



NewsBrief

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ProAction focuses on young women at risk

This year one of ProAction's main goals is to increase the number of female-focused programs as there are many at-risk young women in Toronto who could benefit from positive interaction with police officers and positive role models in female officers.

Equestrian Angels is one of ProAction's new female-focused programs. This program allows young women between the ages of 12-18 to discover the world of horses and develop confidence while interacting positively with female officers. The youth learn to ride and care for horses, activities which they may never have had the chance to have otherwise due to the costs associated with riding lessons. The participating female police officers act as constant supporters for the girls and provide a positive image of women and the Toronto Police Service.

The girls face a variety of challenges every day such as gangs, drugs, peer acceptance and family issues such as domestic violence, single-parent home and low-income households. Female youth were identified to take part in the program by female police officers and City of Toronto staff dealing with high-priority neighbourhoods.



ProAction is proud to support Equestrian Angels, a new program for at-risk female youth.

Canada's biggest financial institutions bank on *ProAction Cops & Kids*

ProAction is pleased to announce 3 significant gifts from some of Canada's largest banks to support police programs for at-risk youth.

ING Canada's contribution of \$45,000 over 3 years will assist the expansion of ProAction's TROOP canoeing and camping program which will allow more at-risk youth to participate in the experience. HSBC's financial

commitment of \$40,000 over 2 years will help Keeping the Faith Basketball, a great program which aims to have 43 Division officers connect with youth through basketball and one-on-one mentoring. CIBC's contribution of \$75,000 over 3 years will help many of ProAction's smaller programs in Toronto and Durham to develop and expand over the next 3 years.

ProAction thanks CIBC, ING Canada and HSBC Bank Canada for their outstanding support and generosity.

OUR MISSION

We believe that establishing a positive relationship between cops and kids at risk will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment that promotes mutual understanding and respect.

ProAction Celebrates 2007 Award Winners



Back Row L to R: John McNeil, The Grocery Foundation, John Bitove Sr. Award winner; P.C. Rodcliff Chung, HSBC Keeping the Faith Basketball, Jim Sneeep Award winner; P.C. Darren Arsenaault, Toronto Oxmen Pee-Wee Football Club, Jack Sinclair Award winner. **Front Row L to R:** Brad Kenny, Danforth Tech. Overhauled, Youth Award winner (15-18 years); Denzel Rowe, Beat the Heat, ProAction Youth Award winner (under 15).

ProAction Youth Award

Each year, ProAction Cops & Kids recognizes youth who have benefited most from ProAction-funded police-youth programs. We are delighted to congratulate this year's award winners.

Denzel Rowe – Beat the Heat

Denzel Rowe has participated in the ProAction-funded Beat the Heat beach volleyball program for the past two years and has shown significant dedication and enthusiasm. His outgoing nature has had a positive impact on all the participating youth and officers.

Denzel has learned to channel his energy into being a positive role model to others. Through his participation in Beat the Heat, he became more open to trying new things, which has improved his leadership skills.

Brad Kenny – Danforth Tech. Overhauled

Brad Kenny has been an enthusiastic participant in the Danforth Tech. Overhauled program since it began in November 2007. Through this program, Brad has had the opportunity to work with his peers and a 54 Division police officer to restore a 1974 Chevrolet Laguna. Brad is great with cars but this program has provided him with an opportunity to further improve his skills.

Because of this program, Brad's attitude towards police has improved and he has developed a strong trust and friendship with his nominator P.C. Travis Pickett.



ProAction Youth Award winner (under 15) Denzel Rowe and his police nominator P.C. Lisa Cowling



ProAction Youth Award winner (15-18) Brad Kenny speaks to ProAction MC and CTV Toronto sports reporter, Joe Tilley, about his participation in the Danforth Tech. Overhauled program

Jim Sneeep Award

Created to commemorate the legacy of Staff Inspector Jim Sneeep, this award is presented to a police officer who has shown remarkable commitment to a police-youth program funded by ProAction.

P.C. Rodcliff Chung – HSBC Keeping the Faith Basketball

P.C. Rodcliff Chung found a way to expand an already successful program when he took over the Keeping the Faith Basketball program in 2007. By partnering with another community program, Basketball for Life, Rod was able to expand the program to 3 days per week and dramatically increase the number of participants.

The program is designed to help young men develop life skills that will assist them in making positive choices. Rod promotes positive attitudes and determination in group and individual mentoring sessions each week. Many parents of participating youth expressed thanks to Rod for changes in their kids because of the program, noting increased confidence and self esteem and an overall improvement to their attitudes toward police and authority.



ProAction Director Rob Kozlov congratulates Jack Sinclair Award winner, P.C. Darren Arsenault

Jack Sinclair Award

ProAction annually recognizes the police officer who creates the most innovative police-youth program funded by ProAction. We're happy to recognize this outstanding officer.

P.C. Darren Arsenault – Toronto Oxmen Football Club

P.C. Darren Arsenault's football team, the Toronto Oxmen Football Club, was launched in April of 2007. This program welcomed 12-15 year-old youth from the troubled neighbourhoods of Regent Park and Jamestown.

Darren and the 9 other 51 Division officers who assisted him, put in over 1500 of their off-duty hours into planning and executing the program. The team practiced several times during the week, with games on Saturdays. On Friday nights, players and coaches came together to talk strategy and bond over football-themed movies.

Darren noticed dramatic changes in the boys, such as improved physical fitness and better grades. The relationship between the youth and the officers became very strong and the youth were extremely proud to be a part of the team.

John Bitove Sr. Award

Named for ProAction's founder, the John Bitove Sr. Award recognizes the corporation that stands out for its financial leadership in support of ProAction Cops & Kids.

The Grocery Foundation

ProAction is pleased to present the 2007 John Bitove Sr. Award to The Grocery Foundation for their outstanding contribution and commitment to police-run programs for at-risk youth. The Grocery Foundation's 2-year commitment of \$330,000 has assisted ProAction in funding the growing programs in Toronto and our expansion of Chapters beginning with the Durham Region in 2007 and Hamilton in 2008.

The Grocery Foundation supports Ontario children who are physically, intellectually or economically challenged. Since 1979, they have raised over \$55 million to benefit challenged children and to address other community needs.

ProAction is very grateful to The Grocery Foundation for their leadership in setting the pace for others.

Upcoming ProAction Cops & Kids Events

The 12th Annual ProAction Cops & Kids Golf Tournament

Wednesday September 10, 2008

Cobble Beach Golf Links, Owen Sound

Limited foursomes still available!

ProAction Presents Jersey Boys

With special guest, Toronto Police Chief William Blair

Thursday October 23, 2008,

Toronto Centre for the Arts

Dinner & Performance

Limited tickets available at \$500 each!

For more information, please contact event coordinator, Meredith Hopper, at 416-222-7011 or meredith@copsandkids.ca

Guiding kids to a brighter future

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