

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Partners

FROM: Karen Kirkwood-Whyte
Executive Director
United Way of Chatham-Kent

RE: **Youth Ink** Community Forum and Train the Trainer Session
Thursday, 2006 SEP 28 and Friday, 2006 SEP 29

DATE: Thursday, 2006 SEP 14

The dates for our **Youth Ink** Community Forum (1/2 day) and Train the Trainer Session (full-day) are fast approaching. I have been in touch with Casey Cosgrove, Director, Youth Initiatives with SEDI (Social and Enterprise Development Innovations) in Toronto and am pleased to provide you with the following details ...

Youth Ink is a two-year, 14 community, Ontario-wide program created by SEDI (a national non-profit aimed at increasing the economic self-sufficiency prospects of low income Canadians), with funding support from the Ministry of Economic Development Trade. **Youth Ink** is a broad-based youth entrepreneurship awareness strategy – designed to encourage young people to take inventory of their talents and skills ... and to look at entrepreneurship as a potential career option.

There are **two components** to **Youth Ink**. **The first component** is a half-day Community Forum on the topic of youth entrepreneurship. The intent of the Community Forum is to bring local business, community organizations, schools, parents and other interested stakeholders together to discuss how we can support young people who wish to pursue the entrepreneurial option. At this forum, participants will take part in a process that will result in a scan/map of community assets that presently exist in the community that are related to entrepreneurship and that identify opportunities and ideas that will help our young citizens. Here in Chatham-Kent, this option may help to encourage some of our young people to remain in the community. **The second component** is a specific facilitator training for local service providers who wish to build the capacity to better inform and reach youth with the entrepreneurship option. This second day, professional development, free facilitator training opportunity will be offered to a maximum of 20 local individuals who work directly with young people. Each participant will be given a facilitator guide and video and trained to present a workshop series that has been delivered to more than 10,000 young people in the past ten years. This “fun” approach to learning will focus on creative thinking, idea generation and myths and realities about the entrepreneurship option. It is well suited to be delivered to those young people who are not yet in the business planning process. While there are many resources in most communities that support or focus on the business planning process, the youth session focuses on engaging, educating and building awareness to the entrepreneurship option itself.

Although **Youth Ink** is not, in itself, a program that will generate immediate economic development, the project is designed to strengthen existing community capacity and add momentum to the ideas and networks that are already in place. **Please register early!**

YOUTH INK

Creating Entrepreneurial Awareness for Youth in Chatham-Kent

Facilitator: Casey Cosgrove, Director, Youth Initiative, SEDI

COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, 2006 SEP 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (1/2 day)

TRAIN THE TRAINER SESSION

Friday, 2006 SEP 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Full-Day)
(Limited to 20 persons)

"The 425" – United Way Community Resource Centre
425 McNaughton Avenue West (at the corner of Doverdoon)

To register, please call Veronica at 1-519-354-0430
or e-mail ... veronica@unitedway.chatham-kent.on.ca

(Seating is limited so please register early – refreshments provided)

YOUTH INK is a broad-based youth entrepreneurship awareness strategy - designed to encourage young people to take inventory of their talents and skills ... and to look at entrepreneurship as a potential career option.

The intent of the COMMUNITY FORUM is to bring 50-60 local business, community organizations, schools, parents and other interested stakeholders together to discuss how we can support young people in Chatham-Kent who wish to pursue the entrepreneurial option.

The TRAIN THE TRAINER day of activity is a specific facilitator training for local service providers wishing to build the capacity to better inform and reach youth with the entrepreneurship option. This second day, professional development, free facilitator training opportunity will be offered to a maximum of 20 local individuals who work directly with young people. Each participant will be given a facilitator guide and video and trained to present a workshop series that has been delivered to more than 10,000 young people in the past ten years. Luncheon will be provided.

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