

LOST MOTION as adopted by Council
at its meeting held **March 23, 2015**
[in Council Minutes Section]
AA
Windsor, Ontario, March 23, 2015


REPORT NO. 277 of the
**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE**
of its meeting held March 4, 2015

Present: **Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair**
 Councillor Paul Borrelli
 Councillor Rino Bortolin
 Councillor John Elliott
 Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

That the following recommendation of the Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee **BE APPROVED** as follows:

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Borrelli
THAT the presentation by Barbara Billey regarding “Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion” **BE RECEIVED** for information.
Carried.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of the presentation by Barbara Billey regarding “Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion” is attached as supporting information.

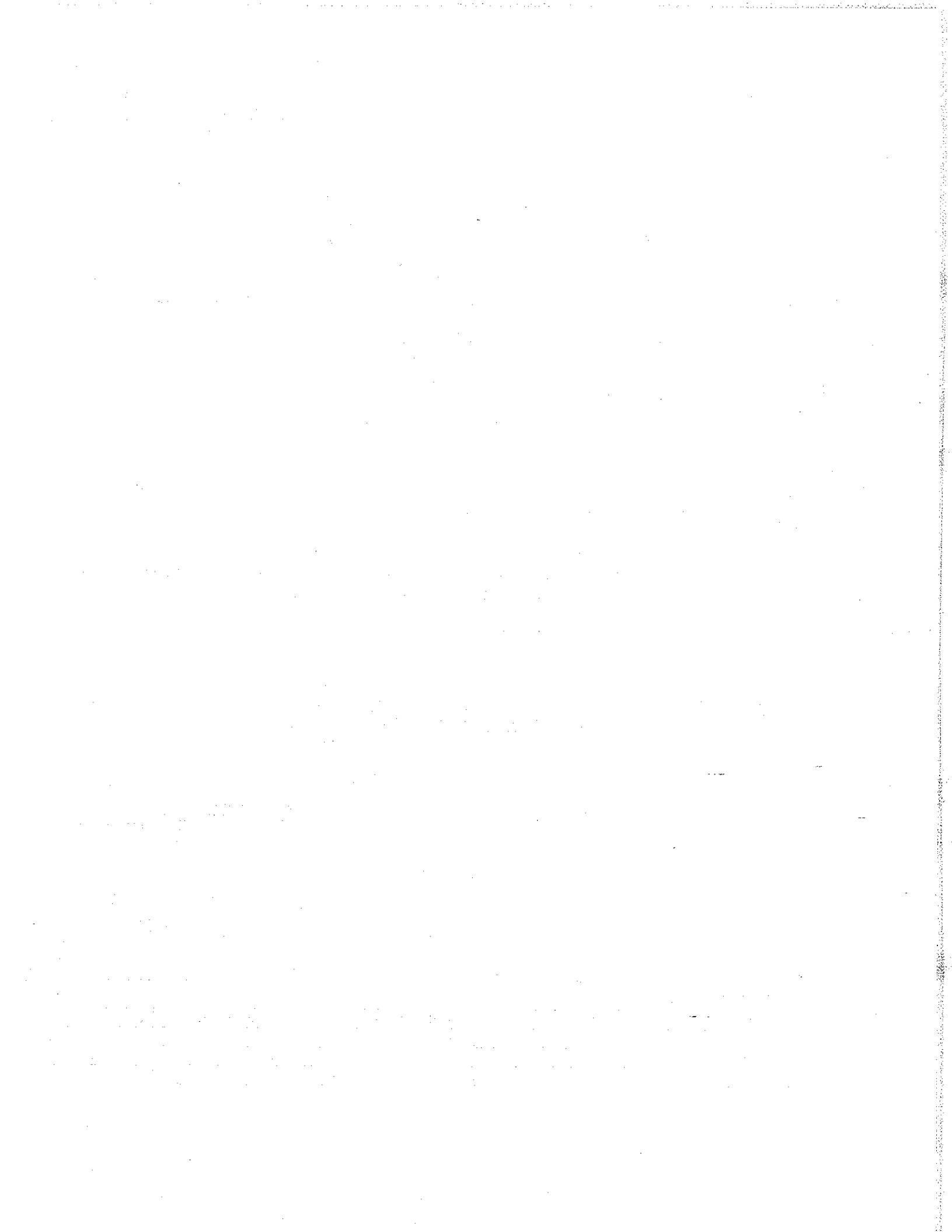


CHAIRPERSON



DEPUTY CLERK

NOTIFICATION :				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX
Barbara Billey		bbilley@jet2.net		



----- Original Message -----

From: [Barbara Billey](#)

To: [Fred Francis](#) ; [John Elliot](#) ; [Rino Bortolin](#) ; [Chris Holt](#) ; [Ed Sleiman](#) ; [Jo-Anne Gignac](#) ; [Bill Marra](#) ; [Hilary Payne](#) ; [Paul Borrelli](#) ; mayoro@city.windsor.on.ca

Cc: [Lina Chaker](#) ; [Irek Kusmierczk](#) ; [Michele Birch-Conery](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2015 8:47 AM

Subject: Windsor A Compassionate City

Dear Mayor and City Councillors:

Happy New Year and best wishes for the coming days.

For the past few months, several private citizens and community partners have dedicated considerable energy to designing a proposal for funding entitled *Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion* (attached).

Our goal is to foster intergenerational *Circles of Compassion* consisting of women from a variety of economic, social, cultural, ethnic, sexual and religious backgrounds that will identify needs and implement initiatives to encourage empowerment in the lives of women in Windsor.

This innovative, youth-driven initiative includes as part of Phase I a presentation to and adoption of the Charter for Compassion by Windsor City Council (see below). A free mobile phone application that captures, in image and word, compassionate acts by citizens through personal, business and public services will also be introduced to council. We believe aggregate information from this application will be useful to council in decision-making and as a positive tool for promoting the strengths of the Windsor community. Our target date for presentation to Council is March 2015.

Councillor Irek Kusmierczyk has been an active support of our initiative. We have submitted our proposal to the Sisters of St. Joseph of London who will review our funding request early this month.

In the next few days, I will be contacting you to arrange individual meetings in order to form a partnership that will advance this change-making project. Regardless of funding, we are committed to working with you on behalf of Windsor in joining other national and international communities as a Compassionate City.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Barbara Billey

**Barbara J. Billey, M.Ed., M.A. (Counselling), D.Min. (in progress)
Canadian Certified Counsellor
Registered Canadian Art Therapist
(519) 735-3943**



Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion

Proposal Description (Revised)

"Into the soul and out to the world."

December 15, 2014

Charter for Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and emphatically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others – even our enemies – is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings, even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

Council of Conscience, Feb 2009
www.charterforcompassion.org

Dec 15, 2014

Sisters of St. Joseph of London
Donation Committee
P.O. Box 487
London, Ontario
N6A 4X3

Dear Sr. Nancy and Donation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an application in request of a donation to support *Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion (WWCC)*.

Why Compassion Now?

Our postmodern world derives power from knowing things objectively and scientifically and using this information to drive productivity and financial gain. Technology accelerates the achievement of these goals. The result is incalculable negative effects on our well-being, our relationship to one another, and on our natural resources. Women and children are at the greatest risk.

Recent reports indicate that 1 in 5 women on college campuses in the United States are sexually assaulted. Globally, 1 in 3 women and girls are raped or beaten. Poverty and food insecurity are rampant with more two income families relying on food banks because employment in service sector jobs provides insufficient income to meet their basic needs. The currency of the future that will sustain our soul and the soul of our global and local community is compassion.

Compassion is an inherent capacity within us for universal love. It requires listening deeply to the heart of the other and listening with compassion toward ourselves. Compassion means to endure with another person, to put ourselves in somebody else's position, to feel her pain as though it were our own, and to enter generously into his point of view. When we look into our hearts, discover what gives us pain, then refuse, under any circumstance to inflict that pain on anybody else, we are living in an attitude of compassion.

Compassion is the litmus test of true spirituality. At the core of all faith traditions is the need to cultivate and live from within the deep well of the heart of compassion. This is also true for persons who care for humankind without naming themselves within a religious or spiritual orientation. The expression of compassion has always been with us, and often intensifies, in dire catastrophic challenges that could destroy us and our planet.

Many religious, spiritual, political and community leaders today are calling for a new global community characterized by justice and equality of every kind grounded in civil and human rights. Communities of interdependence and interrelatedness are becoming more necessary than at any other time in history. We need to come together if we are to

redress the extensive destruction sustained in the lives of the poor, the marginalized, and by other life species. We need to come together in transformative living if we are to restore the ecological balance of our planet itself. The wisdom of sages from past and present, within and outside of our spiritual traditions, are our resources. We need to mine these resources, and, at the same time discover and pass on to future generations our own wisdom.

To live together anew in such a global community requires sustained personal and interpersonal development characterized by open, non-judgmental and non-violent communication practices that are embedded in our ways of being together at all levels of our social arrangements. The call to compassionate living is necessary to the success of our continued existence as we learn to be in a different world order than we knew in the past. This call asks for listening and speaking differently, for responding generously and gratuitously without hidden agendas and forced outcomes imposed on others. This calls for no less than embracing compassion to the extent that it becomes a way of life.

How is Compassion Relevant to Our Community?

On December 18, 1979 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), an international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. Canada has been a partner with other countries in ratifying this agreement. In 2009, the *Charter of Compassion* was released by the Council of Conscience, after a group of notable persons from six faith traditions used input to a draft document from thousands of people all over the world (See Charter of Compassion, p.2). The essence of the Charter is to treat others as we wish to be treated. It provides principles that serve as guidelines for healing the seemingly intractable problems of our times, especially for women who constitute the most marginalized.

Global and community solidarity on women's issues and concerns can foster dignity for women and unleash their untapped potential. Intergenerational dialogue that involves the sharing of collective wisdom among women can positively impact women's lives and affect our daughters of the future.

Windsor has one of the highest poverty rates in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, 18.3 percent of people live in poverty compared to the provincial and national average of 13.9 percent and 14.9 percent, respectively. At 33 percent, Windsor has the highest proportion of low-income population in Canada. Women endure the most hardship, at home and in the workplace. Many are single mothers with low incomes, working women in service sector jobs with low paying wages, immigrant women with language barriers, and aging women on fixed incomes with multiple health problems. Some have been victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Compassion is the antidote to ameliorate women's suffering and the suffering of those whom they love and care for, especially their children. It is worth drawing from our collective wisdom and investing in compassion to help us not only survive, but to thrive.

WWCC and Relevance to the Sisters of St. Joseph Priorities

The proposed initiative *Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion* is a summons to compassionate action. **Our goal is to foster intergenerational *Circles of Compassion* consisting of women from a variety of economic, social, cultural, ethnic, sexual and religious backgrounds that will identify needs and implement initiatives to encourage empowerment in the lives of women in Windsor.**

WWCC primarily focuses on the Sisters of St. Joseph's granting priority that "women will have an equal voice and opportunity in the culture and society in which they live." It also addresses your priorities of poverty reduction and systemic justice. Our intention is to foster women community leaders for compassion and support them in the process of making systemic change that will benefit women.

This initiative embraces the principles your Community values. It builds and sustains relationships; uses an innovative approach to augment assets and strengths of the community; addresses the root causes of local issues and works on long-term solutions in an effort to achieve systemic change; fosters collaborative solutions and encourages more efficient use of resources through partnerships and use of volunteers; and engages the next generation in positive change. A detailed outline of the project, *WWCC Action Plan and Operational Details*, including a budget is on pages 9-12. Information about the Ontario Public Interest and Research Group (OPIRG), the sponsoring organization can be found in subsequent attachments. A brief overview of WWCC follows.

Overview of WWCC

In Phase I, we engage female youth (13-24 yrs) from three of six faith traditions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Native) in presenting the *Charter for Compassion* for adoption by the City of Windsor and to request the proclamation of Windsor as a *Compassionate Community*. A cross-section of youth and adults will form a delegation to attend this meeting and to support the youth. An introduction to the *Compassion Mobile Phone Application* and web-site designed through Trillium grant funding by HackForge will also be provided. We intend for Windsor to join other communities in North America as part of a network of compassionate communities (London, Ontario one example). The presentation will be posted on You-tube and Facebook and shared within each faith tradition. Council proceedings are also televised.

Co-facilitators Barbara Billey and Michele Birch-Conery have already recruited youth presenters and adult delegates. They have informed council members about the Charter and have planned for the presentation to council in conjunction with Irek Kusmierczyk, a younger member of council who is sensitive to social justice issues. (His father was a political prisoner in Poland in the early 1980s.) The presentation of the Charter to the newly elected City Council is anticipated for early 2015.

Prior to the presentation of the Charter to City Council one female youth within each faith traditions will collaborate with the facilitators to explore the meaning of compassion

with female youth in their respective religious traditions. This will be followed by gathering a subset of these youth in an interfaith circle to share their religious and personal perspectives on compassion and their vision for Windsor as a Compassionate City. They will hear stories by women from *Voices Against Poverty* and the *Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative* then develop an action plan to address one or more identified needs. Artistic expression, including videography will be a key component of this process, as well as social media (e.g., Facebook) to disseminate the innovation. Youth will be encouraged to use and share the Compassion App as part of their civic responsibility.

In Phase II, the facilitators will engage an intergenerational group of women to share wisdom stories through narrative and artistic expression as a way of moving further into the kinds of awareness that liberates each one to own and to express their unique voice. They will acquire practices and skills that facilitate compassionate awareness and for speaking confidently to issues of concern and those of other women within their circles of influence and in the wider community.

We believe this intergenerational conversation will deepen women's knowledge and readiness for engaging justice-making in their lives and for other women. We expect that growth in empathy and compassion will compel women to engage in the creation of a community of compassion that is responsive to the needs of women in specific or broader contexts.

In Phase III, we invite female youth and adult women who have been involved in Phase I and II to apply skills they have acquired to reach out to the broader community of women in order to begin the systemic change-making process through a variety of initiatives they deem feasible to improve the lives of women. In addition, a community forum will engage female youth, women and artists in building solidarity for the Compassionate City initiative and in identifying needs and action plans for change.

All phases will include ritual and artistic expression from a variety of genres (visual art, movement, voice, poetry, drama, videography), partnering with media, community service providers, religious communities, corporations and municipal government, and electronic and social media. The Compassion App gives citizens opportunity to record compassionate acts through daily encounters with friends, family, people in public and private sector services. Aggregate data will provide feedback to City Council and the community-at-large for making decisions and for promoting Windsor as a Compassionate City. Electronic and social media will be engaged to disseminate this information.

With respect to the proposed budget and in the spirit of justice, we suggest that the two women facilitators, artists and other recipients of fees receive fair compensation for their skills and efforts. We also recognize an initiative of this scope and magnitude will require in-kind donation of service by the facilitators, and they are willing to give this. In addition to administering donations, OPIRG along with other community partners will provide in-kind donation of space for meetings, help recruit participants/volunteers and promote the initiative through their networks. In addition to funding from your

Community, corporate funding has been and will continue to be solicited to defray administrative expenses and facilitators' fees.

Benefits of WWCC and Systemic Change

We anticipate several benefits to those involved in WWCC and the community-at-large. In Phase I, youth will deepen their understanding of compassion within and outside of their religious tradition and invite change-making with the most vulnerable. The anticipated adoption of the *Charter for Compassion* and proclamation of Windsor as a Compassionate Community will increase awareness of compassion in our community. It will hopefully inspire citizens to join with WWCC and/or develop their own initiatives, minimally to be more compassionate in their attitudes and actions. New programs and public policies at the municipal level could emerge as they relate to the principles within the Charter for Compassion.

In Phase II, women will gain and have opportunities to apply skills in compassion practices toward self and others, in leadership and collaboration, in promotion and fundraising, and in activism for systemic change. Through artistic expression at several points throughout the process, women will be able to symbolically give voice to their lived experience and issues of concern. We anticipate transformational experiences and the strengthening of relationships among women, which will influence their lives in other contexts.

Using an Open Space Technology process, the public forum in Phase III will draw a larger number of women from the community to raise concerns and work toward systemic change. The art created during earlier phases of the initiative will be exhibited during this forum to stimulate conversation. Local artists from all genres will also articulate issues and hopes for change drawing from the wisdom of the groups in Phase I and II. The electronic and social media campaign that is planned in association with this event and earlier phases of WWCC will bring issues and concerns into a wider community spotlight.

As the sponsoring agency, OPIRG will benefit by fulfilling our mandate to involve students in research, education and action on social and environmental issues in order to create a better world. We believe our community partners and the City of Windsor will also benefit significantly.

Finally and most important, we believe the initiatives that evolve through WWCC will encourage increased confidence in women to engage their needs, especially where inequalities have led to violence and poverty. These initiatives might augment an existing program or service, result in new initiatives that will benefit women and/or generate public policy consistent with a Compassionate Community. At the very least, we anticipate the women who participate in WWCC know what compassionate living looks like and sounds like, thus enabling them to develop further as women ready to engage a life oriented to effective and compassionate change. Youth will have formed new relationships and an appreciation of perspectives on compassion within and outside of their religious tradition.

Long-term Sustainability

In terms of the longevity of WWCC beyond the funding period, during the project we will listen with participants and community partners for potential future opportunities. We expect there will be definite interests that can lead to practical action in the participants' personal lives and in the community; however, at this juncture we "see through a glass darkly."

Some possibilities we imagine to sustain WWCC in the future:

1. Skill-building aspects of the project could be incorporated as an e-learning format in curricula of high school, university social work and/or women studies programs, as well as for use by providers of services to women and in faith communities.
2. Videography could be used by schools, arts and/or social service organizations as a springboard for discussion about women's needs in order to generate action plans and research to address these, as well as to promote use of the Compassion App globally on the internet for possible replication in other communities.
3. Participants might sustain the initiatives they develop and/or create new initiatives based on emerging needs, including women who have benefitted.
4. Information gleaned from the Compassion App and web-site could serve as a continuous feedback loop among citizens, Windsor City Council, service providers, and business leading to reforms in existing or the development of new public policy and services that are directed toward systemic change for women and poverty reduction.
5. Possible research partnership through the Tikkun project will foster youth leadership in social justice.

Community Partners

Please see a list of confirmed and potential *Community Partners* on page 13. Pat Noonan, a renowned local feminist, a senior and advocate for marginalized persons in our community and recently the subject of a documentary on her life and work, reviewed the WWCC proposal and deemed it an "absolutely brilliant plan." She also indicated that to her knowledge such an initiative has never been and is not currently being offered in our community.

The Dalai Lama states: "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion; if you want to be happy practice compassion." Thank you for considering funding of WWCC. If you have any questions about our proposal, feel free to contact Jim Davies, OPIRG Windsor Coordinator at (519) 253-3000 ext 3872 or Barbara Billey, WWCC Coordinator at (519) 735-3943.

Sincerely,
Jim Davies, OPIRG Windsor Coordinator
Stephanie Lalonde, OPIRG Windsor Chair and Staff Liason

Barbara J. Billey, WWCC Coordinator

**Wisdom Women Circles of Compassion
Action Plan and Operational Details**

"Into the soul and out to the world."

Goal: To foster intergenerational *Circles of Compassion* consisting of women from a variety of economic, social, cultural, ethnic, sexual and religious backgrounds that will identify needs and implement initiatives to encourage empowerment in the lives of women in Windsor.

I. Windsor: A Compassionate Community (Jan 01 – Mar 31, 2015)

Objective: To engage female youth (13-24 yrs) from six faith traditions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Native) in exploring the religious and personal significance of compassion and their vision of Windsor as a compassionate city. They will secure adoption of the Charter for Compassion by Windsor City Council and proclamation of Windsor as a Compassionate Community, as well as present to Council the Compassion Mobile Application and promote its use among youth and adults in our community.

Participants will ...

1. Plan and implement a discussion among and artistic expression by Youth Circles of Compassion about the religious and personal significance of compassion, as well as their vision of a compassionate city, first as separate groups from each faith tradition, then as an interfaith group. The collective group will hear stories shared by women who experience poverty from Voices Against Poverty and the Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative and develop an action plan to address one or more needs, information that will be shared with City Council.
2. Use social and electronic media and other technologies to disseminate information about the Charter for Compassion and Youth Circles of Compassion.
3. Partner with HackForge to design and activate the Compassion Mobile Phone Application.
4. Secure adoption of the Charter for Compassion by the City of Windsor by collaborating with members of Windsor City Council and Youth Advising City Council and recruiting delegates to attend council meeting.
5. Use and share with others the Compassion App as part of their civic responsibility. Ensure sustainability by establishing a community partner who will provide aggregate data to City Council and broader community.

Operational Details

Participants

6 Youth Circles of Compassion, each with 10 or more youth

1 Interfaith Circle of Compassion

Total youth: 70 or more

Format

2-2 hour planning meetings for City Council presentation

7-3 hour gatherings of Youth Circles of Compassion

Total direct contact hours: 25

Budget

Facilitation Fees (including additional on-site time): \$ 2100 (35 hrs @ \$30/hr x 2 facilitators)

Program Development Fees: \$600 (10 hrs @\$30/hr x 2 facilitators)

Coordination (promotions, recruitment, administration, Compassion Mobile Application): \$3000 (100 hrs @ \$30/hr x 1 facilitator)

Artist Fees: \$500 (videography and other expressions)

Art supplies, printing and misc: \$300 (donation from corporate sponsor)

Space Rental: in-kind donation by community partners

Phase I Total Budget: \$ 6,500

II. Women Community Leaders of Compassion (Apr 01 – June 30, 2015)

Objective: To foster an intergenerational group of women community leaders by enhancing skills for compassion using group process, creative arts (visual, voice, drumming, movement, writing, drama) and ritual-making.

Participants will ...

1. Identify hopes, fears, and needs of women in personal relationships, school, work, family, community and global contexts.
2. Explore the meaning of compassion drawing from the wisdom of spiritual traditions and contemporary wisdom figures and the significance for women's lives.
3. Discover inner and outer resources for accessing wisdom, including intuitive and creative capacities.

4. Cultivate self-compassion and compassion for others through soul awareness processes, discernment strategies, boundary setting, embodiment, mindfulness practice and non-violent communication.
5. Examine inner and outer dynamics that are inconsistent with compassion.
6. Acquire skills for collaborative teamwork such as consensus building, creative problem-solving and conflict resolution.
7. Acquire skills for activism and for developing public policy that benefits women.
8. Sign Charter of Compassion (optional).
9. Support one another between gatherings using computer technology and social media (e.g., blog, chat room, Facebook).
10. Use and share with others the Compassion App as part of their civic responsibility and provide aggregate data to City Council.
11. Receive a certificate of completion.

Operational Details

Participants

An intergenerational Circle of Compassion of 10-15 women

Format

1- 4 hr initial gathering

6- 2 hr gatherings

1- 4 hr final gathering

Total direct contact hours: 20

Budget

Facilitation Fees (including additional on-site time): \$1800 (30 hrs @ \$30/hr x 2 facilitators)

Program Development Fees (includes resource material, chat room, on-line application): \$2400 (5 hrs/unit x 8 units @ \$30/hr x 2 facilitators)

Coordination (promotions, recruitment, administration): \$600 (20 hrs @ \$30/hr x 1 facilitator)

Adjunct Artists Fees: \$ 500 (videography and other expressions)

Art supplies, transportation (to increase access for single moms, caregivers, other persons with special needs), printing and misc: \$300 (donation from corporate sponsor)

Space Rental: in-kind donation by community partners

Phase II Total Budget: \$5,600

Phase III: Community Outreach and Change-Making Initiatives (July 1-Dec 31, 2015)

Objective: To engage women in the wider community in exploring issues, needs and change-making initiatives relevant to women through a public forum, including a presentation of creative arts produced by members of the Circles of Compassion and a public awareness campaign.

Interested Participants from Circles of Compassion will ...

1. Plan and facilitate a forum using an Open Space Technology format, and exhibit creative arts produced during Circles of Compassion gatherings.
2. Organize community partners and related media promotions.
3. Acquire sponsorship for expenses.
4. Make available Charter of Compassion for participants at the public forum to sign (optional).
5. Evaluate the public forum.
6. Plan and begin to implement change-making initiatives with members of Circles of Compassion, community partners and volunteers, some who will have been identified from public forum. Share outcomes with City Council and media.
7. Use and share with others the Compassion App as part of their civic responsibility and provide aggregate data to City Council.

Operational Details

Budget

Facilitation Fees (consultation/planning, training in Open Space model, and event support): \$ 3000 (50 hrs @ \$30/hr x 2 facilitators)

Coordination (promotions, recruitment, administration, fund-raising): \$2400 (80 hrs @ \$30/hr x 1 facilitator)

Adjunct Artist Fees: \$500 (videography and other expressions)

Materials, transportation, printing and misc: \$500

Space Rental: in-kind donation

Additional Expenses: donations from community partners and corporate sponsors

Phase III Total Budget: \$6,400

Budget Summary

Item	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Total
Facilitation Fees	2100	1800	3000	6900
Program Development	600	2400	0	3000
Coordination Fees	3000	600	2400	6000
Adjunct Artist Fees	500	500	500	1500
Art Supplies/ Misc	300	300	500	1100
Space Rental	0	0	0	0
Total	6500	5600	6400	18,500

Total Budget: \$18,500 + \$1200 OPIRG Administrative Fees = \$ 19,700

Less prospective donations of \$2000 (also see confirmed partners for in-kind donations)

Request to Sisters of St. Joseph: \$17,700

Community Partners

Confirmed

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) (administration of funds, meeting space, receipt of donations, volunteers, recruitment of participants, social media support)

Windsor HackForge (use of Trillium funds to develop/activate Compassion App and web-site)

University of Windsor Students (depts of women studies, fine art, social work, sociology, communication/media)

Wayne State University (counseling/art therapy students) (support for groups)

Pathways to Potential (consultation, promotions)

Irek Kusmierczyk and John Elliot, Members of Windsor City Council (Charter for Compassion)

Downtown Community Collaborative (source of women's stories of marginalization)

Leaders and youth from Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Native traditions (meeting space, recruitment of participants)

Youth Advising City Council (support for Charter for Compassion)

Inter-Faith Group of Windsor and Essex County (recruitment of participants)
Cardinal Place Retirement Living (meeting space)
Lina Chaker (Member of Premier of Ontario's Youth Advisory Council, Islamic youth)
Sandwich Teen Action Group (recruitment of participants, promotions, space)
Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women (recruitment of participants, promotions, space)
Arts Council of Windsor and Essex County (exhibit space, curatorial volunteers, promotions, consultation, recruitment of artists)
Douglas Marketing Group (2014 Athena Award Winner/Company President consultation, web-site/social media)
Private Citizens: Katherine Roth, Real Estate Agent (art supplies/artist fees); Claudia DenBoer Grima, VP Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Centre; Art and Madie Weingarden

Potential

Windsor Essex Community Foundation
Voices Against Poverty (women's stories of marginalization)
United Way (sustain Compassion App and web-site)
Rotary Windsor (1918) (request for funds)
Tepperman's Furniture
University of Windsor Tikkun ("repair and healing of our world") Project, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Funded Partnership): Dr. Fran Cachon, Dept of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology
Council on Aging
Jewish Community Center
Community Living (women with disabilities)
Community Mental Health Association
Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board
Windsor Essex District School Board
Local CUPE, CAW, and other trade unions

About the Facilitators

Barbara Billey, M.Ed., M.A. (Counseling), D.Min (in-progress)

A consistent thread that weaves through my personal, professional and volunteer endeavors is a quest for wholeness – for self, others, our natural world. To live creatively and to love compassionately has been a central value and intentional way of being.

I have been a founding person in numerous professional and volunteer contexts. In my late teens, I coordinated a vacation program for seniors and a co-op experience for students at a local hospital. Later as a dietitian, I created ground breaking heart health programs for youth and adults at local, provincial, and national levels. My interest in holistic approaches inspired me to blend my gifts as an entrepreneur and a dietitian, which led to a role as the director for Canada of *BeTrim*, a weight management program that was offered in numerous hospitals across Canada. I was also the president of the *Heart and Stroke Foundation of Windsor and Essex County*, and on the provincial *Nutrition Task Force*, along with numerous other volunteer involvements.

As the administrator of the *Ontario Breast Screening Program Windsor Centre*, I was instrumental in establishing the program in Windsor, for administration of the London Centre and for initiating expansion in South Western Ontario. I was also responsible for community development, social marketing and breast health education, as well as for coordinating health promotion for centers across the province. This was in addition to being a member of the senior administration team for the province.

As my interest in spirituality deepened, I became coordinator of the *Wellness Coalition*, a project funded by the Health Promotion Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health. This initiative involved gathering focus groups to assess the needs of people in our community for wellness services and programs, to be a representative on the *City of Windsor Healthy Community Initiative*, and to advocate for healthy public policy for our community. Concurrently, I facilitated with Sr. Pat St. Louis csj retreats and workshops that integrated wellness, spirituality and expressive arts. Together, we authored a reflection journal *Discovering New Ways to Wellness* and produced the DVD *Vital Energy through Qigong*.

Now as a counselor and art therapist with a special interest in spirituality and the arts, my work with a wide-range of people keeps me on the creative edge and at the heart of possibilities for healing and wholeness in our contemporary society. A few years ago I coordinated *F.A.C.E.S.*, an open art studio for marginalized persons offered at a local church. This program engaged people, including newcomers to Canada, some with serious mental illness, addictions, and poverty issues, in the creation and exhibition of art. We also acquired from parishioners fresh fruits and vegetables and clothing that was given to participants.

I have graduate degrees in education and counseling/art therapy, and currently I'm completing a Doctor of Ministry as part of preparation to become a Roman Catholic woman priest (currently a deacon). My interests focus on women's spirituality, equality for women, reverence for and care of our natural world, and compassionate living for all.

Dr. Michele Birch-Conery, Ph.D.

The realities that have constituted lifelong learning experiences from study, from professional commitments, from pastoral engagements and simply from living emerge now, in my retirement years, as sources for a further offering of my gifts in full circle completion. A fierce sense of fairness in my young years has led me to the necessities of choosing justice actions on behalf of women. Thus, I have entered into the turbulence of the personal and political developments called forth from women in myriad ways from the 1960's until the present.

My work has usually been drawn forth in encouraging our speaking presence and full participation in decision making in all circumstances of our lives. Issues of violence and inequality have been predominant but now, a more global orientation together with my calling as a Roman Catholic priest brings me to concerns of deep spirituality informed by compassionate living. With many other caring and change making persons, I am awoken now to the necessities of interdependent living in cooperation with others committed to solidarity in their purposes by living in intentional communities.

My professional background includes my first vocation as an RN begun at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary (1959-1963) and spanning 17 years in Gynecology/ Oncology, and in Geriatrics.

My second vocation as a Sister of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary nourished my education. I have degrees in English Literature and Education followed by a Master's in Creative Writing from the University of Montana and a Doctorate in English Literature from the University of Iowa. I eventually left the Holy Names community but continue as an Associate.

My final professional teaching career was entirely a gift to me. At North Island College in Port Alberni, BC, I was part of a founding faculty in an avant garde educational initiative pioneering open learning and distance education including technological advancements in TV instruction. We were dedicated to specific outreach to learners in resource based cities and towns and to aboriginal persons in remote areas. In such an open climate just 3 of us were able to set up a complete Women's Studies program. We then encouraged and succeeded in advancing a circle of co-operation between the college and university Women's Studies faculty such that Women Studies was recognized as complete discipline of study at the provincial level.

We pioneered the College Post-Secondary Status of Women committee in the same way until we succeeded in obtaining province-wide Personal and Sexual harassment policies. Lastly, as a committed Faculty Representative in our local union, I was with

others who pioneered advancements in labor relations that won fair and equitable practices, particularly for women, in our college, that then brought forward the whole provincial college system with similar policies.

In retirement now, my study continues as a lifelong learner and I am a doctoral student in the Pastoral Ministry Program at Global Ministries University.

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