



One-on-One Tutoring and G.E.D. Preparation Success Story



Emily Grant and her husband Eric Brinkworth at the United Way 2016 Kickoff Breakfast. Emily has been greatly helped by the Tri-County Literacy Council, an organization supported by the United Way, and wanted to give back by telling her story at the event.

Emily's Story

NEWS

The United Way's Inspirational Kickoff

Nick Seebruch/Seaway News

CORNWALL, Ontario – Emily Grant is a mother of four who struggled with math and reading much of her life. She always wanted to be the kind of parent who could help her kids with their homework. The Tri-County Literacy Council helped her become that kind of mother and she shared that story at the United Way 2016 fundraiser campaign kickoff breakfast on the morning of Friday, Sept. 9.

In her address to the packed house at Cornwall's Legion hall on Second Street West, Grant described how she struggled at public school and never had the one-on-one learning that she needed.

She said that before Tri-County Literacy Council she was at a Grade 2 level in math and a Grade 5-7 level in reading.

Now, she has her G.E.D. in math and is reading at a Grade 11 level and this would not have been possible without support she received from organizations like Tri-County Literacy Council and the United Way.

Her story is just one made possible by the money raised every year by the United Way of SD&G.

Friday morning, United Way 2016 campaign chair Bill Makinson revealed that the fundraising goal this year is \$700,000.

Makinson explained that he has seen the impact that the United Way has had on organizations in the SD&G area.

“In my work with Cogeco I get to go around and see these stories,” he said, “I remember following Meals on Wheels as they made a delivery to an elderly man who said that they were the first people they saw all day and probably the only people they’d see that day. Most people think that Meals on Wheels just drops off the food and they’re done, but it’s more than that. The volunteers are there to check-up on the seniors and make sure that they’re well.”

Makinson thanked the sponsors who were already supporting the campaign.

Your Credit Union is sponsoring a travel prize. Anyone who donates \$25 or over will be entered into a contest, to build their own dream vacation.

At the kickoff breakfast, RBC donated \$12,500.

Andre Pommier of Pommier Jewellers announced that they would be donating \$5,000 worth of specially crafted Winter Angels holding a gold star.

“The star represents the community coming together and everyone in this room,” Pommier said.

Pommier Jewellers’ \$5,000 donation was matched by Scotiabank and together they handed over a cheque for \$10,000.

Along with the other pledges received that morning, Makinson announced that the United Way 2016 fundraising campaign was starting with \$70,000, 10 percent of their total goal.

Going forward there are a lot of upcoming events and opportunities to support the United Way between now and the end of December.

“We have a lot of events to be at,” Makinson said. “We will be making presentations to municipal councils to raise awareness.”

One upcoming event will be held by La Maison. During the month of October, La Maison will be holding Musicians Unite over three days. Each day will feature different acts and proceeds from the cover charge will go to the United Way.