

Youth Settlement Program Report

August 2011

The highlight of August is the successful completion of the newcomer youth summer program.

Communication and Recreation (CaR) Summer Program for Newcomer Youth

Essay Writing Exercise with Dance and Martial Arts: Tuesdays

Three sessions were held in August with an average of 12 youth attending each session. The youth after learning the basics of essay writing, worked hard on completing their essays with the help of team leaders and mentors. During each 3 hour session, they participated in learning basic defensive martial arts from a black belt instructor. They also learnt modern dance from a youth mentor who has a passion for dance and has performed for various projects and talent shows. The sessions developed their confidence and creativity in communication through interaction with each other and presentation of what they have learnt at the end of each session. They had the opportunity to present everything they learnt at final session on Aug 16th in the dance studio at Masaryk Cowan CRC. The City's youth outreach worker for Parkdale and Ward 14, Franz Thomas was our special guest – youth had fun interacting with him where he got them to participate in an activity to introduce and learn to network within the group. Youth presented choreographed group dance, defensive martial arts and essay posters. There were 10 completed essay posters with topics ranging from soccer to dance. At the debrief and final evaluation session where everyone commented on their experiences, they expressed how enjoyable the physical activities had been and how the activities made their learning experience fun.

Few comments on their 6 weeks summer program experience as below:

“When I first came to the program this summer, I felt scared of the big guys – I learnt to be friends with everyone and felt good going to trips, also enjoyed essay writing exercise a lot!” (by Parth)

“I enjoyed how to think in essay writing, how to explain in martial arts too, I liked Thursday outings and icecream” (Norbu)

“It was an adventure hiking to highpark and lakeshore, I liked team work in essay writing and poster presentation” (Naveen)

“I usually don't like essay writing, but after attending few sessions this program, I am starting to like essays and will attempt at writing them in the future.” (Kunga)

“My favourite was Martial Arts – it is challenging and I have always wanted to try it out. I also enjoyed the trip to Sauroren Park where I played Frisbee for the first time in my life” (Jaiashree)

“I had a great chance to know younger teens as in school I usually hang out only with my age groups” (Vinoth – Grade 11)

“Now, I can dance with confidence” (Choeyang)

“When I closed my eyes as part of the debrief session, I saw the lakeshore outing we had” (Thutop)

“We had an adventure where we lost our team leader at one point, even that was a great fun” (Sharven)

Thursdays: Outdoor Activities

For both the sessions in August, the group visited Sauroren Park in Parkdale where they participated in team sports; basketball, soccer and Frisbee. The youth also lessons and practice sessions on the basics of presentation skills.

Parkdale Newcomer Youth Committee (PNYC) – a youth leadership group initiated by the Youth Program of PIA and PCIC

PNYC August Meeting:

On Tuesday August 30th, PNYC members attended the monthly meeting to review program activities with had a focused discussion around the new project (STOM-R) proposal with TPH. 11 youth members were confirmed as the core team members of the project. The group will reconvene on Sep 23rd to review and rehearse the presentation for TPH panelist.