

JUNE MUIR

Profile by Paula Just | Photo by Pat Scandale

For more than 25 years, June Muir has been a driving force behind Windsor-Essex's most comprehensive not-for-profit organization: the UHC – Hub of Opportunities. In the institution, June has already worked as an assistant to the Executive Director as well as the supervisor of the Food Bank. Now, as CEO, she has helped expand the UHC from an employment agency into a community powerhouse offering 26 programs and services.

As CEO for the past 15 years, June oversees a wide range of initiatives that meet basic human needs while empowering residents to reach their long-term goals. "Every decision we make keeps people's dignity at the centre," she says. "We want families to feel supported as they work toward stability and success."

Mena Rimac, UHC's Communications Manager, describes June's leadership as both hands-on and deeply trusting. "June places the right people in the right positions and encourages them to do their best," she explains. "She's always supportive and remains closely involved in daily operations, a rare quality in a CEO."

Founded in 1977 as the Unemployed Help Centre, the UHC has evolved into a true "Hub of Opportunities," providing basic human needs, education and training, newcomer programs, and employment services all under one roof. This wrap-around model allows residents to address immediate needs, such as groceries, heating costs, or a warm winter coat, while pursuing education and career goals.

Windsor, like many cities worldwide, has been facing steep economic challenges as the cost of living rises, leaving many families to live paycheck to paycheck. According to June, food insecurity can hit anyone at any time and the UHC relies heavily on community support. Its basic human needs services, including the food bank, run mostly on donations. Last year, the Windsor Essex Food Bank Association recorded over 235,000 visits to its member food banks. Among them, 30% were children. Heartbreakingly, the West End of Windsor has the highest amount of child poverty in Canada.

"The need is urgent, and now more than ever, we're calling on our community to step up and give back to support those who need it most," June states. To help, residents can donate funds or food, or volunteer to pack and distribute meals. People can also join events like the annual UHC Golf Tournament or Pastabilities Luncheon.

UHC invites you to see the food bank, community kitchen and community garden to learn firsthand what they do. Learn more or get involved at www.uhc.ca or visit the UHC – Hub of Opportunities at 6955 Cantelon Dr., Windsor.



June Is Wearing
Top & Pants: Joseph Ribkoff
Shoes: Michael Kors