to sort donations and rotate food in storage.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO



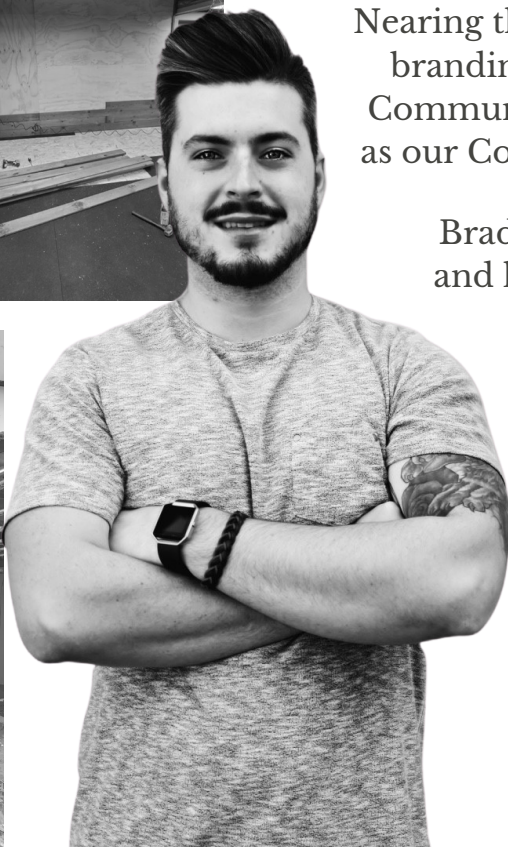
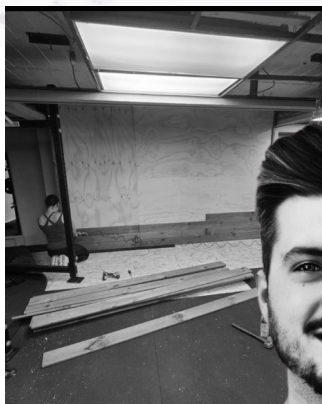
and everyone else who showed their support to our food bank this year.





COMMUNITY FAMILY FITNESS CENTRE

HEALTHY MIND | BODY | HOME



Nearing the end of 2020, the renovation and re-branding of our gym began. We introduced Community Family Fitness to Windsor as well as our Coordinator of Fitness- Brad Bellavance.

Brad along with a few different contractors and helping hands have been busy working away at updating the fitness facility.

The gym features all new Rogue equipment and a mural is currently being painted that will surely represent our community.

The gym's official grand opening was scheduled for a January 2nd date however is now postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. See facebook or instagram for updates.

WFHCP + RAISING THE ROOF

We're thrilled to partner with Raising The Roof for the 2020/2021 Toque campaign! Purchase a toque or other RtR merchandise online at www.raisingtheroof.org. 50% of all purchases directly support our work, while remaining proceeds benefit national homelessness prevention initiatives.



TOQUE
TUESDAY
2021