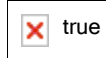


Weston donation helps Drouillard Place in Windsor

BY CHRIS THOMPSON, THE WINDSOR STAR OCTOBER 21, 2009 7:50 AM



The Windsor Essex Community Foundation, in partnership with the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, announced Tuesday \$30,500 in grants for two local food security projects. Michael Helferty (L), plant manager with Ready Bake Essex presented a cheque to Marina Clemens, executive director of Drouillard Place. Mary Medcalf, coordinator of field education for the University of Windsor and chair of the Community-University Partnership Committee, was presented with a cheque by Michael Robinson, chair of the Windsor Essex Community Foundation.

Photograph by: Scott Webster, The Windsor Star

WINDSOR, Ont. — A \$25,000 donation from a charitable foundation connected with the baking and retail Weston family has started the ball rolling for so-called food security programs in Windsor.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is granting \$25,000 to Drouillard Place to fund a new Teen Cuisine program to help young people learn how to cook.

"We have so many of our young people between 16 and 24 who come in to us and say they don't know how to cook," said Marina Clemens, executive director of Drouillard Place.

As a result of the funding Drouillard Place will begin a program, hopefully in January, to teach about 15 young people how to prepare and cook their own food at classes at the Gino Marcus Community Complex.

"I think I'm going to be the first person to join this program because I don't cook," said Clemens.

She said she is hoping to get some high-profile people, such as city councillor Bill Marra, to come in and teach some cooking. "We're also going to teach them how to shop and shop wisely," said Clemens.

"Hopefully we'll be able to save them some money as well."

In response to the Weston Foundation grant, the WindsorEssex Community Foundation, which helped guide the donation to Drouillard Place, decided to make a donation of its own of \$5,400 to the Community-University Partnership.

That program is helping to provide nutritious snacks to people taking advantage of the four programs involving University of Windsor students.

"We have many people who come to our drop-in centres for a coffee, for a fruit, for a bagel," said Mary Medcalf, the co-ordinator of field education for the University of Windsor.

The funding was announced at a cheque presentation Tuesday in the courtyard at 445 Glengarry Ave.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has traditionally provided money for scholarships and towards land conservation, but in light of the current climate, it decided to donate this year to organizations that provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need.

"The foundation knew they wanted to do something for the Windsor-Essex area," said Michael Helferty, plant manager for Ready Bake Foods in Essex, a Weston subsidiary that employs 120 people.

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