

spring 2010

newsbrief



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 of mutual understanding and respect.

Game Away Violence

PC Randeep Chhinzer, 23 Division



Left: Cops and kids bond over a shared love of video games.

Below (left and right): ProAction funds helped PC Chhinzer purchase Playstation 3 equipment and games.



There isn't much these days that kids love more than video games. PC Randeep Chhinzer and his fellow School Resource officers at 23 Division love them too, so they decided to start the Game Away Violence program in January 2010 in North Etobicoke.

PC Chhinzer realized that by playing non-violent video games with kids on a regular basis, communication barriers would break down and the kids would begin to see that police officers are real people too – not just enforcers.

With the financial assistance of ProAction Cops & Kids, PC Chhinzer was able to buy a Playstation 3 console and controllers and Rockband, DJ Hero and Vancouver 2010 Olympics games. At every session, each youth is paired up with a police "gaming partner" to play with as a teammate and against as an opponent.

Each session of the program is two hours long and consists of 30 minutes of team building and ice-breaking exercises between the cops and

youth, 60 minutes of game play and 30 minutes of mentorship and positive reinforcement.

Youth can sign up to play in advance or the officers can invite kids to play who are victims of violence, kids who have been arrested or kids who have done something positive in the community. The program emphasizes positive relationship building as the cops and kids bond over a shared interest and have fun in the process.

The Game Away Violence program is very popular with youth across 23 Division and the program is already a huge success. PC Chhinzer hopes the program will be expanded to more schools across the City of Toronto in the future.



After a weekend of working together and getting to know each other on the Police & PALS Winter Youth Trip, police and youth have created strong new friendships that will last.



Upcoming!

ProAction Events

ProAction Cops & Kids has a variety of exciting events taking place throughout the year. For more information on any of the following events, please contact Event Coordinator, Meredith Hopper, at 416-222-7011 or meredith@copsandkids.ca.

★ ProAction Annual General Meeting 2009

Thursday May 19, 2010
Public Presentation: 4:00 pm, Toronto
Police Headquarters

★ ProAction's 2nd Annual Garden Soiree

Thursday June 10, 2010
The home of Bob & Christina McCowan, one of Toronto's most beautiful backyards
Tickets: \$750 each, \$1000 per couple!
Tables of 8 \$3000

★ Durham Chapter Bowling Night

Thursday June 17, 2010
Neb's Fun World, Oshawa

★ 13th Annual ProAction Cops & Kids Golf Tournament

Thursday September 16, 2010
Muskoka Bay Golf Club, Gravenhurst
Sponsorship and foursomes available!
Please contact Meredith Hopper for more information.

Police and PALS Winter Youth Trip 2010

PC Asif Shaikh, 55 Division

The Police and PALS Winter Youth Trip, held in February 2010, focused on South Asian boys and boys from other diverse backgrounds living in 42 Division's Malvern area. PC Asif Shaikh and his fellow officers sought out kids who were potentially at-risk because of various factors:

- their socio-economic background
- they had witnessed violence inside or outside of the home
- they were victims of violence
- they live in a high crime neighbourhood
- they had experienced discrimination based on their race or religion

Approximately twenty boys between the ages of 13-21 participated in the trip. The purpose of the trip was to help the boys to become responsible citizens, role models and leaders in their communities. Throughout the trip, the cops and kids worked together to keep the camp running and they took on jobs such as kitchen leader, first aid leader and recreation leader, with a police officer supporting and supervising. The cops and kids were also divided into teams for skill-testing contests like building the strongest bridge, most buoyant boat and the best indestructible egg container.

As the camp focused on South Asian and other diverse youth, PC Shaikh recruited officers of similar ethnic backgrounds to supervise and mentor the youth throughout the weekend. This helped the youth to see the similarities between themselves and the police as well as be able to begin to see the officers as role models.



Above: Kids from 52 Division programs warm up their vocal chords before performing at the Supergala.

52 Division ProAction kids perform at Supergala

This past January, youth from various programs at 52 Division were invited to open the 2010 Grocery Foundation Supergala with O Canada. The kids practiced for weeks, led by PCs Mike Moffat and Dale Corra, and were excited to open the show for Jerry Seinfeld and KC and the Sunshine Band. After getting over their stage fright and some pre-show jitters, the kids started the evening off with a bang and the audience loved them. The kids and officers were thrilled with their performance and they have been asked back for the 2011 Supergala to perform O Canada again and a 30-minute pre-dinner concert. Congratulations kids!

You can make a difference. Donate Now!

Online
www.copsandkids.ca

Phone
 416 222-7011

Mail
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 40 College Street, 6th Floor
 Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Charitable registration #887700862 RR0001

ProAction wins community award from Rotary Club of Toronto West

At the Rotary Club of West Toronto's Youth Impact Gala in January, ProAction Cops & Kids was selected as the Community Organization award recipient. Each year, Rotary recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have had a positive impact on youth in Toronto, through a record of commendable service to youth, practical experience in youth development activities and demonstrated leadership in promoting the importance of helping youth.

did you know?
 ProAction Cops & Kids is completely independent from the Toronto Police Service and receives no government funding. We rely completely on financial contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund over \$400,000 of police-youth programs each year in Toronto, Durham and Hamilton.
Please donate now!

Add my support to ProAction Programs!

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