



**SHOW  
YOUR  
LOCAL  
LOVE**

## **YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU.**

**Too many young people in Windsor-Essex are struggling. Poverty, hunger, mental illness and a more limited circle of support can have life-long effects on children and youth. You can help us ensure no one gets left behind.**

You can help a young person like Brooklyn.

The transition to high school was tough for Brooklyn. Her family struggled financially. Brooklyn experienced bullying as she entered ninth grade and she fell behind academically.

“I was always depressed. I didn’t want to go to school. I didn’t want to do anything. It was just horrible.”

Brooklyn was able to access support through United Way’s On Track to Success program (OTTS). It helped her overcome both personal and academic struggles.

She was connected to a Success Coach and linked with resources and counselling to help her overcome her mental health challenges. She attended daily tutoring sessions, helping her to achieve an 81% average for her fall semester.

“On Track helped me get my confidence back. I’m just so happy that I can do things without worrying,” says Brooklyn.

But she acknowledges that the impacts of COVID-19 made it difficult for her family to cope and that OTTS staff helped them remain supported.

“They helped us with food every week to make sure we were able to eat throughout the pandemic. They also had virtual career mentoring, which helped me a lot.”

OTTS also helped Brooklyn plan for the future. (Over)



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Windsor-Essex County

This year, On Track to Success supported 106 students. We are proud to report that 72% of students in the graduating class are attending post-secondary education programs in the Fall. The national average is 47% for those with similar household incomes.



## MENTORING SHAPES CAREER SUCCESS

Career mentoring is a big part of OTTS. After learning about her interest in art, Brooklyn's Success Coach helped her realize that she could turn her passion into a career.

The program helped Brooklyn learn how to create a resume, prepare for an interview and create a portfolio in the hopes of being accepted into a post-secondary graphic design program.

Brooklyn graduated high school in June 2020, after four years in the program. She plans to attend St. Clair College for Graphic Design in the Fall.

Brooklyn is the first person in her family to attend college and hopes to use her own story to inspire other young people to be the best that they can be.

"I want to help the community and I want to help inspire kids younger than me to overcome their fears."

### HELPING KIDS BEAT THE ODDS

Supporting youth to graduate high school is crucial to helping young people to live prosperous lives. Your gift helps provide supports that wrap around a family and help economically disadvantaged youth to stay in school, graduate, and successfully transition to adulthood.

Your donation helps at-risk youth beat the odds. [weareunited.com/DONATE](https://weareunited.com/DONATE).

**DONATE TODAY**

Help children and youth in Windsor-Essex unlock their potential.



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