

The Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society is dedicated to the well-being and safety of every child by advocating for, and partnering with, our children, families and communities.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"Who are we, if not measured by our impact on others? That's who we are! We're not who we say we are, we're not who we want to be — we are the sum of the influence and impact that we have, in our lives, on others."

Carl Sagan

As we enter into the 116th Annual General Meeting of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS) and the composition of this Annual Report, we are emphasizing the role of the Society in terms of "Reaching Out to the Community". The work that we do to better the cause of children, youth and families would not be possible without the resources and support that we receive from our community partners, business and professional entities and the many individuals who have seized the opportunity to "Write A Child's Story". As a constant reflection of our mission, the agency's record of service demonstrates quality and strength based services offered in an efficient and economical way.

For the third consecutive year, the Society was able to maintain a balanced budget while continuing to maintain a high level of service and introduce new innovative programs simultaneously. This has been a result of focusing on building and enhancing family based provisions for those children who come into care, resulting in a reduction in children placed in group care. Reflecting the more stable economic conditions of our area, the Society has also experienced a decline in the average number of children coming into care. However, there is still a tremendous need in our community and in the families and children we serve.

Many new and innovative programs have been initiated as a result of the generous support channeled through the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Foundation and the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE). Some examples of these programs are Expressive Arts, Laptops, Music, Family Assertive Community Training Program (FACT) and the newly established Our Youth, Charting the Course for the Future program which offers on-site job and apprenticeship training as well as completion bursaries for youth who face challenges related to pursuing traditional post-secondary options.

In terms of engaging in the broader child welfare spectrum, the Society has taken an active role in responding and taking a pro-active approach to Ministry of Children and Youth Service (MCYS) requirements in terms of the following initiatives; Baldwin Inquest, African Canadian Provincial Consultation Committee, MCYS Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), Motherisk, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Compliance, Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), Child & Youth Advocacy Centre and Joint Protocol for Student Achievement. In response to recent provincial government enquiries, the Society is well positioned to respond and be a full participant in any reconfiguration plan that MCYS is considering for child welfare.

What evolved for many years as an innovative concept has come to fruition. WECAS has spearheaded the creation of Community Hub 33. The timing for the Society was right as we looked to replace our aging and inadequate Leamington office. The opportunity presented itself as Central 33, the former Princess Centre in Uptown Leamington, was being completely re-developed to once again become a centralized location to house community services. The City of Windsor Employment & Social Services, The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Community Living Essex & Children First have come together with WECAS to form the Hub which will create synergy and a cohesive approach to service delivery that can only have a positive impact on how we deliver the highest caliber of programs to Essex County residents.

In terms of being an integral entity of our community, we continue to welcome large gatherings of individuals to our Riverside Drive location. This has promoted to the broader sector the many facets of the work of the Society that takes place within our physical structure. Some



Mark Rinaldi-Ross Board President



William R. Bevan Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

examples have been the Greater Essex County District School Board, the Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon and the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce "Lunch & Learn". This past June, WECAS together with Chatham-Kent Children's Services, Sarnia-Lambton Children's Services and Metropolitan Detroit partners presented "Setting the Stage for Tomorrow", A One Day Symposium Calling to Action Issues Relating to Children and Youth. The forum examined issues but more importantly, through keynote speakers and relevant workshops, presented viable solutions that participants could bring back to their schools, organizations and neighbourhoods. Over 230 guests took part in the day which included a "Celebration of Children" Luncheon showcasing the talents of children and youth of the region. In November, together, with the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Foundation we celebrated the commitment of our donors who have been the catalyst behind many of the programs offered out of the Bill & Dot Muzzatti Child & Family Centre that are having positive life changing impacts on children, youth and families. The Foundation provides that momentum that captures the hearts and minds of the greater population.

To better emphasize the message of the "You Can Write A Child's Story" Campaign, the Society with support from the Foundation entered into a comprehensive marketing campaign with some of our key local media partners; The Windsor Star, AM800 and Snapd. Since September, each of these entities has brought forth monthly messaging about our many programs through articles, ads, videos, talk shows, special publications and interviews. The response has been overwhelming in terms of Windsor and Essex County citizens talking up the Children's Aid! In every corner of the community, people are speaking about sponsoring a family for Christmas, sending a child to camp, making enquiries about how to become a volunteer or foster parent and so much more. At the same time, we expanded our presence in terms of digital communications. Our Society and Foundation web-sites are being totally redeveloped. We are actively involved in conveying information and current events regularly via Facebook, Twitter and Linked In. This annual report highlights some of the outreach in this area.

This past year, the Society received a significant honour. Nominated by Windsor Police Services Chief Al Frederick, the Society was selected as one of three finalists for the inaugural Pillar of the Community Award, a category of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. The category recognizes outstanding achievements by a non-profit charitable organization. Although the United Way/Centeraide of Windsor-Essex County was the recipient of the award, the Society's work was showcased through a video and accolades shared with an audience of 1,100 at the awards ceremony held April 20th at Caesar's Windsor. The Society and Foundation were represented by nearly 70 Board members, staff, volunteers, foster parents and supporters.

We could not be who we are in our community without the staff, foster parents and volunteers who are the true "Ambassadors" that Reach Out to Our Community. We dedicate this report to all of you for the many children's stories that you write every day. As we move into our 117th year, we reflect back on many things that have changed but we hold fast to our basic values which are to assure the protection and safety of children, and the strengthening of families for this City of Windsor and County of Essex that we call home.

Mark Rinaldi-Ross Board President

William R. Bevan Chief Executive Officer

The Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society celebrates our continued collaborative work with our community partners towards achieving our agency mission. As you can see from the following highlights, we are actively partnering with our community to ensure dedication to the well-being and safety of every child and family that we serve.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

For the past two years, the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society has participated with a group of working professionals and community stakeholders, regarding the development of a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. The purpose of this centre is to deal with the investigation of child maltreatment in a systematic way with involved partners in order to reduce any further trauma to children and their families.

WECAS will participate in a pilot project along with all local area police services and Windsor Regional Hospital and utilize the hospital site as the location. There has been a demonstrated commitment on the part of involved parties to enhance existing partnerships and develop a consistent approach to dealing with child maltreatment.

● JOINT PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (JPSA)

WECAS has worked in partnership with all school boards in our area to create a Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA). The JPSA is intended to facilitate further collaboration between partnering CAS's and School Boards in an effort to support Kindergarten to Grade 12 students who are involved with CAS in maximizing their academic potential.

● FAMILY ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (FACT)

Since October 2015, WECAS has initiated the FACT model to provide services and treatment with the collaboration of the Regional Children's Centre to better service our clients. The families involved exhibit complex family issues, parental mental/physical health issues, and child/youth emotional, social and behavioural concerns. The program

is characterized by a multidisciplinary team with small case loads, providing intensive treatment and support to meet the family's needs.

The Society was successful in securing a grant from Green Shield for a total of \$100,128 over a period of four years to assist in the provision of this specialization. This grant will assist with costs of any barriers for the families to reach a successful result.

◆ HOUSE OF SOPHROSYNE/WINDSOR ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION

Since October 16th, 2014 a staff member from the House of Sophrosyne has been positioned at WECAS on the Family Service Department floor one day per week. This worker assists Family Service workers with consultation, is a resource for information and will attend cases with workers to assist in planning.

In partnership with the Islamic Social Welfare, the ISWA coordinator has been working (biweekly) from an office in our Family Service Department since mid-2015. This individual has provided case consultations/information on how ISWA services may be of benefit to our Muslim clients.

The anticipated outcome of hosting community partners in our facility is providing staff a resource for information, case consultations and attending on home visits. The ISWA coordinator is also an active partner is recruiting foster homes to make appropriate cultural matches in placement for those children who must come into care.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STRATEGIES INITIATIVE

In an effort to provide our youth with the skills, knowledge and benefits of employment the Society partnered with New Beginnings Windsor-Essex to provide pre and postemployment training in addition to a paid employment placement where the youth worked part-time during the school year. Seventeen youth ages 15 – 21 participated in the program.



• FIRST ROBOTICS 2016

WECAS had the opportunity to collaborate with New Beginnings and introduce the opportunity of First Robotics to our youth. This program has proven to be an excellent opportunity for our youth to learn and develop some hands on skills in a variety of areas including team work and sportsmanship. This team, named Blitzkrieg, was the first community (non-school-based) team in the First Robotics Canada competition which was made up of 52 teams from across North America and from as far away as Poland. Our youth's participation in this program and the actual competition generated significant excitement amongst our staff who love seeing the children and youth they work with achieve successes.

LIFE-SKILLS AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH

The CCSY (Continued Care and Support for Youth) workers, in partnership with staff from New Beginnings, offer a number of skill based groups for youth transitioning to independence including Employment strategies; Financial and Budgeting; Home maintenance; Transitioning to Independence; Community connections; and Cooking classes. Accessibility to the teaching kitchen in the Bill & Dot Muzzatti Child & Family Centre provides our youth with an enhanced experience where they will learn handson about preparing nutritious and affordable meals. In 2015-2016, we served 24 youth through the Life Skills program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHILD & FAMILY ACCESS PROGRAM

The Bill and Dot Muzzatti Child and Family Centre continues to afford families a much warmer and child/family friendly environment to enjoy their visits. This program is dedicated to providing children in care with a safe and family friendly environment for children and caregivers who must

visit in a supervised setting. As a result of the commitment of the program's staff, the Society completed 57,658 hours of access this past year. The Society was able to enhance the program with the addition of some family and learning oriented iPads for the Access Program. The additions were made possible by the generous assistance of the "Raise a Reader" program of the Windsor Star and the Rotary Club of Windsor 1918.

CROWN WARD REVIEW

As a result of the hard work by frontline staff and supervisors, the Society received a rating of 77.8% Full/High compliance. This review also provides a summary of the Society's performance for Crown Wards in relation to child safety (92%) permanency (81%) and well-being (83%).

• FOSTER CARE LICENSING 2015

Foster Care Licensing Review was initiated on October 5, 2015. As a result of this review, WECAS received a full license.

WECAS continues to work on quality improvement plans as well to support our foster parents in their role in caring for our children.



FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION EVENT

A Foster Parent Appreciation Open House was held on October 21st. Ninety-one foster parents and kinship care parents attended this event which recognized their years of service and dedication to the children in our care. Cindy and Bob Labrecque were recognized as recipients of the FPSO (Foster Parent Society of Ontario) Lifetime Achievement Award.

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. WECAS was very fortunate to be a recipient of a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation that has allowed us to have a 'Wendy's Wonderful Kids' (WWK) Recruiter through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. This grant allows us to implement proactive, child-focused recruitment programs targeted exclusively on longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families. In 2015/16, this agency completed 32 adoptions for children in care and in particular, children who are older or with more complex needs.



● CCSY (CONTINUED CARE AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH) HOLIDAY DINNER

A Holiday dinner was held on December 1, 2015 for youth 18-21 years involved in our CCSY program as well as for those youth living independently. The youth bring a guest with them and this year we had over one hundred people attend this event. The Windsor Essex Children's Aid Foundation financially assists with this dinner. This has always been a successful event where the youth are able to gather for a Holiday meal with guests, staff, Senior Management and representatives of the Agency and Foundation Board members.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteer Services for the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society exists for the purpose of enhancing and supporting agency services and programs through the dedication of active and committed volunteers from our community.



Volunteers support the following programs and services: Kids on the Block Puppet Program; Family Well Being Parenting Programs; Homework Program; Back to School Program; Holiday Program; One to One Mentorship Program, Special Events & Fundraising; and a massive Transportation Program.

Highlights of 2015-2016:

- WECAS volunteers represent men, women and youth from all walks of life, with diverse backgrounds and skills.
 This virtual army of volunteers will dedicate over 70,000 hours of service to the agency.
- There were 210 active volunteers by the end of the year.
- Of these active volunteers, 121 were volunteer drivers.
- Volunteers travelled over 2.5 million kilometers (to the moon and back 6.5 times!)
- The Homework Program boasts a one to one ratio with 36 Tutors providing educational supports to 36 children over 63 sessions.
- There were 9 mentor matches with over 800 hours of friendship shared.
- Over 50 volunteers donated 3,000 hours to the Annual Holiday Program



HOMEWORK/TUTORING PROGRAM

The Homework/Tutoring Program is designed to increase self-confidence and academic performance. Approximately 46 volunteer tutors consisting of retired teachers, professionals and university students work one-on-one with about 38 children/youth who are enrolled in the program.

Testimonials/Success Stories

"I love the homework program because I get help. I get help with all subjects that I don't get help with at home. I like to play on the iPads and getting prizes for working hard. It's making me a better student and I am proud of my hard work."

"I like the homework program because it helps me with my math. It is fun and I make new friends. Also, I feel smarter when I come here."

"I have been coming for 4 years! My tutor always helps me and makes me feel smarter and happier. My tutor listens to me and helps me to learn. My math and English are lots better. Thanks!"

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Society, under the Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAPC), works closely with its community partners and the community at large to ensure that the issue of child abuse remains in the forefront of public education efforts aimed at reducing and preventing its impact on children and families.

Highlights of 2015-2016:

- A Regional Symposium on Children & Youth was held in partnership with Sarnia Lambton CAS and Chatham-Kent CAS on June 4th, 2015. Since this event, WECAS has forged partnerships with WEtech Alliance, First Robotics and the United Way.
- In 2015/2016 the CAPC led two successful public education campaigns starting with No Spank Day on April 30th. The campaign was media focused to raise awareness of the potentially harmful and unnecessary practice of corporal punishment in parenting.

- The second campaign engaged 97 community organizations and businesses to participate in the "Go Purple for Prevention" Campaign during Child Abuse Prevention Month in October, impacting on over 11,000 individuals directly through these participating agencies.
- The Society's Speakers Bureau delivered 63 community presentations on Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and other parenting related topics to over 2,500 individuals.
- The Society hosts an exclusive child abuse prevention website www.preventchildabuse.ca to include more education resources online where an estimated over 14,086 unique visitors to the website each year will find information on child abuse, prevention & safety, and parenting tips and strategies with over 59,000 page views.
- The school-based program Kids on the Block (KOTB) provided programming for just over 10,000 children and adults received across 193 school and community presentations.



COMMUNITY SURVEY ANALYSIS

University of Windsor partnered with WECAS and the Child Abuse Prevention Council to provide a secondary analysis of Community Survey which was conducted in 2013. In total, 240 individuals from various sectors were sent the survey. There were 96 respondents with a 40% response rate. The survey sought to evaluate the community's current awareness of the prevention efforts delivered through the Society and to also inform future program and campaign strategic planning. Their Analysis completed at the end of 2015 was titled: Child Protection in the Context of a Network of Family Service Providers: An Examination of Service Providers Activities and Needs. Findings highlight the strategic importance of collaborative and informative response prevention efforts, community strategy, development priorities, family engagement factors and the inconsistencies in formalized training for community service providers.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

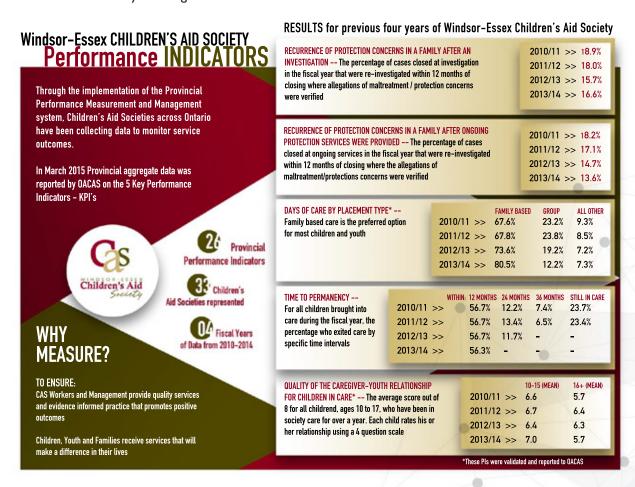
WECAS is developing a culture of "excellence" with the assistance of our Quality Assurance Department. How?

- Developing and implementing a client outcome measurement system;
- Conducting research and evaluations of client-centred programs to ensure they are achieving intended goals;
- Gathering feedback from various stakeholders including clients, community partners, and staff for the purposes of strengthening client outcomes, community relationships, and internal processes;
- Performing periodic audits, or supporting file audits, to ensure compliance with agency policies and practices and Ministry standards;
- Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the quality of the Society's data as it relates to services to children and families and the Ministry's funding framework; and,
- Taking a lead in monitoring the development and implementation of the Society's Strategic Plan.

The agency maintains an active strategic plan. WECAS's strategic focus areas and values are embodied by the following statement: "by following what we believe (our values), we will build a strong organizational foundation (organizational readiness), using efficiencies and excellence (internal processes) and by leveraging resources (finance) to meet the needs of the people we serve (clients and stakeholders) thereby delivering on our transformational outcome goal and achieving our vision and mission."

Our Balanced Scorecard helps the Society track how we are doing toward achieving our strategic goals. It provides a framework to monitor specific and measurable indicators of organizational performance identified during the strategic planning process.

Performance Indicators play a key role in strategic performance management as well as in continuous service improvement. Please see the last 4 years of WECAS results below.



WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2016 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY FINALIST

The Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society dedicates our nomination to our staff, volunteers, foster parents and supporters, for the thousands of children's stories that you helped to write over 117 years.



United Way WE @UnitedWayWE

Apr 20

@WindsorEssexCAS @MultiCulturalCl Thank you! Truly honoured to be a pillar of the community along with your amazing organizations.



The 2016 nominees for the Pillars of our Community award are @MultiCulturalCI @UnitedWayWE and @WindsorEssexCAS #ExcellenceWE @BEAawards2016



A few moments from the 2016 Business Excellence Awards! Congratulations to all of the Finalists!



Marianne Burke added 37 new photos from April 20 to the album: BEA 2016 with Marlene Corey and 9 others at ♥ Caesars Windsor.

Congratulations to all Award recipients and Finalists of the 26th Annual Business Excellence Awards. photos by John Liviero









WECAS STAFF

IT TAKES A TEAM... "YOU'RE AWESOME"!!!!

Our staff not only work very hard but they dedicate their own time, commitment and resources to the betterment of the children, youth and the families to whom WECAS provides services. This generosity is demonstrated by: participating in fundraisers to support youth and family initiatives, purchasing clothing for our children to shine in the Fashion Show, giving time at Camp Bromball, chaperoning our youth at events, providing support at the Holiday Program by collecting gifts, making meals, sponsoring families and volunteering their time. In addition, our staff through the annual Boards/Staff Face to Face Campaign gave a record amount of financial support to the You Can Write A Child's Story campaign assisting programs and services that have a positive impact on our kids.





YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

YAC is a child and youth in care lead group advocating for and supporting each other. The Committee has met with huge success this year and has increasingly become a valuable part of the overall experience of children in care. Members of the Committee are active in local events and initiatives. As well, they participate in leadership and advocacy roles at the provincial level.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., we may have all come from different ships but we are all on the same boat now. That's what YAC is all about.

-Shawn





YAC is my second family. I know they've always got my back!

-Mary



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

WECAS has even helped me get my last name which is that of my foster family's! That was the final portion of the permanency I always yearned for.

-Emily

The best thing that happened to me throughout the year has been YAC!

-Georgia



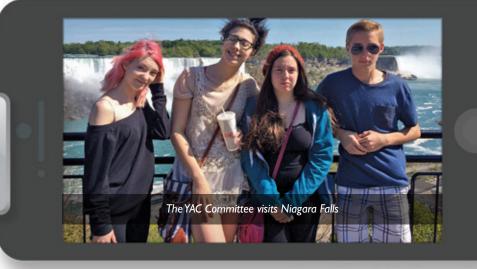


We defy stereotypes every day!

-YAC group 2015-2016

I am strong!

-Rebecka

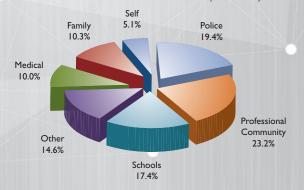


STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

OUR WORK: WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

How our Community Assists in Keeping Children Safe:

A referral is when someone in the community has a concern and believes that a child or family would benefit from WECAS assistance. As noted in the chart below our referral sources remain consistent with previous years.



The table below reflects the primary reason for eligibility for service at the time of referral.

Section I	Physical/Sexual Harm	Total	691	23.2%
1.1	Physical Harm		495	
1.2	Cruel Inappropriate Treatment		10	
1.3	Abusive Sexual Activity		173	
1.4	Threat of Harm		13	
Section 2	Harm by Omission	Total	484	16.33%
2.1	Inadequate Supervision		195	
2.2	Neglect of Basic Needs		161	
2.3	Response to Physical Health		69	
2.4	Response to Mental Health		59	
2.5	Response to Child Under 12		0	
Section 3	Emotional Harm/	Total	683	23.05%
3.1	Child risk of emotional harm		8	
3.2	Exposure to Adult Conflict		76	
3.3	Exposure to Partner violence		599	
Section 4	Abandonment/Separation	Total	123	4.15%
4.1	Orphaned/Abandoned Child		5	
4.2	Caregiver Child Conflict		118	
Section 5	Caregiver Capacity	Total	982	33.14%
5.1	History of Abuse/Neglect		67	
5.2	Inability to Protect		36	
5.3	Caregiver with Problem		585	
5.4	Threat of Harm		294	
Section 6	Request for Counselling	Total	0	0%
Section 7	Request for Adoption Services	Total	0	0%
Section 8	Family Based Care	Total	0	0%

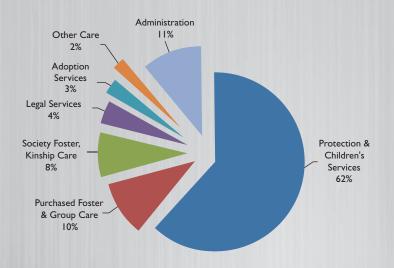
As reflected in the chart below when children are admitted into the care of WECAS the most appropriate resource is utilized to meet the child's needs.



Child Welfare Data	2015/2016	2014/2015
Intake Services - Investigation & Assessment		
New child protection referrals	3,214	3,019
Investigations completed	2,963	3,040
Family Services - Ongoing Protection		
New ongoing protection cases transferred from Intake	913	879
Average open ongoing protection cases	1,456	1,503
Kinship Service Home Studies	170	135
Family Visitation Access Program - Annual Visitation	16,911	14,394
Family Well Being Program - Admission Prevention		
Families Served	678	666
Children's Services		
New admissions into Care	213	233
Total children served	866	852
Discharged from Care	317	247
Average CCSY (18+)	136	131
Average Children In Care	593	614
Resources and Adoption Services		
Average foster homes available	177	178
Average Kinship Care homes available	43	58
Children adopted during the year	37	24
Volunteer Services		
Total volunteers	210	212
Total volunteer hours	70,000	63,446
Volunteer kilometers driven	2,809,300	2,461,914

Net Expenditures	\$57,226,271	\$56,203,207
Other Income	2,227,553	2,415,544
Total Gross Expenditures	59,453,824	59,329,015
Administration	3,067,814	3,956,568
Staffing Wages, Travel and Training	38,252,521	37,057,349
Boarding and Client Services	18,133,489	18,315,098
Child Welfare Expenditures*	2015/2016	2014/2015

How the Dollar Was Spent - \$57.2 Million





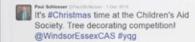
Supporting through community generosity the programs of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society

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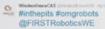
WECAS YOUTH
CONNECTING OUR SUCCESS STORIES
WITH THE COMMUNITY

STEVEN

"One of my favourite things about Children's Aid is that it feels like another family and I have a lot of friends there...people I can interact with outside of school."













Yesterday was Child and Youth in Care Day and we, more than 25 of us, made be trip to Toronto to celebrate.





1671 Riverside Drive East Windsor, ON N8Y 5B5 Phone: 519-252-1171 Fax: 519-256-2739 www.wecas.on.ca

SPARROW

"Right now I am looking forward to my Grade 8 Graduation. I really want to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. I think the agency will help me complete my goals to become a surgeon."

SEBASTIEN

"Everything is looking good. I don't plan on stopping. I'm continuing university, and it's going to go extremely well, hopefully making new art projects, and creating some new innovative pieces of work that I can be proud of, as well as building my portfolio so I can come out of university looking for a great job"



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP TO WRITE A CHILD'S STORY 519 252-1171, ext. 3210 | www.wecaf.on.ca