



Transcript of Plain language Podcast: Using Campus Community Engagement to Build Capacity for Poverty Reduction

[Sound up of change machine]

Over 73,000 people in the Windsor-Essex County live in poverty. Not only does living in poverty pose economic hardships on the city, it also affect quality of life of the community members living in poverty.

Poverty can affect anyone, however it's most common among lone parent families. [Background sound of a baby crying] 1 in every 3 lone parent families lives in poverty in the community.

Pathway to Potential is an organization that aims to reduce the levels of poverty in the Windsor-Essex County. Amanda Lefrancois explores the area to find a resource network to reduce poverty in the community in her paper *Using Campus Community Engagement to Build Capacity for Poverty Reduction*. [Background sound of typewriter] Lefrancois' collaboration with Pathway to Potential was made possible by the Poverty Reduction Hub of Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement.

Lefrancois recognizes the solution to poverty is not to reduce the symptoms of poverty through a charity model, rather to focus on the root causes at the systemic level. This can be done through advocacy, research and policy development and will yield greater income security.

By working together with local forces, such as the University of Windsor through a Community-University Partnership, a network of resources can be created to build the local network's capacity for research, evaluation and policy influence to reduce poverty.

[Background sound of a bell] Lefrancois suggests two initiatives to assist in building the network: first, a Social Justice Leadership Program that would engage high school students to offer unique ideas for addressing poverty in the Windsor/Essex County. And second, a Social Action and Innovation Lab connecting members of the University of Windsor with community groups to support community-based research to advance social and economic justice. [Background sound of change machine] Pathway to Potential will coordinate the initiatives to build the resource network to reduce the level of poverty.

For more information on her findings, or to read the report, click the link below.

This plain language podcast is brought to you by the Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement project, a 7 year action-research project that investigates how to improve community-campus partnerships. For more information, please visit our website at carleton.ca/communityfirst

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