Changing Mindsets

1.2 Grow existing awareness and engagement initiatives

Youth Poverty Symposium - Defining how Poverty Affects Youth in London
In London and area, census data (2016) indicates that there are approximately 53,000 youth aged 15-24 years old. Of these about 8,600 youth are disconnected from school and work. Average youth unemployment rate is 16.1% - higher than Toronto, Kitchener, Guelph, Brantford, Kingston, Thunder Bay, Hamilton and Windsor.

On September 21, 2018, Youth Opportunities Unlimited presented the results of their High School Achievers Project which is aimed at increasing youth graduation rates and decreasing youth poverty. Symposium participants helped shape local recommendations to address youth poverty in London.

Bridges Out of Poverty / Circles, City of London
With the focus of moving people from being generally aware of the issues of poverty in our community, to true understanding, empathy and action, the City of London has committed $250K annually through its multi-year budget plan to grow the BOOP / Circles program. The program has successfully generated poverty awareness, education and relevant opportunities for action.

ReThink Poverty - presented by Bridges Out of Poverty / Circles, Goodwill Industries & City of London
Poverty affects our entire community and too many of our neighbours can't participate in everything London has to offer. ReThink Poverty is a workshop designed to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn more about the issue of poverty and focus on solutions for addressing the systemic and structural causes of poverty. Attendees are presented with statistics on local poverty, and participate in a poverty simulation exercise to help crystallize the day to day experiences of those experiencing poverty in London.
As part of the London Public Library Community Awareness Plan, five ReThink Poverty information sessions were offered at various London Public Library locations during the months of February and March 2019. An additional three ReThink Poverty information sessions were offered during the months of June and August 2019. This is an ongoing commitment from the London Public Library.

**Poverty Over London / If You Knew**
The Poverty Over London website has been updated with relevant and current information to generate poverty awareness, education and relevant opportunity for action in our community. This site is linked to the LFA website and community activists.

**London For All (LFA)**
More than 160 volunteers from diverse backgrounds are engaged in the work of London for All.

At present, 38 individuals have identified with lived/living experience in poverty and are involved as key decision-makers in the work of London for All. All individuals with lived experience are eligible for compensation of their time, travel, expenses to participate in our work.